

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD CHAIR

A new outlook for the RFIDinEurope Network



*Dr. Pat Doody
Management Board Chair,
RFIDinEurope*

Dear all,

Welcome to the latest edition of the RFID in Europe newsletter. Since our last publication there has been much activity, some of it planned and some of it thrust upon us. As we stated in our last edition, our General Assembly was to take place in Athens on the 20th and 21st of October but unfortunately we had to reschedule at short notice due to an air traffic controllers strike. We were obviously very disappointed for everyone but in particular for AUEB who had gone to so much effort in organising events around and including the General Assembly. There was good news however in that the AUEB organized RFID workshop which was planned to coincide with the General Assembly did go ahead as planned and it was a huge success. Details contained in this edition.

The General Assembly eventually took place in Bewley's Airport Hotel, Dublin, Ireland on the 9th and 10th of November. There was a great attendance, and the sun even made an appearance while we were there to welcome RFID enthused visitors from across Europe. After presentations from all of the Work Package Leaders on their activities since the last General Assembly, most of the discussions surrounded Sustainability and what the future holds for RFID in Europe beyond its EU funding phase which is at the end of February 2012. The good news is that there was unanimous and active support from the General Assembly attendees that RFID in Europe has a role to play on the RFID landscape in the future. You will have already received an email looking for your ideas and possible contributions to the new entity that is planned to launch in April 2012. It is an exciting time so get involved.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the newsletter and if you are reading this as a non-member then I ask you to join us, as we are not approaching the end of RFID in Europe but just the beginning.



www.rfidineurope.eu

For the latest updates on RFID, visit the new RFIDinEurope web-site



RFID in Europe

General Assembly Meeting 9-10 November, Dublin, Ireland

The General Assembly which took place in Bewley's Hotel, Dublin Airport, Dublin on the 10th of November 2011, included work package updates presented by each Work Package leader, together with an outlook of activities for the last 3 months of the project.



The rest of the meeting was focused on the very important topic of **sustainability**. The task of having a sustainable entity in place to continue the very important work of RFID in Europe beyond its funding period (February 2012) began all the way back in April at our Prague event. A Sustainability Sub-Committee of the Management Board, led by Trevor Pierce, was put in place to pull together a plan for sustainability that would be presented to the General Assembly. The proposed sustainability plan was built upon discussions with RACE networkRFID members and also external organizations with active European RFID related activities. Based upon this encouraging input gathered over 4 months, the approach was to build a proposal based upon the structure of the principle documents of the RACE networkRFID project, including two draft documents: (a) A consortium agreement (CA), documenting the parties and their relationship within a new entity, and (b) A description of work (DoW), describing the structure and activities of the new entity. Within these documents it was recommended to:

- Create a position of Finance Officer to take over the responsibilities of the current Project Coordinator,
- Through annual review ensure the Management Board positions are occupied by active Work Package leaders.
- Establish contracts with all new Work Package leaders, even where there is no financial obligation.
- Transfer more authority to the Management Board providing them greater agility to act in the interests of RFID in Europe.

At the General Assembly three perspectives upon RFID in Europe's sustainability evolved through discussions:

- The implementation plan proposed by the sub-committee, focusing more on structure and activities,
- A simplified approach, focusing on mission and principles (Stéphane Pique),
- A parallel approach, advocating a vertical structure aligned to market segments (Ove Canemyr).

The majority of the participants felt that these three approaches were complementary, looking at implementation from different angles.

We had three items on the agenda that called for vote and/or approval of the General Assembly:

1. Approval to create a self-sustained structure beyond the end of RACE networkRFID
2. Identification of a financial officer for the new structure
3. Nomination of an interim governing body for the new structure

On Item 1, which was a pre-requisite to move forward, the GA voted unanimously in favour:

“Does the Management Board have a mandate from the GA to go ahead and set-up a new entity that will take RFIDinEurope beyond the end of the EC-funded period?”

Item 2. Given the approval on Question 1, the next step was to try and identify a Financial Officer to start looking at the legal aspects of creating a new entity and to start getting familiar with the financial heritage of the EC-funded thematic network. Without a clear volunteer and after giving up the idea of having a financial committee (too heavy, not efficient enough), it was decided that Philippe Rohou (RACE networkRFID Project Coordinator) would research the best possible solution(s) for the creation of a new non-profit entity and present a recommendation to the management board by the end of November. The Interim Financial Officer for the new structure will then be appointed at the beginning of December, from the *expression of interest* forms collected by then.

