

ADEPT Street Lighting Group meeting 14th February 2019

The meeting was located in the City of London Guildhall offices and two guests were invited to deliver presentations to the group.

An overriding theme of the meeting was the way in which Central Management Systems (CMS) are procured and operated. Particular emphasis was given to the fact that once a particular company's CMS is procured currently it is only that company that can run the system through its server.

This has given rise to significant concern regarding the reliance on one company and the fact that, should one of these companies cease trading, the client authorities using this equipment would have a major problem in obtaining the necessary information from the system, some of which could have serious financial implications on the authority.

The first presentation was given on the implications of CMS failure by Tom Chevalier of the meter administration (MA) company Power Data Services. He showed how the MA interacts with the CMS and the resultant problems should the CMS stop working, be it by a fault on the system or in the event of a CMS company ceasing trading.

In short it would mean that the MA would not receive the necessary information to pass to the Distribution Network Operator (DNO), the consequence being that any financial benefits that the authority enjoyed, such as the reduction of energy as the result of dimming, would be lost. In the worst case scenario the default position would be that the lamps were deemed to be burning continuously with the consequent major increase in energy costs to the authority.

The second presentation was given by John Nickalls of the CMS Company Telensa and was an update on the work of the TALQ Consortium.

TALQ is a software interface that is currently under development and its function is intended to allow an owner of a CMS that is no longer trading to be able to interrogate his system via another CMS of an active company. This would then mean that the authority that owned a defunct system need not look to total replacement of its CMS.

The committee was told that TALQ was still under development, and that there was an increasing interest among CMS companies in the consortium's work.

The remainder of the meeting dealt with such things as concern that a number of companies providing bespoke lighting equipment and other niche items, were in danger of going into receivership.

The document 'Providing a Vital Asset' (PAVA) was last published in 2011 and even at time that it was out of date. DfT has provided funding for the collection of data relating to the lighting stock which will be collected by SALIX. The possible collection of the data by the various DNOs was considered, but it was noted that only two of the five DNOs had thus far agreed to this and there was hostility from one DNO to this suggestion.

Other items under discussion were the rise in energy costs, where the DECC has advised that energy costs will rise by 12%. The discussion that followed revealed that the energy cost increases varied from region to region.

As this was the last meeting of the current chairman Dave Johnson, the Vice Chairman expressed the Group's gratitude and sincere appreciation for the way Dave had not only chaired the Street Lighting Group's meetings for a number of years, but also the way he had represented the Highway Lighting engineers at the UK Lighting board and other notable committees. Members offered to Dave all their best wishes for the future.

Stuart Bulmer
Secretary