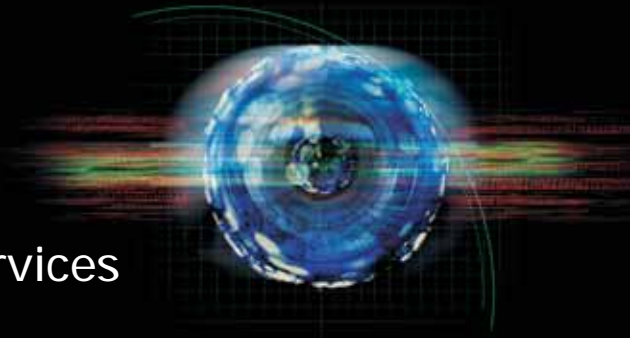


Innovation Platforms

Intelligent Transport Systems and Services



Future Intelligent Transport Systems

Joint notice of an initiative for academic/industry multidisciplinary research and innovation consortia

The Department for Transport (DfT), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) intend to sponsor a small number of new multidisciplinary research and innovation consortia to enable UK industry and universities to work in collaboration to address key research issues in the longer-term development of the UK transport system.

The sponsors' vision for this Future Intelligent Transport Systems (FITS) initiative is to support highly innovative and wide-ranging research, innovation and technology demonstrator projects, combining the best UK expertise in Industry, Local Authorities, transport service providers and Universities. This initiative is aimed at bringing benefit to all of these sectors but particularly to the longer-term development of UK-based companies seeking to position themselves in what is a potentially huge global market opportunity. To enable this, the sponsors will be supporting a limited number of initiatives that:

- Develop innovative solutions to transport problems;
- Stimulate and/or accelerate industry investment in innovation;
- Demonstrate innovation in transport operations and exploitation of project outputs;
- Adopt a multidisciplinary approach;
- Show promise of high quality research outputs.

This initiative, including a call for Expressions of Interest (EoIs), will be formally launched at the ITS World Congress 2006 in London (**8-12 October 2006**), as well as being released via the sponsors' websites at the same time.

dti

Department for
Transport

EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

The FITS initiative is one of a number of programmes being coordinated by the Intelligent Transport Systems & Services Innovation Platform (ITSS-IP), developed by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) as part of the Government's Technology Strategy.

This document sets out the expected process and timetable for FITS programme. It covers the identification and development of the research and innovation issues, and the formation and commissioning of the consortia.

Key dates that interested parties need to keep free are also contained in this document.

Scope of FITS initiative

The underpinning theme is studies on the challenge of **delivering better passenger and freight transport services while at the same time reducing negative environmental impacts** especially the carbon footprint.

This challenge and the way we might respond to this through technology was explored in detail in the Foresight project on Intelligent Infrastructure Systems (www.foresight.gov.uk).

For more information on the DfT Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) framework for the roads sector visit

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_road/documents/page/dft_roads_610509.pdf.

Research and innovation consortia

Research and innovation consortia are expected to combine the best UK academic expertise with UK-based companies, focussing on key longer-term (7-10 years) research issues from the innovation agenda set by the contributing companies. Consortia will vary in size and scope depending on the subject area, the degree of multidisciplinary work and the partners involved. It is expected that consortia funding will normally be for three or four years, subject to agreed monitoring and assessment.

The Technology Strategy Board and Innovation Platforms

An integral part of the Government's Technology Strategy, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) was established at the end of 2004 to ensure the technology and innovation priorities for the UK reflect business needs and have a clear market focus leading to wealth creation. To support this approach, the TSB introduced the concept of Innovation Platforms as a new way of working for Government and business providing opportunities to position business and government closer together to generate more innovative solutions to major policy challenges. All activities are assessed against a common set of criteria:

- UK capacity to develop and exploit the technology
- Potential for impact and timescale
- The size of the global market opportunity
- A clear Technology Strategy Board role.

The three sponsors will contribute equally to the FITS initiative. EPSRC's contribution will be used to support university teams, the DTI's contribution will be used to support companies, and the DfT's contribution may be used for either purpose depending on the outcome of the commissioning process. It is expected that industrial partners will contribute significant resources of their own to the research consortium.

As well as organisations who are currently involved in transport systems & services and related research, the sponsors wish to encourage contributions from companies and individuals who have not previously worked specifically in transport-related areas. There is huge potential for a range of ideas, concepts and technologies to contribute to the ITS agenda. Many new technologies – for example: distributed networks of sensors,

data-mining, agent-based software, modelling & simulation technology, advances in communications technology, speech interface and self-monitoring complex systems – could underpin the development of ITS capabilities. ITS also raises fundamental questions about how drivers and travellers will respond to the provision of improved information and possible intervention strategies.

Selection of research and innovation consortia

The selection of consortia will follow a three-stage process:

- Expression of Interest application (submission date **12:00pm on 3rd November 2006**).
- Consortia building ('sandpit') workshop (**22-24th November 2006** at the **Sheraton Skyline Hotel, Heathrow**).
- Submission of successful consortia proposals (by **31st January 2007**) and

Selection and notification of successful consortia proposals will be by **early March 2007**.

Call for Expressions of Interest (Eol)

The Eol stage is for potential participants to express an interest in taking part in the FITS initiative, giving an indication of a new idea or process or declaring a specialist capability. The Eol application forms submitted will be assessed and prioritised at a Panel meeting (consisting of members from relevant sponsors and institutions and organisations) against a number of criteria.

Only those Eols that are successfully prioritised will be invited to the Workshop.

