

**Minutes of EMCS Developer Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009**  
**New Nelson Room, Somerset House, London**  
**13.00 – 15.30**

Attendees –HMRC Lynne Caton, Jackie Lockwood, Nigel Stockdale (SDST) Tina McDonnell, Paul Davidson (EMCS Business) Chris Porritt. Graham Jenkins (Aspire) Martin Rist (Decisionsoft)

Developers – Josh Joshi, Ian James. Keith Buckland, Richard Peterson, Ken Gower, Andy Watts, Kevin Wright, David Craik, Lance Bennett, Ian Wilson, Lorenzo Rossetti, Martin Foster, Andrew Thornton, Charles Day, Alison Marrs, Kate Cross, Rob Goy, Jeremy Burton, Paul Culkin

1. Update from Tina McDonnell (HMRC)

Tina advised that a newsletter had been recently issued, the main article to note details the UK decision not to be an Initial Member State. For further information, please see the EMCS website at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/emcs/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/emcs/index.htm) FS0 will be implemented from 01 April 2010; FS1 is due to be implemented 01 November 2010, although this date is currently being reviewed. The latest date for FS1 implementation is 31 December 2010

The project team has now expanded and all stakeholder groups and forums are being reviewed to determine their Terms of Reference and ensure that the correct attendees are invited to the relevant events. The communications team will be corresponding with stakeholders over the coming weeks.

2. LTS presentation by Nigel Stockdale (HMRC) – attached

3. RIM presentation by Martin Rist (Decisionsoft) – attached

Questions –

- When will it be available for FS1? – Is due Feb 2010 but hopefully a draft will be available earlier, currently looking to release in September
- Have all the business rules been checked? – EU Rules do look a bit ambiguous and some do need clarification. The rules and message classes which are already there for FS0 will go into FS1.

4. Polling for a response – Graham Jenkins (Aspire)

"There will be two behaviours for Download Message Requests that the 3rd party applications will be requested to align to

Behaviour 1: Download Requests for retrieval of submission result.

Examples: in order to retrieve an IE704 Submission Failure or an IE801 following successful IE815 submission.

Following a Submission from a 3rd party application, that application is allowed to issue an immediate Download Message request and up to 2 additional requests separated by 30 second intervals (e.g. up to 3 polls for messages).

Behaviour 2: Download Requests for retrieval of unsolicited messages.

Examples: in order to retrieve Reminders and Messages from other Trader submissions such as a consignee receiving an IE801.

In addition to Behaviour 1, 3rd party applications are allowed to initiate a Download Message request a maximum of 1 request every 15 minutes.

The response to a request to download messages will be restricted to a maximum of 10 messages or 600KB, whichever is the lesser; an indicator of whether there are more messages will be sent with the response; this may be utilised by 3rd party software developers to allow a single trader download request to automatically trigger sufficient requests to EMCS to download all the messages in several bundles; messages will never be split across these bundles."

- Correlating successful and Failed Responses to Submissions:

When a Submission is received it will be subject to initial validation (Security, HMRCMark & RIM) before the immediate response is returned. The successful or failed final validation completed by the EMCS Core system will be made available as a message for the Traders to download. If the CorrelationID in the IE Message Header is populated on a submission then it will be used to populate the Correlation ID in the IE Message Header of the Successful or Failed Validation Message. This can then be used to correlate the final validation response message to the original submission.

- Maximum Submission Size:

"3rd Party Software submissions will be limited to a maximum of 600KB per message with messages in excess of this limit being rejected on receipt and an appropriate response returned to the submitter."

During the meeting the following additional topic was discussed following Questioning:

- Integrity of Content written in different Languages

A Risk was discussed with regard to maintaining the integrity of content written in non-English languages. The UK EMCS system will maintain ISO standard UTF-8 encoding of any content received from other EU Member states which ensures that the received language content maintains integrity. The following Link currently displays UTF-8 in Wikipedia:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTF-8>

Additional questions / comments–

- How many transactions were estimated by HMRC – 250,000 PA  
This was thought by the meeting to be too low & unrealistic. Tina will look at this further and may need to validate the existing volumetrics with stakeholders, including the developers who it is hoped will respond as their input is vital if a correct assumption is to be achieved
- How are messages being defined - Member States can devise their own internal messaging
- What sort of response time is being looked at - There are different response times for different messages.
- System downtime – when will the fallback be invoked – The ARC comes through when the system resumes and this takes preference over paper
- Can File sizes differ between states – EU have been approached for clarity. Developers made it known that they would prefer "fixed" file sizes, SDST to send out questionnaire to gauge some indication of developer requirements.
- Can you cancel after an ARC issued – Yes - If the goods have not left the premises

There is a Portal application for anyone not wanting to file automatically from systems URL will follow when available  
FS0 screens are available but only to view on the EMCS website at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/emcs/introduction.htm> - scroll down to How will EMCS work?  
This info is also published on latest news 9 December 2008.

#### 5. Timelines – Tina McDonnell (HMRC)

Registration & Enrolment will be available February 2010 ready for April – everyone is urged to complete the process as soon as possible to prevent delays

LTS FS1 - February 2010

FS0 Live implementation – 01 April 2010

FS1 Live implementation – 01 November 2010 (under review)

EU Regs – sign off by September 2009

UK Regs – due December 2009

Not all states are progressing at the same time – the basic rule is that if the movement starts on paper it must be completed on paper. Some Member States will be IMS. However, this relates to system availability. Therefore, in some Member States businesses will be obliged to use EMCS from their implementation date whereas other Member States are adopting a phased or voluntary introduction. (However, if paper is used with the fallback process the data must be input into the system as soon as it becomes available).

#### Questions

- It is anticipated that there could be problems testing end to end filing – We are looking at testing with states in a similar position
- Is there a list of member states and their positions – Yes we will publish on the website at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/emcs/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/emcs/index.htm)
- What happens if not all states are ready – this is a key issue for us and the Commission and discussions are taking place to establish precisely what the potential impacts are, options to avoid delay and contingency plans. It remains a legal obligation that all MS are ready to operate the system (FS0) by April 2010. The Commission are meeting with the 3 MS concerned to explore potential remedies including technical and / or financial support. The UK and other MS are working up potential contingency plans should MS be not ready to operate by April 2010 and will consult with stakeholders when these are better developed with a view to minimising burdens which we recognise as a priority. We will keep all stakeholders updated urgently as this progresses.

#### Imports Process

The legislation states that if a movement is covered by Custom's procedures then a movement does not need to be entered into EMCS. However, for movements that are not covered by Custom's procedures or those wishing to use EMCS will input an e-AD. The only person entitled to move these goods will be Registered Consignors. For FS0 these movements will be on paper and for FS1 businesses will be required to use EMCS. Further information will be available over the coming months.

#### Minutes – Lynne Caton SDST (HMRC)