Item 3. A “task force” was established to create a simplified description defining the future “RFID in Europe” otherwise described as “bylaws”. A draft will be circulated to the existing Management Board for comments before being circulated to the General Assembly for comment and approval.

Expression of Interest

It was decided to send forms to all members of the General Assembly so that each member could present their ideas for activities that the future entity should concentrate on. The forms returned by the members with their expression of interest are the key elements that will shape the future of RFIDinEurope. They will contribute to defining the areas of activity addressed by the new structure, will help identifying potential management board members and WP leaders, and will give an idea of the human resources available to support the new work plan for RFIDinEurope. The blank forms were circulated to the membership on November the 18th and were returned to Philippe Rohou by December 2nd. There has been a very encouraging response to this call with 26 proposals from 14 people representing 11 countries. These are currently being analysed and we are on schedule to have an Interim Management Board for the new organisation in place by mid January 2012.

Using the same *expression of interest* forms, a proposed interim Management Board for the new structure will be distributed amongst members of the General Assembly for their electronic approval with the official announcement by end of December, composed of 1 New Management Board Chair and “N” Activity Leaders and 1 Financial Officer.

Proposed implementation plan

- BEG. DECEMBER 2011: Submission by members of Expressions of Interest
- MID JANUARY 2012: Selection/ nomination of interim management board for new entity
- END FEBRUARY 2012: RACE networkRFID finishes
 - Hand-out to the new RFIDinEurope entity
- APRIL 2012: Launch of the new RFIDinEurope entity
 - Interim management board and financial officer in place
 - Initial list of committed members identified

Next meeting

This was most likely the last meeting of the General Assembly of RACE networkRFID, which officially terminates on February 29th, 2012 (yes, it's a leap year!). Until then, we need to maintain focus as a network to bring our project to a successful end. In doing so, we shall secure the support of the European Commission moving forward to the next stage.

The next gathering of all members will be the launch event of RFIDinEurope in April 2012, preceded by the final review of RACE as an EC project.

RFID EVENTS FROM THE NETWORK MEMBERS

RFID WORKSHOP IN GREECE

Supply Chain Innovation and RFID Technology, 20th October 2011

Despite the strikes and above initial expectations the RFID workshop in Athens had great success. A total of 120 people attended the event, many of them from the industry (supermarket chains, manufacturing and logistics companies). Presentations covered a range of RFID applications that have been implemented in Greece and latest updates. Most of the RFID vendors in Greece were also present, exhibiting in a demonstration area.



For any further information on the event you can contact Katerina Pramataris (k.pramataris@aueb.gr) or Andriana Dimakopoulou (andrianadima@aueb.gr).

All presentations are available (in Greek) at the following RFID portal link:

<http://www.rfidportal.gr/index.php/test/3-newsflash/165-2011-10-20-23-38-33>

RFID EVENT IN DENMARK

Conference at the official opening of the Nordic RFID Center in Struer, 12-13 October 2011

The Conference was held October 12th -13th 2011 in Business Park Struer was probably the largest focused RFID event ever in Scandinavia – and everything went according to schedule. Henrik Granau, the founder of the RFID i Danmark network – a core member of RACE – was organizing the conference for the new RFID centre. The RFIDinEurope network was an official co-organizer of the event.

140 people (from 8 countries) attended over the two days. There were 11 exhibitors on the exhibition and 31 presentations provided a good view on how far a lot of companies have actually already come with their use



of RFID technology. The two key note speakers, CEO Patrick Sweeney II from ODIN and CIO Christian von Grone from Gerry Weber, more than met the high expectations and they both expressed the pleasure they felt in participating at the opening of Nordic RFID Center in Struer. The cooperation between the new Nordic RFID Center and RFID i Danmark has been outstanding and the parties have decided to continue and extend the cooperation into the future.



Presentations (most of them in English) from the event are available online at www.nordicRFIDcenter.dk and you can see pictures from the event at: <http://www.nordicrfidcenter.dk/pictures.php>.

On [http://www.nordicrfidcenter.dk/Brochure RFID Event UK A45.pdf](http://www.nordicrfidcenter.dk/Brochure_RFID_Event_UK_A45.pdf) you can still find the English version of the conference brochure - including some background information.

For any further information on the event you can contact Henrik Granau, RFID i Danmark, www.rfididk.dk, Tel: [+45 21 832 835](tel:+4521832835).

