
From: Jim Harries [jim.harries@transdevplc.co.uk]
Sent: 03 April 2007 16:51
To: Alastair Richards - TEL
Cc: David Crawley; Roger Jones (Transdev)
Subject: Status of Employer's Requirements

Alastair

The most recent process in developing the Employer's Requirements came to a close on Fri 30th March. We understand that issue of these to the two Infraco bidders is ongoing.

Transdev has contributed to this process of updating. The review team were in most cases reacting to comments from SDS on differences between their design specifications and other comments generated by the procurement team internally. The imposed timescale has not provided us with the opportunity to read this version throughout, and we have not been able to check the extent to which our previous comments have been addressed.

It is clear that since our previous comments, there has been many changes to the Employer's Requirements. It is apparent that some of these changes have been made without a process to check that all changes that have been made are appropriate in the overall context of the document.

The current format without paragraph numbering makes the document very difficult to reference and will make it extremely difficult to use in practice.

We must state therefore that we are unable to endorse the document as it now stands, despite our engagement in the recent process. We do recognise that the document is significantly improved.

We remain concerned that there is virtually no location-specific information provided. This is implicitly enshrined in the design documents and drawings produced by SDS. It is impractical to write down such information but the present disconnection between the two groups of information is of concern to us. The recent discussions about the network track layout illustrate the lack of coherence in this respect, where there is a lack of consistency between SDS's design and the network diagram that SDS have been instructed to produce specifically for the Employer's Requirements.

We believe therefore that it would be appropriate for Transdev to review the Employer's Requirements complete, from scratch, yet again. As discussed at the Tram Leadership Meeting today, we look forward to your advice that it is available on the Extranet and to a formal invitation to carry out the review.

All the best
Jim Harries

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