

September members' newsletter

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Much has been achieved in the three years since TAHI was launched and few groups or nations are more advanced in their quest for "a connected home".

Progress has been slow but sure and work is continuing to identify the most valuable applications and services as well as developing a pragmatic Open Architecture – a common blueprint essential for the future delivery of key applications and services.

We now need to consolidate our positions in the trials and encourage them through to the commercialisation stage.

We must also devote resources to further refining, expanding and promoting the TAHI Open Architecture, culminating in a registered trademark and copyright. This will lead us significantly closer to the creation of the TAHI Mark of Conformity, which will reassure consumers that equipment and software will interoperate successfully.

Perhaps most importantly, we must encourage our members, particularly those who are inactive at present, to participate more fully in our conferences and discussions and to instigate new trials and initiatives. The TAHI members' meeting planned for November will provide a good starting point, and I hope to see all of you there.

TAHI is a unique and invaluable resource and it is through the collaboration of all our members that we stand the best chance of speeding innovation, creating a competitive advantage and achieving our full potential.

Robert de Fougerolles

Treasurer

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EM Trial set to go live

TAHI's Equipment Management (EM) trial is making good progress towards live testing in real homes next month, reports [Graham Nicholls](#), chairman of the technical working group.

The EM trial aims to demonstrate a remotely accessible home network using low data rate, plug and play technologies from a number of different suppliers including domestic appliances, home security and metering equipment.

Software which integrates Horstmann meters and

Contact us

To include your news and views in the TAHI newsletter, please [email](#) or call Mike Windsor on +44(0) 1491 829 317 or +44(0) 7733 263423.

Coming Up

Trial Workshop - Sept 22 Advantica Loughborough.

Members' Meeting -

switches, appliances from Dyson and safety-related applications monitoring gas usage and boiler health, is up and running at the Advantica test home at Loughborough University and at a Homeportals development lab in Iceland.

Meanwhile the EM team has finalised the criteria for people taking part in the live-world trial. Up to Fifty homes in the Loughborough area will be selected for this stage.

"We've set out the minimum requirements in terms of equipment, facilities and space," said Graham Nicholls, "and we've established the scenarios we want to test. For example, what information, if any, do people want if there is a fault with their boiler, or would they prefer it to be fixed independently; and what is their response to equipment being turned off remotely to save energy?"

A full progress report on the trial is available on the VKP website.

Golden opportunity at members' conference



The TAHI members' conference is scheduled for November 16 and 17 with an unrivalled venue and a stimulating agenda promising to make this an event to remember. Full details will be sent out by email soon.

The meeting provides a prime opportunity for members to get a clear picture of what is happening in our organisation, the direction it is taking and to help shape its future. There will be updates on exciting developments in TAHI trials, and it is an excellent chance for some high-grade networking.

We operate in a fast-moving business, where teamwork and careful navigation smooth the path to success, so the venue for this meeting is particularly apt: the conference suite at the award-winning River and Rowing Museum in Henley-on-Thames, home of the international sport and our Olympic rowing heroes.

In addition to the conference and dinner, members will enjoy an exclusive reception in the museum's Boating Gallery.

Contact [Stephanie Collins](#) at HomeRider Systems to register or for more information.

Nov 16 and 17, details tbc

ib2004

September 23/24 2004.
BRE Watford

HiFi Show & AVExpo 2004

Sep 24-26 London, UK

Building Performance 2004 and PropIT

October 6-7, 2004
National Hall, Olympia,
London

OSGI 2004 World Congress

October 11 - 15
Barcelona, Spain

LonWorld Exhibition and Conference

October 20-21,
Shanghai, China

CEN/CENELEC/ETSI Conference

November 3-4, 2004,
Brussels
Dedicated to
standardisation of
transportation means.

net-atHome 2004

Nov 30 – Dec 3, Nice,
France
The largest international
conference and exhibition
for the connected home
markets, including
SmartHouse Forum on
Nov 30.

