

## *the* Public Sector Network

*Over the coming months we'll be asking PSN Workstream leads to talk about the challenges of working on one of the most innovative Government and Private Sector initiatives.*

# Overcoming the Challenges of Transition

**O**n completion, the Public Sector Network (PSN) will be the largest, most pragmatic and potentially the most influential ICT programme in UK history.

Five million Public Sector staff could be connected by voice, data and video and be able to collaborate across different organisations, from Central Government Departments and Agencies, through Devolved Administrations and local Government, to Emergency Services, and the Third Sector.

### THE CATALYST

PSN is a catalyst for Public Sector transformation - delivering organisational responsiveness, improving cross-border working practices, enabling technical innovation and setting new common standards of assurance, interoperability and security.

The Transition workstream operates under the assumption that the PSN already exists in a 'steady state'. It may seem obvious, but an organisation has to have something to



**Stuart Higgins –**  
*PSN Transition Workstream Lead*

transition to, and because of this transition is unique.

Each of the other workstreams are focussed on the birth of the PSN, whether that focus is on Technology challenges, Security, Governance or Service Management, they are all about the creation of, and ongoing operation of the PSN.

If you search Google for a definition of transition, you get many, these include:

*".. a change from one place or state or subject or stage to another."*

And:

*".. conversion: an event that results in a transformation."*

Transition is also the seventh album by Kenny Rogers & The First Edition and the name of episode 151 of The West Wing!

#### **PLAN AND EXECUTE**

The Transition Workstream aims to enable every public sector organisation to successfully plan, manage and execute **their** transition to the PSN and defines its remit as:

*"The Transition of (Legacy) Services to PSN."*

It is not just about technology, but also about contractual arrangements, security requirements and many other factors. Perhaps most importantly it will enable public sector bodies to innovate during, and after the change.

It is essential to avoid re-creating legacy solutions based on out of date thinking, without questioning their suitability to address the business requirements of a 21st Century Public Sector organisation.

Transition provides every organisation an opportunity to re-visit the requirements of the department, group or even individual users and dare I say it, the customer.

Rather than looking at the PSN from the network up, we should look at it from the Enterprise down. The services available that operate over the PSN will help to overcome any limitations of the network. Collaborative working, Unified Communications, Presence based applications, and Web 2.0 enabled solutions will all revolutionise the way the public sector operates.

#### **MORE FOR LESS**

Imagine a world where every public sector employee can access the same information, regardless of location, device, or technology, in a secure way and for less money than it costs today.

This will all be possible with the PSN. Don't just look at the PSN as an opportunity to save money (although this is obviously critical to its success), but embrace it as a chance to transform the way that the UK Public Sector operates. The PSN can set the standard for modern Government ICT solutions globally.

#### **MAXIMISING THE BENEFITS**

The Transition workstream (both Industry and the Public Sector members) will help each organisation to maximise the benefits and minimise the costs of moving to the Public Sector Network.

- ***Stuart works for Siemens Enterprise Communications and has more than 20 years experience in the communications sector. He has helped many organisations address key business challenges.***

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