

UK MAN Managers Group

Notes of Meeting, 20 January 2005 at ULCC

Present:

Dave Vinograd (Convenor)	
Mick Kahn (Secretary)	London Metropolitan Network
Paul Kentish	Kentish MAN
Ian Griffiths	EMMAN
Tim Robinson	NetNorthWest
Mike Byrne	LeNSE
Ed Carter	YHMAN
Barry Forde	C&NLMAN
David Hayling	Kentish MAN
Chris Cheney	EastNet
Mike Whitehead	FaTMAN
Kit Powell	SWERN
Roger Williams	WNL
Jason Bain	NorMAN
Andy Mason	SWERN
Joe Burns	NIRAN
Jem Taylor	UHI Network
Steve Percival	UKERNA (item 7 onwards)
Denis Russell	UKERNA (item 7 onwards)
Penny Gould	UKERNA (item 7 onwards)

Apologies were received from:

George Howat	EaStMAN
Jim Hendry	MidMAN
Colin Tennant	MidMAN
John Linn	AbMAN

1 Notes of Previous meeting

1.1 Accuracy

There were no corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 October 2004.

1.2 Annual Report

Mick Kahn had now received reports from nearly all MANs and will put the report on the web

Action: Mick Kahn

1.3 Connections reliability paper

The proposal for a study had been passed on as agreed. UKERNA had put out a call for bids and there had been at least one response.

2 Liaison with Chairs of MANs Group

There had been no issues that needed the involvement of the Chairs of MANs Group since the last meeting.

3 Contract changes

3.1 Contract negotiation team

The contract negotiation team will be Dave Vinograd (chair), Mike Byrne, Mick Kahn and Ian Griffiths. Ian Griffiths reminded the group of his potential conflict of interest as a UKERNA Director.

3.2 SLA negotiation team

The SLA negotiation team for 2005 will be Paul Kentish (retiring next year) and Jason Bain. A meeting is expected in the near future.

3.3 Development effort changes

The Group welcomed the flexibility of the proposed contract changes, but wished to seek clarification with UKERNA in a number of areas. It was felt that the paragraph on SLA changes was unnecessary as it was covered elsewhere. It was also not clear if it was mandatory to be involved in development (and take the money).

3.4 SuperJANET5 changes

The document from UKERNA with initial thoughts on the SuperJANET5 changes contained no surprises, but lacked detail.

It was noted that the 7x24 requirements would affect staffing requirements and the fault fixing figures.

The issue of “at risk” period would be difficult to solve. More resilient connections would reduce the problem. The impact on local maintenance arrangements would need to be considered.

4 SuperJANET5

4.1 Location of entry points to RNs

RNOs needed feedback from UKERNA and to know the timetable for final decisions.

5 JDAG

5.1 Report on November meeting

Mike Byrne reported on the productive meeting in Solihull in November. The draft notes had just been issued and will be circulated as soon as they have been checked.

5.2 Membership

The UKMMG members of JDAG will be Ed Carter, Mike Byrne and Jason Bain.

6 Broadband aggregation

The news of the demise of the Adits had been announced at the Network Strategy Workshop and a number had already closed. Others, where there had been significant activity, were reviewing the situation.

7 UKERNA issues

Steve Percival introduced Penny Gould who had joined UKERNA as the liaison person for the Northern RNOs.

7.1 Calculation of availability figures

Steve Percival reported that UKERNA Network Reporting Group had produced a note on how the availability figures were calculated. It hadn't been possible to circulate it in advance of the meeting, but will be circulated immediately after the meeting and any comments should be raised by email to Steve Percival, with copies to the Group, or at the next meeting.

Steve Percival had also written a procedure for dealing with discrepancies in the calculation of performance figures that will be circulated after the meeting.

7.2 Proposals for reporting on multiple connections

Steve Percival had written a discussion paper on reporting where there were multiple connections to institutions and this will also be circulated after the meeting. The adding of "link down, site up" status to the reporting was discussed. Any changes would be discussed with the SLA Team. Steve Percival invited comments.

Action: All

7.3 Development contract changes

The Group indicated to Steve Percival that they welcomed the contract change, but felt that some clarification was needed. The contract negotiation team will feed back the group's comments

Action: Contract Negotiation Team

7.4 Notification of faults lasting over 4 hours

Steve Percival had produced a note on the procedures for reporting faults lasting more than four hours under SL14, which would be circulated after the meeting.

7.5 ACL connection project

Steve Percival reported that they were now proceeding with the connection of approximately 100 more English ACL providers. Take-up was expected to be slow and may still involve RBCs in some cases. It was noted that additional effort would be required by the RSCs to support these sites and that they were likely to be complicated.

It was noted that for many smaller sites that electrical power was a problem and that the life of the RNO would be easier if a UPS was provided. UKERNA had no plans in this area at present.

7.6 Fibre rating

Denis Russell reported that Tim Kidd is producing some information and will report via the mans-liaison mailing list.

Action: Denis Russell (for Tim Kidd)

Tim Robinson reported that Manchester had received a request for information on an entirely inappropriate form.

Universities UK are also looking at the issue.

7.7 Use of both SuperJANET entry points

Denis Russell indicated that, whilst the use of both SuperJANET entry points at the same time was not ruled out, UKERNA had a strong preference against this. It would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Denis Russell had received responses from all RNOs on the SuperJANET5 entry points and would circulate a list to all RNOs, subject to agreement from RNOs that had indicated that the information was confidential. A final choice would be needed by the end of March 2005. It was noted that, in order to make this choice, that the RNOs would need feedback on the SuperJANET5 core network plans.

Action: Denis Russell

7.8 SuperJANET5 funding across the UK

Denis Russell reported that English funding had been allocated and that proposals were required by 31 March 2005. Funding will be available from 1 April 2005. The need to match the combined spending from the RNOs with the level funding from HEFCE was noted.

A proposal for Scotland had been submitted and it was hoped that there would be information available at the SMCG the following week.

A combined approach was being considered in Wales.

Denis Russell will be visiting Northern Ireland on 1 February 2005.

It was noted that some proposed SJ5 changes would have recurrent as well as capital cost implications and so would need to be covered by changes to the RPAN recurrent funding rather than coming from the SuperJANET5 capital funding.

7.9 SuperJANET5 contract changes

Denis Russell had circulated an indication of the areas to be covered. Steve Percival, Tim Kidd and Denis Russell will organise a meeting with the UKMMG team in the near future.

7.10 Publicity brochure

Denis Russell indicated that he still needed contributions. He will circulate what he has so far to stimulate further input. He noted that the brochure should celebrate the diversity of the RNOs and their activities.

Action: Denis Russell and those who haven't responded

7.11 Reliability Study

Denis Russell reported that the contract for the reliability study had been awarded to Andy Jordan (ex Huddersfield) and John Duke (ex Leeds). There had been other bids.

8 Dates of future meetings

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 April 2005 in London. The following meeting was provisionally agreed for Wednesday 29 June 2005 in Inverness.

9 Any other business

There was no other business.