 ENAV 15-14.2.2

Discussion Paper on Effective Communication of Information concerning Testbeds

# Summary

This document outlines some of the alternative methods that may be used to allow more effective communication on Testbeds and proposes a way forward.

# Purpose of the document

The document is submitted to remind members that the Testbed forum exists and to propose a new format which will hopefully act as an enabler to stimulate discussions.

# Background

During the e-NAV 13 meeting at IALA HQ in March 2013, working group 7 was established to consider the management of the growing number of e-Nav testbeds and to draft some guidelines on their establishment and sharing of results. One of the outputs of this WG was the recommendation that a closed sub-group be established on Linked-In under the IALA group to act as a forum for testbeds and related issues.

# Present Stuation

The Linked-In subgroup was formed on 18th June 2013, however there has been very little activity over the past year and this was raised at the E NAV 14 WG2 meeting in October 2014. One of the issues with Linked-In, is that certain government agencies have a blanket ban on the use of social media sites (including Linked-In) by their employees. Also many Testbeds are run and funded as individual projects with specific aims and objectives and there is no requirement to proactively share the information with the wider e-Navigation community

# Options

1. A new forum could be created, based on available open source forum software, hosted on the IALA server and catering for all interested IALA members.
2. A series of meetings/seminars could be held, specifically to discuss and debate Testbed results and further work
3. An email correspondence group could be set up through a reflector site to exchange information and views on Testbeds

Considering the above options, the Linked-In sub-group may be closed down or retained

# Discussion

Option 1 has the advantage that it is controlled and hosted within an internationally recognised organisation, which has trusted status among the majority of government organisations. Further work will be required to identify suitable open source software, running in a PHP environment and using SQL server database which is currently supported on the IALA servers.

Option 2 has the advantage that face to face meetings do provide the best forum for exchanging views and results. However it does require a strong commitment from all agencies running testbeds to commit time and resources to attend these meetings and the detailed discussions will need to be accurately recorded in order to keep the wider e-Nav community informed. It is unlikely that all testbed groups will be represented together.

Option 3 has already been used successfully in the AIS and Communications working groups for discussing specific issues, however it does have a number of disadvantages. Discussions are stored as an email thread which can be difficult to follow if you are only sporadically accessing the emails and are not an expert in the subject matter. As the discussions are not stored in a database it is difficult to find the email threads or specific information within them once they have concluded.

# Proposal

Option 1 is proposed as the simplest method of attaining our aims in providing a suitable forum for Testbed matters within the IALA member community. The Linked-In subgroup should be retained to serve the requirements of non IALA member testbeds, updated regularly from the IALA forum, and feeding into the IALA forum.

In order for the forum to be truly successful it is desirable that there be a champion to review forum and Linked-In content, chase up subject experts for advice and report back on discussions regularly to the E-NAV committee WG2. It would also be useful if he/she would follow up with testbed project managers to ensure that the e-Navigation.net website project information is kept up-to-date.

The results of the discussion that took place in the working group was that dedicated time should be set aside during ENAV committee meetings for Testbed / project managers to share results and lessons (typically one or two sessions e.g. Wed afternoon)

# Next Steps

If the proposal is acceptable, open source forum software (ANNEX 1) will be sourced and installed on the IALA web server, populated with the details of IALA members who are currently members of the Linked-In sub-group and an introductory message sent to stimulate discussions.

