

FOT-Net 2

Field Operational Tests Networking and Methodology Promotion



FOT-Net has been in place for almost three years as the networking platform for stakeholders involved or interested in Field Operational Tests (FOTs). While the focus has so far been on building up the FOT network and promoting the FESTA methodology, the next phase will explicitly address issues raised by the FOT network which need common European positions.

At a Glance

Project type:

Support Action (SA)

Programme:

7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

Project coordinator

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Project partners:

The project includes partners from

- Associations: ERTICO-ITS Europe, Fédération Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA), Polis, ASFA
- Public authorities: Rijkswaterstaat
- Universities: Chalmers University of Technology, University of Leeds, IKA
- Research centres: CTAG, TNO, Fraunhofer Institute, BAST
- Vehicle manufacturers: Volvo Cars, Centro Ricerche Fiat, Renault

Duration:

36 months (1 January 2011 – 31 December 2013)

Total cost and EU funding:

€1.4 Million

Project website:

www.fot-net.eu

About Field Operational Testing

Field Operational Tests (FOT) are large-scale test programmes aimed at providing a comprehensive assessment of the efficiency, quality, robustness and acceptance of ICT solutions used for smarter, safer, cleaner and more comfortable transport solutions.

Field operational testing is widely recognised as an effective instrument to test new transport technologies in the real world. Previous experience in Europe, the US, and Japan has shown that field trials are an excellent way to raise awareness, collect real data, and enhance the take-up of ICT solutions.

Field Operational Tests have also proved to be a powerful tool for gaining insight into the way new functions and systems suit the user when operated in the real context and for a sufficiently long time to gain statistically sound data.

In Europe, these tests have mostly been run at national level, but there is a growing need now to incorporate FOTs into a common European framework.

FOT-Net: the “One-stop shop” for Field Operational Tests

National, European and international FOT organisers are now coming together on one strategic networking platform: FOT-Net.

FOT-Net is a support action funded by the European Commission to network FOT activities at national, European, and international level.

FOT-Net is the point of reference for anyone interested in Field Operational Tests, their set up and their results.

FOT-Net is open to all stakeholders from public and private sectors willing to exchange experience and benefit from each others' learning processes.

Through its dissemination channels, FOT-Net keeps the community informed about all FOT developments in Europe and beyond.

Activities

FOT Wiki

The FOTs carried out around the world are an invaluable source of scientific data. FOT-Net promotes and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and cooperation with European and international partners.

The FOT catalogue – set up as a wiki tool maintained by the FOT community – serves as a reference for all FOT organisers. The FOT Wiki is a growing source of information on FOT projects in Europe (national and European) and across the world. Visit <http://wiki.fot-net.eu>.

In the near future, the FOT wiki will also include an inventory of tools for FOTs, taking into consideration all steps of a FOT from data acquisition and management to database structure and analysis.

Bringing stakeholders together

FOT-Net members regularly meet at European and international workshops to identify working items, address common experiences and problems related to the running of FOTs and find common solutions.

The issues discussed reflect the stakeholders' priorities with respect to FOT activities (e.g. methodology, planning and preparation, operation, analysis, evaluation and the link between FOTs and deployment).

These meetings bring together representatives of the public and private sectors directly or indirectly involved in FOT activities at national, European or international level.

FOT-Net also offers a series of in-depth seminars to promote the use of a common FOT methodology and address issues which require further attention and expertise and are coming up when organising a FOT.

Moreover, dedicated FOT-Net Working Groups will look into a specific set of issues to further enhance and revise the FESTA methodology for FOTs. Experts from the FOT community will be invited to discuss data analysis, events and incident definition, legal and ethical issues, impact assessment and scaling up.

Promoting the FESTA methodology

To improve significance, visibility, comparability and transferability of FOT results at national and European level, a common European FOT methodology has been developed. The FESTA project, funded by the European Commission, developed a handbook on FOT methodology which gives general guidance on organisational issues, methodology and procedures, data acquisition and storage, and evaluation (www.festaproject.eu).

Between 2008 and 2010, the FESTA methodology was explained and discussed during focussed FOT-Net seminars. Based on the feedback gathered during these events and the experience gained across Europe and beyond, the methodology will be revised.

Promotion of FOT results

FOT-Net offers the opportunity to increase the visibility of FOT results at European and global level. The FOT-Net portal, newsletters, press activities and events are used to raise awareness of FOT activities and results. The 'FOT-Net blueprint for dissemination support to FOT projects in Europe' provides detailed information on how FOT organisers can make use of FOT-Net dissemination activities, and gives guidance for your own dissemination actions. The blueprint is available at www.fot-net.eu/en/library/.

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