

Minutes of the first 2017 meeting of the UK National e-Invoicing Forum held on:

Thursday 21st September 2017 at the BEIS Conference Centre - London

Participants and affiliation:

Alistair Nicholas	Esker
Amabel Grant	Chair, CCS
Charles Bryant	EESPA, SC
Daniel Bosch	B2B Router
David Cocks	Cloudtrade
Franco Scanella	Peilican Procurement
Gary Benson	Tungsten
Ian Burdon	Elcom
Jon Rex	DoH
Lisa Rogers	BEIS
Lois Devey	CCS
Mairi Hayworth	Penmarin Ltd
Nicola Fobister	Scottish Government
Nigel Taylor	Information Economy
Sam Mazloum	Mastercard
Sanjeev Chugani	Finansync
Sophie Erskine	BSi
Stephen Tokley	CCS, Vice-chair, SC
Steve Shirley	Mastercard, SC
Tim Cole	Causeway
Tony Nisbett	Secretary, SC,

Note that minutes of the meeting, attendance list and relevant presentations are available as pdf downloads on the website. <http://www.uknef.org.uk/downloads-resources.aspx>

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all participants and facilitated a quick round-he-room introduction.

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting on 5th September 2016 were approved.

NHS PEPPOL Update – Jon Rex

John gave an update on the eInvoice activities which are part of “scan for safety”. The six “demo sites” are progressing well with Orders, Order Responses and Invoices and going through a four-phase programme. Derby will be the first site to be fully compliant. The four-phase process for take-up includes PEPPOL access but does not exclude other connection methods.

Jon said that the UK is promoting a true four-corner model for the market. The framework was published in November 2016.

A data dictionary is being developed and proper master data being set up. Jon was asked if any categories were excluded as there had been rumour that some categories were not yet included. Jon said that although it is a phased approach, he did not know of any exclusions. Asked if all of the NHS was ready for eInvoicing, Jon replied that there will be some “late-adopters”. NHS was promoting the “significant financial and safety benefits” and displaying all of the suitable options on their web site, pushing for a standard approach. Jon was asked if there was a list of approved access points and replied that there were around 14 on the NHS site. The floor pointed out that there was more like 70 available across the board, as can be seen on the PEPPOL web site.

Jon said that an NHS business case was being prepared for the next 20-30 participants for connection, looking for a common approach.

Jon was asked to explain “scan for safety”. He explained that this covered the wider issue of patient safety where eventually all actions on a patient will be scanned to verify identity and correct action.

Next Cycle of EMSFEI meetings and UK delegates

Charles Bryant introduced the subject of delegates for EUMSFel. The next EU Forum meeting is on 24th October and we need to appoint a UK Forum delegate to partner with the government appointed delegate. Amabel had asked for nominations and we have one volunteer, Gary Benson and asked for the groups confirmation of this. Gary gave a brief summary of his career and was accepted by the group.

Support for BSi Standards Work on eProcurement and eInvoicing.

Work on EU standards is managed by CEN and there is a Technical Committee, TC434 which has been working on the development of the new eInvoice standard and continues to manage its implementation. There is a similar TC looking at eProcurement standards, TC440. EU standards development is overseen in the UK by BSi and it had formed a “Mirror Group” of UK representatives who would represent the UK’s interests in TC434. TC440 as yet has no such mirror group. The current plan is to extend the current TC434 mirror group to cover TC440 too, and we are looking for volunteers from the UK Forum or their colleagues or associates.

Roll-out of EN16931 – the new European eInvoice Standard

The new standard and some associate documents have been published by CEN and we are now waiting for the EU Official Journal entry to be published so that the count-down to transposition begins.

Charles Bryant reminded the meeting with an overview of the new eInvoice standard.

Sophie Erskine of BSi gave an overview of the BSi situation re standards publication, ownership and pricing. The ppt is available as a download accompanying these minutes.

In summary, Part 1, the semantic standard was published on 9th September and a single copy can be purchased from BSi for £110 to BSi members. Subsequent associated documents are being published at times and various prices. There was discussion about why organisations

should have to pay for a mandatory standard. Sophie suggested that the UK government may try to negotiate a deal with the EU/CEN on this. Pricing is not harmonized across Europe. Please give any feedback on pricing to Sophie or Lois.

Part 1 is the most important document for most bodies. Syntax mapping is also important.

Tony made the point that there are cardinality and compulsory field requirements in the semantic model which may require users to collect additional data over existing system requirements.

Lois discussed eProcurement standards development and transposition of the eInvoice directive. The UK has around 18 months from the beginning of October to transpose the Directive, taking us to April 2018. This will be a busy time with BREXIT going on too. We should remember that Scotland and Wales have devolved activities going on but all of the UK has to transpose the Directive. There are fines for non-conformance.

Future of UKNeF - role and governance

CCS can no longer sponsor UKNeF. Lois continues to work on transposition internally and will maintain membership of the Forum.

There are various options available for the future. Elections are overdue but we need to look at the structure of the Forum before we run elections.

Should we look for an alternative sponsor? We don't necessarily need a sponsor, we could carry on as an action group to continue to improve awareness.

There was much discussion around what the Forum had achieved in the past and that it should continue to be activist in the future and maybe have a new name and any funding or not.

I was agreed that a small group should be set up to look at the future and the chair called for volunteers to take part in a working group to look at a new terms of reference and vision for the future. Steve Shirley, Ian Burdon, Nigel Taylor, Sanjeev Chuagani, Tim Cole, Tony Nisbett expressed an interest. Other persons not present may wish to be involved.

The meeting was reminded that the EU's Invoice Readiness Checker had many useful items about readiness of member states, providers, guides etc.

Amabel is now employed in CCS and the Chair role is conflicting. This will be resolved with a new structure and elections, which we should move on with quickly.

The meeting agreed that the Forum should continue until the working group had reported and it was noted that of course the UK Forum is required by the EU as a reporting link to EUMSFel.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.