



Benefits and the challenges of adopting open systems analysed in the POSSE project

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The benefits of adopting open specifications and standards in traffic management and ITS have become clearer through the users' studies performed within the European project POSSE. The findings of the studies will inform the guide to the implementation of open systems, due in 2014, as well as national or local plans to implement open specifications and systems in other parts of Europe.

POSSE is an INTERREG IVC project led by Reading Borough Council whose aim is to exchange knowledge and experiences of open specifications and standards for management systems for road-based transport. POSSE builds on the two open systems and specification frameworks in Europe: the UK's Universal Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) and OCA's OCIT/OTS which covers systems across the Germanic speaking part of Europe – Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Open systems enable interoperability between systems sourced from different suppliers, thereby overcoming vendor lock-in which is commonplace among local authorities. This can lead to a smarter use of systems, lower costs and greater market innovation.

UTMC and OCIT/OTS users' studies

POSSE has now produced a users' study for each of the two frameworks – UTMC and OCIT/OTS. Each study draws on interviews conducted with city authorities and other authorities using open specifications and standards. The aim of this exercise was to gather the user's perspective on the benefits and the challenges of adopting open systems. The main findings are below.

Open specifications and standards:

- allow a better integration of ITS which enables more efficient traffic operations
- lead to cost reductions, particularly for traffic controllers
- promote innovation, in product terms and in the emergence of new sectors
- can simplify tendering procedures, due to the impartial technical specifications and transferability of tendering documents

The benefits of open specifications and standards for cities will be presented in detail at the [Annual Polis Conference](#) on 04 December by Rob McDonald representing the project leader Reading Borough Council.

POSSE raising awareness

The full range of benefits, as well as challenges, can also be viewed on the [POSSE website](#). The website provides as well updates on developments within the transfer sites and a summary of city examples from the Existing Users' Studies as well as recent POSSE news and relevant events. Key

information about POSSE is available in German, Italian, Lithuanian, Spanish and Norwegian and the complete website is available in Czech.

The POSSE transfer sites have started with their national workshops in October with the aim of giving insight into POSSE and the benefits and challenges of open systems, and of understanding better the ITS context in the respective countries and the prospects for moving towards open systems. The workshops are conducted in the language of the hosting country in order to overcome language barriers and ensure broader participation.

The second meeting of the POSSE Open ITS Systems Forum will take place on 3 December in Brussels. The Forum was set up to raise awareness and promote dialogue on open systems with a wide group of stakeholders. The agenda of the meeting [is available](#) under the News&Events section of POSSE website: www.posse-openits.eu On the day following the Forum, interested stakeholders and the media are welcome to attend the common stand of UTMC, OCA and POSSE at the [Annual Polis Conference](#) where material and information will be available about the project as well as for each of the open systems frameworks.

More information about POSSE is available at www.posse-openits.eu.

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Notes to editors:

- POSSE stands for Promoting Open Specifications and Standards in Europe.
- POSSE is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and made possible by the INTERREG IVC programme.
- The POSSE project has a total budget of €1.84million. It started in January 2012 and will run until December 2014.

POSSE partners:

1. Reading Borough Council, United Kingdom www.reading.gov.uk
2. Klaipeda City Municipality Administration, Lithuania www.klaipeda.lt
3. City of Burgos, Spain www.burgosciudad21.org
4. Municipality of La Spezia, Italy www.traffico.spezianet.it
5. Pisamo Spa, Italy www.pisamo.it
6. Transport Research Centre (CDV), Czech Republic www.cdv.cz
7. Polis, Belgium www.polisnetwork.eu
8. UTMC Ltd, United Kingdom www.utmc.uk.com
9. OCA e.V., Germany, Austria, Switzerland www.oca-ev.org
10. Norwegian Public Roads Administration, Norway www.vegvesen.no

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