



# UKPMS Owners Forum Newsletter

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## Update on UKPMS Support Contract

The Department for Transport (DfT) awarded the new, three-year UKPMS Support Contract to Chris Britton Consultancy Ltd (CBC) in July 2003. The contract includes the development of new UKPMS functionality and UKPMS related research, as well as the provision of impartial support to users and developers. This contract continues CBC's long involvement with UKPMS and gives new impetus to the use of UKPMS as a tool, central to the management of local highway maintenance in the UK. In addition to funding the ongoing development and support of UKPMS, DfT also recognises the valuable contribution of the UKPMS Owners Forum over the years and is very keen for it to continue to provide an independent voice to UKPMS stakeholders, enabling you to shape the future direction of UKPMS to meet your needs.

Following a period of mobilisation, the following development tasks have already been completed this year:

- Development of a DCD Software Test Package (described in more detail below)
- Release of a new HMDIF that incorporates TRACS-Type Survey (TTS) data
- Scoping Study to assess the need and define the structure of a UKPMS Manual

A further development task is currently underway to investigate the impact of machine-measured rutting on BVPI values and this is due to report in December 2004.

The final development task to be undertaken this year will be the development and implementation of an Annual Health Check to test the ongoing acceptance of UKPMS accredited systems. This task has recently started and it is expected that the Annual Health Check will be in place by the end of March 2004.

## Impact of TTS on UKPMS

As you will all be aware, TRACS-Type Surveys (TTS) have been introduced as the recommended option for the production of BV96 on the condition of Principal Roads in 2003/04 and from 2004/05 will be the only permitted option. DfT has also announced recently that development of the TTS technology will take place to allow TTS to be introduced on non-principal roads in 2005/06 with further developments to fully match the current CVI functionality timed for 2007/08.

The move towards TTS is to meet the need for robust and consistent condition data for both national performance monitoring and local maintenance decision making, both of which will have an impact on UKPMS. A new HMDIF and UKPMS rules set (RP4.0) have already been released to enable TTS data from the Principal Road Network to be loaded and processed in UKPMS to produce BV96. More information is available on the UKPMS website.

It is clearly important therefore that the development of UKPMS keeps in step with the development of TTS if the full benefits of TTS are to be realised. It is therefore encouraging that the UKPMS Support Consultant has been included in the group advising the proposed TTS Implementation Group. Further details will be made available via the UKPMS website as the development progresses.

## DCD Software Accreditation

An Accreditation Test for Data Capture Device (DCD) Software, used for carrying out UKPMS Visual Surveys, has been developed and was introduced at the beginning of November 2003. The test is intended to provide assurance to users that the software conforms to the survey procedures in the UKPMS Visual Survey Manual.

The test is primarily a "self-test" package, with additional spot checks carried out by the UKPMS Support Team.

It is intended that only surveys collected using accredited DCD software will be valid for producing UKPMS Visual Survey-based BVPI's in future.

A document describing the principles and objectives of the test is available from the UKPMS website. For more details, please contact the UKPMS Support Team.

## Visual Survey Inspector Accreditation

All UKPMS Visual Surveys carried out from 1st April 2004 onwards will require the person carrying out the survey to hold City & Guilds 6033 Unit 301 and Unit 331 and/or Unit 332 (CVI and DVI respectively).

It is anticipated that experienced CVI/DVI Surveyors should not have any difficulty reaching the required standard. Those with limited CVI/DVI experience will require training and/or additional practical experience before being put forward for Assessment. More information about the qualification is available on the UKPMS website.

The qualification is available through London Borough of Barnet's Skills Training Centre. Contact Paul Buey on 020 8359 5157 or e-mail [skills.training@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:skills.training@barnet.gov.uk) for further information.

## UKPMS Website

Don't forget to check the UKPMS website for more information about UKPMS events and developments and to participate in consultations and discussion forums available only to Owners Forum members. Please contact the UKPMS Support Team if you have any difficulties accessing the Owners Forum area of the site.

## Owners Forum National Seminar

Please note that the UKPMS Owners Forum National Seminar will take place on Tuesday 17 February 2004 at Edgbaston Cricket Ground, Birmingham. The event will include presentations and workshops with topics likely to include:

- Recent UKPMS developments
- TTS and UKPMS
- Using UKPMS for more than just BVPIs
- Future strategy for UKPMS

The event will be free to Owners Forum members. More details will be available on the UKPMS website nearer the date.

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