

Acacia Programme

The Vision and Progress so far

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Why is VOA involved?

- Valuation Office Agency holds information of land and property occupations and ownerships needed for its business of providing valuation services to the public sector.
- Seeking to modernise the way we do our business/improve efficiency
- Need to improve understanding of local taxation valuations by the citizen and businesses/need for greater transparency

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What is Acacia?

- A partnership of 6 separate UK public sector agencies/bodies
- All of which hold land & property data
- 'Modernising Government' White Paper – need for greater joined up working
- Chief Executives seeking to bring innovation benefits through partnership
- Common desire to improve efficiency & seek to add value

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The partners in Acacia

- HM Land Registry
- Local Government Information House
- Royal Mail
- Ordnance Survey
- Registers of Scotland
- Valuation Office Agency

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Drivers

- Reduce duplication/benefit from shared information
- Harness latest IT advances
- Combined value of data is greater than the sum of the parts
- Enable maximum use of public data, as far as is possible within constraints such as DPA/statute

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Memorandum of Understanding

'The programme aims to co-ordinate the development and maintenance, and promote the use, of a definitive, consistent and joined-up national infrastructure of property addresses and related data with the related mapping so as to facilitate major economies, efficiencies and service improvements both in the public sector and throughout the economy.'

Signed by Acacia partners in Sept 2002

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What will Acacia Eventually Deliver ?

- a definitive, consistent and joined-up national infrastructure of property addresses and related data with the associated mapping;
- a business model within which all stakeholders can operate effectively and fairly;
- an environment to enable greater co-operation and co-ordination between all the stakeholders.

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Acacia Pilot Project

- **Pilot Project initiated January 2003**
- **2 Local Authorities: Basingstoke and Aylesbury Vale**
- **Timetable: Initial Pilot Project is due to report in late October 2003**
- **Subsequent pilot work and modelling is likely to follow**

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Pilot Project Objectives (1)

- Inputs from a multi-skilled team - benefiting from Shared programme ownership by stakeholders
- Create a definitive national master address source for Pilot areas - through integration of what exists now, rather than replacement by single source
- Explore & build upon existing National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) process
- Understand the relationships between National Street Gazetteer & this Acacia process

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Pilot Project Objectives (2)

- Undertake quality reviews of source datasets
- Explore options for maintenance regimes
- Assess impact on stakeholders organisations of adopting Acacia vision
- Estimate costs of national roll-out of Acacia vision
- Create sound communication strategy and understand market reaction to pilot

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Acacia Pilot Project Interim Results

PRACTICABILITY

- Results so far from pilot work has confirmed in technical terms that the Acacia vision is practicable

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Acacia Pilot Project Interim Results

DIFFERENT ADDRESS GEOGRAPHIES

- Different address geographies (PAF, LLPGs / NLPG, Ordnance Survey ADDRESS-POINT) will co-exist in harmony and provide effective cross referencing amongst them

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Acacia Pilot Project Interim Results

MAINTENANCE REGIME

- The pilot is currently testing different maintenance approaches
- Early indications suggest that the creation of a shared, co-ordinated change intelligence environment would significantly improve and streamline the communication of change amongst the stakeholders
- Ultimate need for seamless electronic exchange of information in *real time*

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Acacia Pilot Project Interim Results

DATA QUALITY

- The pilot is baselining the quality of samples of the source address products
- Consultation with the address users will provide guidelines for more effectively specifying quality

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Acacia Pilot Project Interim Results

NON POSTALLY ADDRESSABLE OBJECTS

- Acacia will generate a clearer, practical definition of categories to be covered and engage possible users in providing a comprehensive set of guidelines for these objects.
- Initially, this will be restricted to the objects supported by the VOA and Land Registry.

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Acacia Pilot Project Interim Results

STREET NAMING

- Acacia is reviewing current initiatives to ensure that the national street naming system can robustly support the future needs of implementation of Acacia nationally.

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Acacia Pilot Project Interim Results

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN ACACIA

- The pilot has provided the opportunity to leverage skills and experience from the private sector
 - Northgate blue 8 & several leading consultants are supporting the research;
 - project QA is provided externally
 - the AGI Address Geography Special Interest Group (SIG) has agreed to support the review of pilot conclusions.

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Acacia Programme - What's Next ?

- Preparations and continued technical & market research for extending the realisation of the Acacia vision nationally
- Funding arrangements need to be put in place
- Further testing and modelling will likely be needed
- Long term governance needs to be assured
- Updates on Acacia are regularly published on the websites of the stakeholders

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....Any questions?

Thank you for listening

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