



## – AN INTRODUCTION

UK Passenger Transport Executives, bus operators and the operators of Britain's passenger train franchises created the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation, ITSO, in 1998. With the support of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, ITSO has published the 'ITSO Specification'.

ITSO's mission is *"to manage and develop the technology specifications that make inter-operable, multi-modal public transport a reality."*

For the UK Transport Industry and its passengers, the ITSO specification will be the Standard that enables public transport to have an open, secure technology base bringing real benefit to all.



The Opportunities brought by the ITSO specification include:

- Passengers are able to buy a ticket from their local transport operator that can be used anywhere.
- More sources of tickets, not just Transport Operator premises.
- Contactless Smartcard tickets speed up Passenger movement and reduce queuing.
- Full automatic settlement systems between Transport Operators.
- Additional features can be added to the Smartcard to enhance the customer proposition and customer relationship management.



ITSO has been established to deliver real benefits to its members – however diverse their needs may be. For the operators of public transport systems, the objective is to ensure that they can provide a smartcard system confident their system will operate efficiently and securely with other ITSO systems. For the passenger there will be the certainty that they can use their card with confidence on the public transport network. Because ITSO is working with all interested parties they will ensure that emerging national and international standards contribute to the development of the ITSO standard. This means protecting investment already made and providing a development route to offer greater value to passengers in both the UK and International transport markets.

[www.itso.org.uk](http://www.itso.org.uk)



At the heart of the ITSO specification is the ITSO SAM – Secure Access Module, or ISAM – the smartcard device that resides in ticket issuing and reading machines. The ISAM is the technology that ensures the different smartcard tickets can be read and the information relayed securely to the transport operators for settlement.

ITSO awarded the development of the ISAM to Ecebs who are able to provide them to Transport Operators and Ticket Machine Manufacturers, or anyone else deploying a smartcard transport scheme.

In addition to the ISAM, Ecebs are able to provide a whole range of transport and complementary smartcard technology, both on and off card. Our expertise crosses the boundaries of transport, secure ID, payment and other smartcard technology.

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