

WP leader: AIM UK

The EU has identified the need for “a wide but strictly relevant participation acting as a catalyst in federating/harmonising the national initiatives underway and in catering for the different ‘speeds’ of Member States and specific industry sectors.” Many current and future partners in the project have existing relationships with their National Governments. The Government Liaison Work Package will seek in collaboration with all network Members and WP1 on Policy Liaison to maximise existing relationships and develop new ones as appropriate to ensure awareness-raising and education at all Government stakeholders across all Member States. WP9 will collaborate with all network Members willing to act as national relays within their country vis-à-vis national administrations, governmental agencies and representatives, with a view to:

1. Involving a large number of Member States’ authorities dealing with public RFID issues, including involvement of major industry (automotive, aerospace, etc...), civil society, RFID advocacy groups and research agencies where relevant.
2. Addressing the requirements of policy-makers and the general public to ensure that both businesses and consumers benefit from RFID with a specific focus on consumer trust and acceptance, innovation and enterprise.

A logical approach to achieving a self-sustaining federated network structure, offering both collaboration and independence of contributory stakeholders, is to provide a framework and a set of deliverables for creating member-state-funded national centres for RFID and object-connected technologies. We would propose to link this framework to what we are calling a supporting central platform that can accommodate, on an on-going basis, key objectives which will help achieve a coherent and effective platform for informing and involving Member States of key European and international issues concerning RFID. The latter will accommodate new developments, concepts, research outcomes and event services (seminars, enterprise events and conferences), building upon and extending the European Commission’s RFID Expert Group activities in a new form for strengthening Europe’s involvement, understanding and exploitation of RFID.

The proposed central platform would also be seen as a vehicle for sharing knowledge and expertise arising from member states and as a point of promotion and roll-out for thematic initiatives, such as business development programmes that will have relevance across member states.

With some member states government representatives and national administrations already expressing interest, a move towards growing the network and federating these facilities is both logical and possible.

In addition, RACE networkRFID seeks explicit support from a number of national administrations, and will serve as a platform of dialogue among authorities This should facilitate dialogue and participation with a growing number of national authorities and serve as a catalyzer on the road towards an internal market for RFID applications.