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS & STANDARDS

EN 302 208 V1.4.1 RFID spectrum test standard approved

EN 302 208 V1.4.1, which defines the requirements for UHF RFID equipment R&TTE certification, has been approved by ETSI in early November 2011 and is expected for publication in the European Commission Official Journal in early 2012. This is important for the RFID industry as V1.2.1 is no longer valid after 30 November 2011 and V1.3.1 as the only valid document cannot be used for all types of RFID equipment. All versions of EN 302 208 are available for download at ETSI (www.etsi.org).

EPCglobal Air Interface Protocol EPC HF v2.0.3 protocol “finally” approved & New version of Tag Data Standards for Aerospace and Defence

During September 2011, GS1 finally ratified two EPC global standards. The EPC HF RFID Air Interface Protocol enables 13.56 MHz RFID technology to be utilized with electronic product code (EPC) numbers. Development of this standard started in 2006 on the request of their Healthcare Business Action Group. EPC HF v2.0.3 protocol matches the ISO 18000-3 Mode 3 (3M3) standard, published in November 2010. The new HF standard provides an alternative to GS1's other air-interface protocol, the EPC Gen2 specification for passive ultrahigh-frequency (UHF) tags and readers.

Another newbie from GS1 is the updated Tag Data Standard (TDS) which will allow aerospace and defence users to include their own industry headers in the existing EPC identification system.

http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/GS1_EPCglobal_Item_Level_Standards.pdf

RFID GOLDEN-TAG AWARD

The Swedish Transport Administration won “The Golden Tag Award” 2011



Trafikverket (The Swedish Transport Administration) and its on-going RFID project was one of five nominated RFID project in Europe for the annual Gold Tag Award. It was the second time in a year that Trafikverket won a prestigious prize for its RFID efforts. In September 2010 they won GS1's global award as the world's best project, all categories.

The award ceremony took place on the 6th of October 2011 in connection with the

Technical Fair in Stockholm. RFID Nordic established the prize, The Golden Tag Award, in 2005. The award consists of two parts, “THE GOLDEN TAG” and “THE MINI TAG”. The GOLDEN TAG is assigned to the project that utilizes RFID technology best with a focus on innovation and customer value. **Trafikverket** with Mr Lennart Andersson, being the project manager, became the lucky winner of the GOLDEN TAG prize 2010. The MINI TAG is assigned to the consultant who significantly contributed to the successes of its customer. **Learning Well AB** with their Senior Consultant Mr Gunnar Ivansson was the proud winner of the MINI TAG of the same year.

“After a number of successful pilot projects, the Swedish Railway will now take the next step to build an infrastructure of RFID readers around the country”, Mr Ivansson says. Overall, it may be more than 600 installations over the country. “This means that we can follow and track RFID-tagged railway wagons/vehicles in a very dense network throughout Sweden”, Mr Ivansson continues. Railway traffic is international and the ambition is to get to a European standard for RFID in the transport sector together with GS1 in Sweden, which is a standardisation organization for RFID standards (and other areas such as barcodes, e-commerce etc).

There are great opportunities for all involved parties. Trafikverket will gain substantial savings in infrastructure maintenance thanks to individual RFID tagged vehicles. Freight companies see great opportunities in its logistics management, to know exactly where in a train set a wagon is located, exact arrival of a destination and all this will simplify loading/unloading dramatically. The railway companies will be able to reduce their administrative burden and will get a better control of their “rolling stock”. Rescue services agencies will get increased opportunities to keep track of wagons with dangerous goods. The list is long when it comes to increased efficiency and security. LearningWell was involved in Trafikverket's project in 2009 with its RFID expertise and has, as stated in the nomination to Minitaggen, "significantly contributed to the success". Trafikverket has already begun to look at the next challenge; how best to support intermodal transport, interaction between different modes of transport.

For further information, please contact:

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RELATED PROJECTS

PROJECT PRESENTATION: *ebbits*, when the internet of things meets the business

Authors: Paolo Brizzi (ISMB), Louise Birch Riley (IN-JET), Thomas Madsen (TNM)



Enabling the Business-Based Internet of Things and Services

ebbits endeavours to bridge the gap between enterprise systems and real world people, sensors and products.

The aim is to create a platform which transforms devices and subsystems into web services, thus feeding information generated by RFID tags or sensors directly into enterprise systems.

About the project

The ebbits project is a four-year European research project, partly funded by the EC under the 7th Framework Programme, in the area of Internet of Things and Enterprise environments.