VKP – TAHI's online archive

The TAHI area of VKP has several workspaces, including TAHI Public, TAHI Members, Energy Trial, Services Aggregation and Equipment Management. Access is controlled by user groups so most people only have access to a selection of areas. VKP can be accessed at <http://vkp.leeds.ac.uk/>

As part of the effort to ensure that VKP is used effectively, the Service Aggregation workspace has been restructured, a new workspace for documents to be shared with DTI has been created and users from all areas of TAHI are being encouraged to upload documents and participate in Discussion Groups.

Key project documents, general discussions and newsletters can all be stored and accessed via VKP. For example, under TAHI Public there are TAHI constitution documents, in TAHI Members there are TAHI Strategy documents and under Services Aggregation there are documents relating to the trial with Leicester City Council. A link to any document may be copied and pasted into documents, discussions and emails. E.g. Equipment Management progress note
<http://vkp.leeds.ac.uk/Drive/gotofile.jsp?doc=353947&file=353949>.
Since users still need their login and password to access documents via links, security is maintained.

If anyone has issues with accessing VKP, please let your administrator know.
TAHI: [Stephen Pattenden](#);
SA: [Tamsyn Stanton](#)
EM: [Mike Patterson](#)

To change a system-generated password to something easier to remember, click on the "Prefs" button on the toolbar, then select 'Security'.

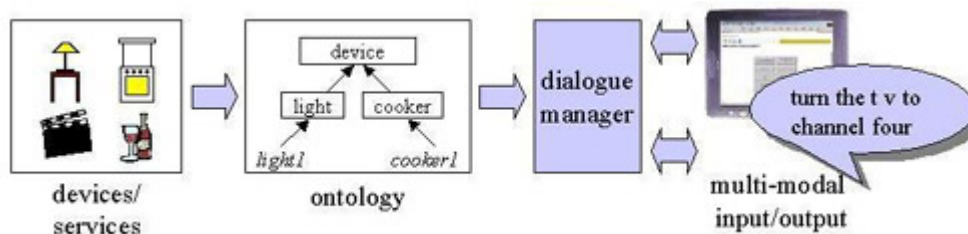
Full user help is available online by clicking on the large "?" on the menu bar once logged in. For a quick start guide, follow this link:
<http://vkp.leeds.ac.uk/Drive/gotofile.jsp?doc=118079&file=326572>

net-atHome 2004

TAHI members can display their company literature on our stand at net-atHome. TAHI is a silver sponsor at this year's show, the largest international conference and exhibition for the connected home markets, and will be active in many areas, including the SmartHouse Forum on Nov 30.

For more information, please contact [Stephen Pattenden](#).

Linguamatics finds the right words



The next generation of voice recognition systems is being integrated in TAHI's Service Aggregation Trial. The system has been developed by Cambridge-based [Linguamatics Ltd](#), one of the companies at the forefront of natural language processing and its applications.

Its sophisticated dialogue manager has unprecedented plug and play flexibility, making it automatically reconfigurable for new devices, new rooms, a new house, and moving devices around the house.

This has been achieved by fully separating "ontological" knowledge about devices and services from generic behaviour such as the handling of clarifications, interruptions and extra or missing information.

The system can recognise and interpret complex commands and phrases, and query anything it doesn't fully understand – a huge leap beyond the automated voice options currently used on telephone systems. The system can be used solely with spoken input and output, for example over the phone, or in combination with other input and output devices like a TV or touch screen.

It is being integrated into the simulated demonstrator at the Centre for the [Integrated Home Environment](#) at Loughborough.

Linguamatics' chief technology officer Dr David Milward says the system is capable of dealing not only with lights, doors, heating and curtains, but can also translate complicated commands for multi-programme devices like CD players, TVs and washing machines.

"It provides natural, realistic interaction between the user and their home," he said. "This will dramatically improve hands-free access to home services from inside and outside the home, and will be invaluable for elderly and disabled users who have difficulty with other interfaces."

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