

Pavement Condition Information Systems

(The Newsletter for the new contract which includes UKPMS & SCANNER SUPPORT 2008-2011)

Newsletter No 1 – September 2008

Objectives

The Department for Transport has stated the main objective of the new contract awarded to TRL and Atkins as being "...to support local highways authorities in their use of information technology to deliver their road service"



The new project team with Chris Capps at TRL

Communication

As part of this support we will be issuing a series of newsletters. These will be an important way of communicating with all those interested in UKPMS and SCANNER and the other the new developments. It will allow those with a desire to be a part in shaping the future of the local road network management systems to find out what is going on and where they will be able to contribute ideas and experience to help the process.

To facilitate the implementation and dissemination of new ideas and developments, as the contract progresses, the newsletters will be an important means of communicating with practitioners on ways to better manage the local road network. Helping you meet the needs of your local communities, deliver best value and introduce best practice into your HAMPs and TAMPs.

Background

As you will be well aware, information about the condition of road pavements is an increasingly important consideration for local authority highway engineers when planning how best to maintain highway assets. At an aggregate level the information is also of value to national government in strategic planning and resource allocation. This project will help everyone understand the importance of the data and the systems and help in delivering excellence in local asset management.

This commission, which was awarded on behalf of the UK Roads Board, is intended to help all stakeholders perceive stability, consistency and commitment in the development of road condition measurement and pavement management systems.

The project team will:

- Promote the use of pavement management systems (PMS) and SCANNER in local authorities;
- Support commercial suppliers in the implementation of future UKPMS and SCANNER specifications; and
- Support the industry in the development of other data sources and their interface with PMS.

UKPMS & SCANNER

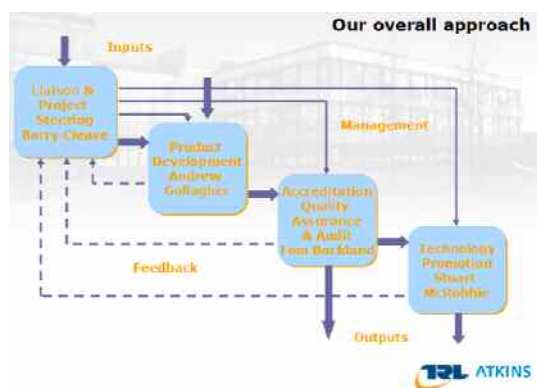
The UK Pavement Management System (UKPMS) was first introduced in the early 1990's in recognition of the need for a robust, practical tool to assist local authorities in managing and processing information on their pavement assets. UKPMS is the national standard for management systems for the assessment of local road network condition and for planning investment and maintenance on paved areas of roads, kerbs, footways and cycle tracks on local roads within the UK. Currently five commercial developers have accredited their systems to the UKPMS specification. However UKPMS was developed at a time when visual inspection was the main source of information about road surface condition.

Surface Condition Assessment for the National Network of Roads (SCANNER) is a more recent development than UKPMS and builds on the strong history of traffic speed condition surveys in the UK. It is a specification for an automated road carriageway condition survey, including acceptance testing, accreditation, quality assurance and audit procedures. The method has become a particularly important part of the condition assessment toolkit as the basis for National Indicators in England, Scotland and in Wales. However SCANNER has not been fully integrated with pavement management systems and the extensive range of measurements are not used fully within UKPMS for pavement management.

This contract will support the process by which UKPMS and SCANNER are brought together to meet local authorities' needs for an effective pavement asset management system. In letting the contract, the Department for Transport identified three main elements to the work:

- Promoting the use of transport asset condition data through pavement information technologies within local authorities and their contractors;
- Overseeing the accreditation, quality assurance and audit of pavement information technologies; and
- Developing and implementing the UKPMS and SCANNER core specifications.

Delivering the Objectives



The Department made it clear that this contract is only one part of a wider initiative on behalf of the UK Roads Board. The functionality of the UKPMS core specification will be reviewed in 2008 through a separate contract, which may lead to further research and consultancy on topics such as pavement condition projection, scheme building, whole life costing and using GPS and GIS in pavement information systems.

Welcoming the appointment of TRL and Atkins, Chris Capps, Head of Transport Asset Management at Cambridgeshire County Council, will lead the Project Steering Group on behalf of the UK Roads Board and the DfT.

The Project Team

- TRL
 - Barry Cleave (project manager), Alex Wright (technical reviewer),
 - Andrew Gallagher (co-ordinator and task manager)
 - Tom Buckland, Stuart McRobbie (task managers),
 - Richard Abell, Brian Ferne, Neil Anderson (technical specialists),
 - Nick Anderson, Mary Treen (communications specialists),
- Atkins
 - Lila Tachtsi (project manager),
 - Alan Taggart, Mike Bordiss, Steven Cambridge, Mark Robson, Rob Vale (technical specialists),
- Specialist sub-consultants
 - Barry Blunt; Ro Cartwright; Peter Davidson; James Wallis

Project Progress

The contract was awarded on 25th June 2008 with Andrew Oldland as DfT Project Manager.

The Project Inception Meeting was held on the 18th July 2008 at Cambridge with Chris Capps, Andrew Oldland, Barry Cleave, Lila Tachtsi, Andrew Gallagher and Alex Wright.

The first meeting of the project team was held at TRL's Crowthorne Headquarters in August 2008 with Chris Capps attending. Initial tasks and programme were agreed.

A Strategic Workshop was held at Leicester on 29th September with Mathew Lugg and Roads Boards representatives from across the UK to agree proposals for leadership and governance of the project to put before the next UK Roads Board meeting. Barry Cleave, Lila Tachtsi, Andrew Gallagher and Alex Wright attended on behalf of the project team.

The new support helpdesk has been set up with email and telephone contact points (details are given at the end of this newsletter)

The UKPMS website has been transferred to new servers and is now up and running. This will be amended and developed as the project progresses.

The preparatory work for the UKPMS annual health check process is well underway.

There will be no changes needed to the UKPMS Rules and Parameters set for this year.

SCANNER accreditation, QA and Audit processes have continued with monthly progress meetings in July, August and September.

The Inspector Accreditation process is being reviewed and plans are being developed to restart accreditation in the near future.

A draft paper on the strategic direction and governance of the project has been prepared for Chris Capps to agree and present to the Roads Board

Feedback

As this is the first of a series of electronic newsletters, please pass a copy on to anyone else you know who would be interested in the subject. Please send us any comments or questions. If you wish to be added to the circulation list please email your details to newsletter@ukpms.com.

[We look forward to hearing from you.](#)

[Barry Cleave, Project Manager](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

The UKPMS website which has been transferred to TRL and is now up and running at <http://www.ukpms.com/index.asp> also has all the details below

If you require further information about UKPMS you can contact us at ukpms@trl.co.uk

If you require further information about SCANNER you can contact us at scanner@trl.co.uk

If you require further information about inspector accreditation you can contact us at visualsurvey@trl.co.uk

For telephone support you can contact the UKPMS and SCANNER Helpdesk on 01344 77 0480