



About nine months ago, the NFC Forum, GSMA, CEN TC278 WG3 and stakeholders of the global Public Transport Industry announced an alliance¹ that targets interoperability between the NFC mobile devices' contactless interface and globally relevant Public transport readers and media.

At their last meeting on 28th of January the group concluded that the development work has now been completed. The alliance agreed on technical interoperability solutions that will ensure that NFC mobile devices will support contactless communications with all relevant system infrastructures and use cases of the global PT sector. Generic NFC mobile devices which are designed, tested and certified according to NFC Forum specifications can be used as a platform for fare media and card reader systems according to ISO/IEC14443, ISO/IEC18092 (FeliCa) and with NFC-tags. These solutions allow coexistence with EMVCo L1 specifications and testing on the same NFC mobile device.

These developments pave the way for a global general introduction of NFC-enabled mobile services, something that thousands of public transport operators have been waiting for, for more than a decade. Starting today, they can also build on the potential for hundreds of millions of users of contactless fare media.

Next steps:

The agreed interoperability solutions will be introduced into the NFC Forum's specifications for design and testing of NFC mobile devices. These specifications will be referenced by GSMA and proposed to be included in the GCF device certification scheme to ensure globally-certified mobile devices. By the second quarter 2017, large numbers of globally interoperable NFC handsets should have arrived in most stores.

In parallel, the Public Transport industry will make sure that their readers and cards match the new specifications for NFC handsets. Major players, including JR East, the Smart Ticketing Alliance and APTA, contributed to defining a matching testing and certification plan for Public Transport components.

¹ <http://nfc-forum.org/nfc-accelerates-public-transport-into-the-future/>