**ANNEX 1 List of Open Source Software**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Creator | **Latest release date** | **Current stable version** | [Programming language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programming_language) | **License** | [Flat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_forum_software#Flat_vs._threaded) | [Threaded](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_forum_software#Flat_vs._threaded) | [User-selectable themes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_forum_software#User-selectable_themes) | [Calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_forum_software#Calendar) | [Image attachment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_forum_software#Image_attachments) | [Unread message tracking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_forum_software#Unread_message_tracking) | [WYSIWYG Editor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WYSIWYG) |
| [bbPress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BbPress) | WordPress Foundation | 06/06/2014 | 2.5.4 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | Yes | No | No | Plugin | Plugin | [Yes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TinyMCE) |
| [Beehive Forum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beehive_Forum) | Project Beehive | 04/08/2014 | 1.4.4 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Full | [Yes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TinyMCE) |
| [Boardsolution [3]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-3) | Script-Solution | 06/01/2014 | 1.45 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Full | Yes |
| [Discuz!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discuz!) | Comsenz Inc. | 23/09/2013 | X3.1 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | Discuz! EULA | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| [esoTalk [8]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-8) | Toby Zerner | 17/05/2014 | 1.0.0g4 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [FluxBB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FluxBB) | FluxBB.org Developers | 09/01/2014 | 1.5.6 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | No | Yes | No | Plugin | Session | No |
| [ForumFive [12]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-12) | David Pennington | 11/03/2013 | Alpha | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [MIT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT_License) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [FUDforum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FUDforum) | Ilia Alshanetsky and community | 06/10/2013 | 3.0.5 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Full | Yes |
| [Iko](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iko_(software)) | Codetana | 02/06/2014 | 1.3.4 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [MIT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT_License) | Yes | No | Yes | No | Planned | Yes | Yes |
| [Invision Power Board](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invision_Power_Board) | [Invision Power Services Inc.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invision_Power_Services) | 29/10/2013 | 3.4.6 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [Proprietary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proprietary_software) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Plugin | Yes | Full | Yes |
| [ModernBB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ModernBB) | ModernBB Group | 09/09/2014 | 3.5.0 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Session | Yes |
| [MyBB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MyBB) | MyBB Group | 01/09/2014 | 1.8.0 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [LGPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_Lesser_General_Public_License) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Full | Yes |
| [NoNonsense Forum [24]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-24) | Kroc Camen | 26/02/2013 | v25 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [CC BY 3.0](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_Commons_license) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [Phorum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phorum) | Brian Moon | 24/08/2012 | 5.2.19 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [Phorum License 2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BSD_licenses) | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Full | Yes |
| [Phosphorum 2 [26]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-26) | Phalcon | 14/03/2014 | Alpha | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [BSD License](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BSD_License) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [phpBB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PhpBB) | [phpBB Ltd.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PhpBB) | 28/09/2013 | 3.0.12 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | No | Yes | Plugin | Yes | Full | Planned |
| [PlushForums [29]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-29) | Plush Content Ltd. | 01/08/2014 | 1.3 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [Proprietary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proprietary_software) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [PunBB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PunBB) | PunBB | 10/02/2012 | 1.4.2 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | Plugin | Yes | Plugin | Plugin | Session | Plugin |
| [Saito [32]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-32) | Schlaefer | 28/09/2014 | 4.3.1 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [MIT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT_License) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [Simple Machines 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_Machines_Forum) | Simple Machines | 18/06/2014 | 2.0.8 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [BSD License](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BSD_License) | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Full | No |
| [UBB.threads](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UBB.threads) | UBB Systems, LLC | 15/12/2013 | 7.5.8 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [Proprietary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proprietary_software) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Full | Planned (Version 8.0) |
| [Vanilla Forums](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanilla_Forums) | [Vanilla Forums](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanilla_Forums) | 29/04/2014 | 2.1 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | No | Yes | No | Plugin | Yes | Plugin |
| [vBulletin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VBulletin) | vBulletin Solutions Inc. | 24/09/2013 | 5.1.3 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [Proprietary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proprietary_software) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Full | Yes |
| [Wedge [43]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-43) | René-Gilles Deberdt | 15/04/2014 | Alpha | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [BSD License](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BSD_License) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [XenForo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XenForo) | XenForo Ltd. | 15/07/2014 | 1.3.4 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [Proprietary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proprietary_software) | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Full | Yes |
| [XMB Forum [45]](file:///C:\e-Nav%20Meeting%20Documents\e-Nav%2015\WG2\Open%20Source%20Forum%20Software%20List.xlsx#RANGE!cite_note-45) | XMB Group. | 04/02/2012 | 1.9.11 | [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) | [GPL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Full | No |