Minutes of the meeting on weighbridge connectivity with FOIS

The meeting on the subject was held on 13.06.2012 at 10.30 hrs in Rail Bhavan and was attended by the following.

Railway Board
Sh. Amitabh Lal, Adv./IT
Ms. U.Hazarika, ED/C&IS
Sh. Ajay Singh, DME(Dev)
Sh. S.Narain, DME(C&IS)
Sh. R.B.Kumar. DDME(Dev)
RDSO
Ms. Vinita Srivastava, Director/FEQ

FOIS
Sh. H.R. Rao, Dy.CPM
CRIS
Sh. K. Beji George, GM
Sh. Manish Kumar, CSM
Vendors
Sh. H.K. Vaish, GM (R&D)/Avery
Sh. R.A. Shanker, Sr.Manager Software/Rice Lake
Sh. P. Shanker, ASM/Essae
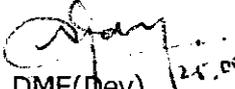Sh. J. K. Patel, Service Engineer/Senlogic

The meeting was chaired by Adv/IT.

Following points were discussed.

S.No	Point of Discussion	Action by
1.	CRIS introduced the proposed design of connectivity between FOIS and weighbridge (WB) system. This will be through a web-service interface at both ends i.e. FOIS and WB. To achieve the same, both the systems should be capable of hosting and calling web-services over a secure http protocol. Transfer of data will take place in encrypted XML format.	CRIS
2.	Provision of feeding of rake-id should be in WB software. CRIS proposed that the rake consist information can be fetched from FOIS web-server by the WB applications and used to populate wagon details of rake under weighment. However, since the FOIS data might have consistency issues, it was decided that the rake information will be fed manually at the WB as in vogue currently. This information, along with weighment details and WB identification information will be sent to the FOIS web server. RDSO's view was that "The WB data should be pushed to FOIS server without ANY MANUAL INTERVENTION. The synching/update of rake consist data will be done at the FOIS server, followed by populating weighment data. DATA INTEGRITY shall be ensured by FOIS server/software systems." WB software will keep local copies of record of weighment details pushed onto FOIS server for audit purposes.	Vendor FOIS CRIS
3.	Generally there was consensus about the mechanism suggested,	RDSO

S.No	Point of Discussion	Action by
	subject to necessary corrections as per requirements. Vendors suggested that instead of having both push and pull arrangement for data transfer between the weighbridge system and FOIS servers, it may be useful if the data from the WB system is only pushed on to the FOIS system, as discussed in point No.3. WB data should not be edited or altered in any way, manual or otherwise, prior to its push/ transfer to FOIS system. Clear responsibility needs to be fixed on intermediate persons and systems for DATA SECURITY and DATA INTEGRITY issues.	Vendor Rlys
4.	Adv/IT also emphasized on ensuring the incorporation of facility in the WB software to cater to the requirement of multiple weighments carried out on any rake due to need of detachment of overloaded wagons etc. Keeping the record of all the individual weighments carried out for the rake would be essential for MIS purposes. A flag can be attached to the final weighments values which are taken for generation of RR. This complete data set needs to be transferred to FOIS web server.	RDSO
5.	WB software should be able to take care of connectivity issues by having provision for repeated attempts to complete the weighment data transfer automatically.	Vendors RDSO
6.	WB software should keep detailed logs of data transfer to the FOIS system so that audit trail at a later date can be conducted.	Vendors RDSO
7.	The vendors will make a list of all the installations of WB, including private WBs indicating their generation. The WB should be categorized based on inputs required in terms of software as well as hardware upgradation required. This list will be submitted to RDSO as well as RB.	Vendors
8.	M/s Rice lake informed that their system are on DOS as well as Windows platform with the application in Visual Basic as well as VB.net. M/s Essae application are in VB.net. Avery is having a mix of systems of DOS as well as Windows, with applications written in VB as well in VB.net.	RDSO
9.	The master list of weighbridges needs to be updated by Dev. Dte. in consultation with FM Dte. and weighbridge vendors. The list of TMS locations would be provided by FOIS organization, so to enable planning of upgradation requirements for weighbridges software and hardware.	Vendors RB FOIS

S.No	Point of Discussion	Action by
10.	CRIS will advise the system requirements and proposed additions for integration of WB software with FOIS. Subsequently RDSO would issue necessary amendments to the WB software specification as per their due process. This would be then applicable to all new WB procurements as per the cut-in decided by RDSO. RDSO stated that specification review necessarily involves stakeholder comment collection and incorporation which is an involved process. Therefore, a well-considered, finalized CRIS solution acceptable to all concerned may be circulated to all as an add-on document separate from the WB specification solely for FOIS connectivity issues for the existing WBs. Adv/IT also endorsed this view.	FOIS CRIS RDSO
11.	CRIS would tentatively indicate specification by June end, on which RDSO would communicate scheme for one time upgradation by mid July, 2012.	CRIS
12.	Adv/IT decided that there will be a meeting in mid of July-2012 to decide final issues regarding connectivity of WB with FOIS.	RB
13.	The vendors should work out the estimates of changeover of their existing systems of various generations, so that the existing systems upgradation can be planned. All new systems will be as per the new requirements to be worked out by CRIS.	Vendors

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Cc: All present

RDSO may send a copy of the MoM to vendors who have not attended the meeting.