The ebbits consortium consists of nine organisations from five European countries, representing a wide taste of Europe in terms of population, culture and economic strength.

The consortium unifies a number of research groups that have a world-leading position in their respective fields:

FIT, Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology
CNET, CNet Svenska AB
SAP AG, SAP Research
COMAU, COMAU S.p.A
TUK, Technical University of Kosice
ISMB, Istituto Superiore Mario Boella
TNM, TNM A/S
IN-JET, In-JeT ApS
INTERSOFT, Intersoft AS



European Commission
Information Society and Media

The ebbits platform creates a communication infrastructure that automatically and dynamically connects to sensors and devices in the physical world. It further connects to mainstream backend information systems, public authentication systems and regulatory information sources using semantic web services. It finally provides access for users whether professional users in technical support or consumers.

Thereby the ebbits platform enables the convergence of the Internet of People, the Internet of Things and the Internet of Services into the "Internet of People, Things and Services" for business purposes.

Following the life cycle of products

The platform will be demonstrated in end-to-end business applications that locate, connect to and monitor a product during its entire life cycle. Focus is on two applications:

Food Traceability and Automotive Manufacturing.

In the first case the platform makes it possible, for the consumer, to trace the life cycle of the product and receive related information by the use of **RFID tags**: the ebbits platform will be deployed over a pigs breeding and slaughtering field trial, seamlessly collecting and presenting to the user integrated information from farms, processing plants, logistic chain and public databases.

In the automotive case the ebbits framework will support interoperability and interconnectivity between various subsystems and demonstrate real-time optimisation metrics, including energy savings.



Follow the project at:

<http://www.ebbits-project.eu>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Smart SysTech 2012 European Conference on Smart Objects, Systems and Technologies (former RFID-SysTech)

June 12-13, 2012
RFID-Anwenderzentrum
Munich, Germany

<http://www.smart-systech.eu/>

Accepted contributions will be published in the VDE conference proceedings and in the IEEE Xplore® Digital Library.

The specific profile of this conference is to examine both the technology and economic aspects of:

- the latest achievements in technologies and systems for smart objects
- their integration into information systems and business processes and
- their business value.

Paper submission due: Feb. 6, 2012
Notification of acceptance: March 26, 2012

Publication-ready versions due: April 24, 2012
Posters, demos, videos due: April 24, 2012

RELATED EVENTS

December 2011

Dec 5 2011

RFID SIG Event: RFID Protects the Food Chain, Cambridge (UK)
Food safety encompasses the origin, processing and packaging of food so that consumers don't get sick from the food they buy.



January 2012

Jan 15 2012 - Jan 18 2012

2012 IEEE Radio and Wireless Week (RWW), Sata Clara (USA)

RWW2012 consists of five related conferences that focus on the intersection between radio systems and wireless technology, which creates a unique forum for engineers to discuss hardware design...

February 2012

Feb 6 2012 - Feb 8 2012

Field Service Mobility Middle East 2012, Abu Dhabi (UAE)

The region's premiere event dedicated to enhancing field service productivity through mobile technology solutions

Feb 19 2012

RFID and RTLS Executive Forum at HIMSS 2012, Las Vegas (USA)

RFID and RTLS Executive Forum: Understanding the Business Drivers and ROI for a Successful Implementation

Feb 20 2012

RFID & RTLS in Healthcare Symposium at HIMSS 2012, Las Vegas (USA)

RFID & RTLS in Healthcare Symposium: Business and Technical Essentials for Improving Patient Care and Safety. This symposium will focus on the many applications of RFID and RTLS.

Feb 20 2012 - Feb 24 2012

RFID in Healthcare Consortium at HIMSS 2012, Las Vegas (USA)

The Mission of the Intelligent Hospital pavilion is to educate the healthcare market, in the form of a demonstration, about how various wireless, auto-ID, RFID & RTLS, and sensor technologies.

Feb 22 2012 - Feb 24 2012

ID India Expo 2012, New Delhi (India)

ID India Expo is India's only one of its kind and the leading international trade fair for identification technologies incorporating smart card, RFID-NFC, biometrics and e-Security technologies.

The RFIDba would like to offer a limited free of charge access pass to the members of the RACE project for our HIMSS 2012 Healthcare event in Las Vegas. Please contact spique@rfidba.org for further information.

Related links:

<http://www.himssconference.org/exhibition/IntelligentHospitalPavilion.aspx>, <http://www.rfidba.org/rhcc/himss12>