However, please ensure that the workshop dates are in your diary as there will not be much notice between the panel decision and the workshop date.

The focus for the initiative, required format and assessment criteria for Eols will be announced during the ITS World Congress. The closing date for Eol submission will be **12:00pm on 3rd November 2006**.

The Panel meeting to shortlist applicants for attendance at the next stage of the FITS process will be on **9th November 2006**. Applicants will be informed of their selection/non-selection for the workshop event on **10th November 2006**.

Consortia building ('sandpit') workshop

The consortia building workshop, to be held on **22 – 24th November 2006** at the **Sheraton Skyline Heathrow**, is central to the outcome of the FITS initiative. Given the nature and importance of this workshop to the overall process, it will be essential that participants attend the full 48 hours of the workshop in order to qualify to receive funding under the initiative.

The workshop will involve a facilitated, highly interactive process, based on the successful 'sand-pit' style of workshop. Participants will be expected to engage constructively in dialogue with each other, the facilitators and the external assessors that will be present to participate in the prioritisation process. EPSRC has used this style of workshop for a number of high profile strategic partnerships with industry and the participants involved rated the experience highly.

The specific outputs of the workshop will be:

- A number of outline research/ development projects with agreed: objectives; outputs; leadership; team membership and outline management arrangements.

The projects will be expected to achieve the goal of delivering better passenger and freight transport services while at the same time reducing negative environmental impacts.

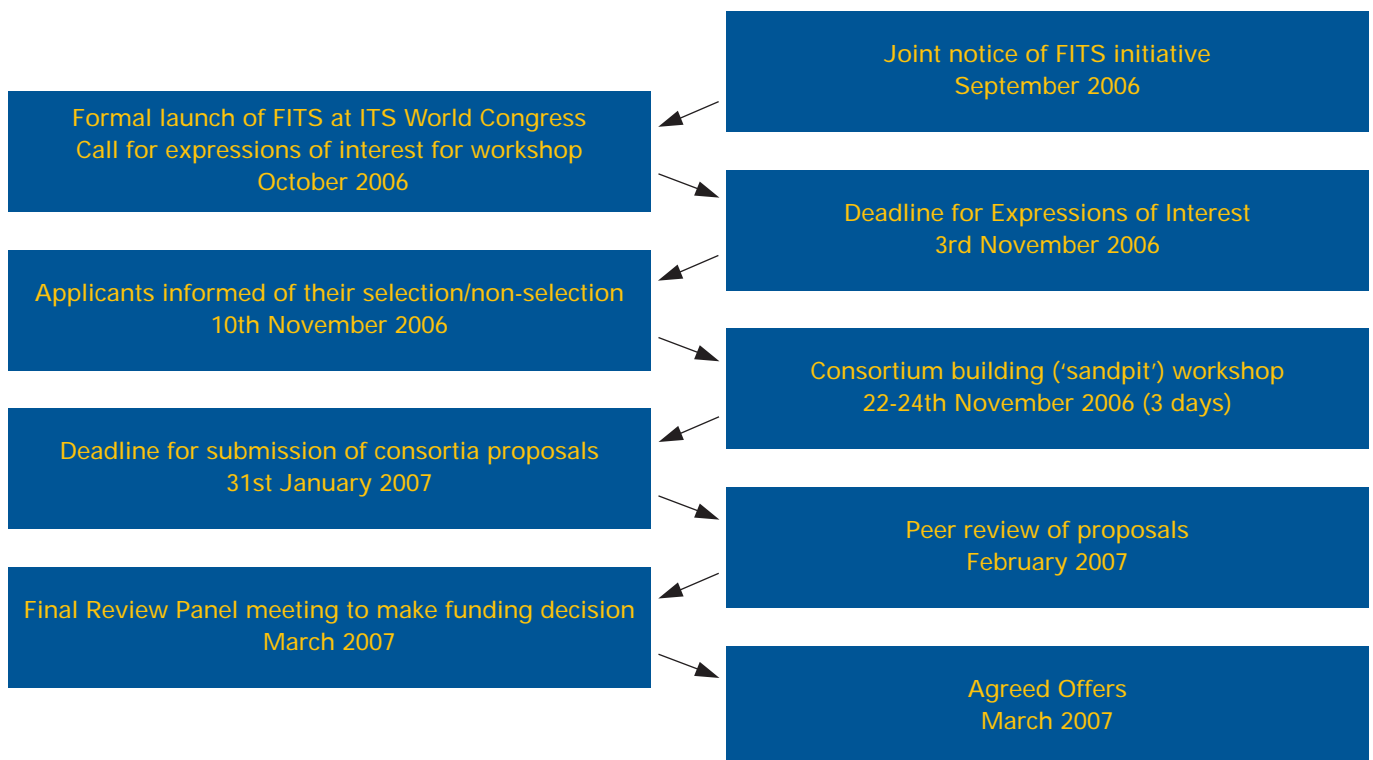
Final panel review of consortia proposals

Following the consortia building ('sandpit') workshop, each team identified will be tasked with writing a consortium proposal covering their intended activities as agreed at the workshop. Further guidance on this part of the process, including the criteria for assessment of the proposals will be available at the time. Please note that the criteria will be based on the TSB's published assessment criteria.

The deadline for submission of proposals will be **31st January 2007**.

The proposals will be subject to a rigorous peer review, including an international dimension, before funding is awarded. The final review panel will include a mixture of mentors from the workshop event for continuity, and independent assessors, who will not have seen the proposals before. The panel meeting is scheduled to be in early March.

Overview of process and timeline



Contacts for further information

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