



Report on Seminar 2: implementing a Field Operational Test

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All materials can be found on: <http://www.fot-net.eu/>

Agenda:

1. Introduction: Kerry Malone – TNO
2. FESTA handbook: FOT Implementation Plan: Michael Regan – INRETS/SAFER-Chalmers
3. Case 1: TAC SafeCar FOT: Michael Regan – INRETS/SAFER-Chalmers
4. Case 2: SeMiFOT: Helena Gellerman – SAFER-Chalmers
5. Working session on FOTIP
6. Introduction study design: Rino Brouwer – TNO
7. Selection of participants: Rino Brouwer – TNO
8. Study environment: Rino Brouwer – TNO
9. Working session on study design
10. Vehicle fleet: Tom Alkim – Rijkswaterstaat
11. Conclusions: Kerry Malone – TNO

Number of participants: 30

1. Introduction

Most of the participants were also present on the first seminar, so FOT-Net and the FESTA project were introduced very briefly. Providing a summary of Seminar 1, Kerry Malone interviewed Yvonne Barnard on the sessions of the previous day and their results. After this the program for seminar 2 was explained as well as the “rules” of the day: interaction is the key!

2. FESTA handbook: FOT Implementation Plan

Mike Regan, research director at INRETS (Fr) and co-writer of the FESTA handbook, introduced the FOT Implementation Plan (FOTIP). For a FOT to run smoothly, a plan of action must be developed which documents the scientific, technical, administrative and procedural activities and tasks that are needed to progress successfully through the FOT Chain. The FOTIP serves this purpose; it is a checklist for planning and implementing a Field Operational Test. The FOTIP provides a framework; there is not one way to run a FOT. The FOTIP focuses on critical issues: dos and don'ts

3. Case 1: TAC SafeCar FOT

Mike Regan also held a presentation about the Australian TAC SafeCar project, the first Australian FOT of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems. Mike Regan emphasized the lessons learned from this FOT. According to him, the three most critical issues were:

- The sponsor wanting to read the deliverables and thus delaying deployment → make sure there is a clear understanding about this from the beginning

- Include deployment recommendations in the report, to make sure there is enough attention / time for deployment
- Have important stakeholders in the steering committee

4. Case 2: SeMiFOT

Helena Gellerman, project leader for SeMiFOT at SAFER, gave a presentation on the Sweden-Michigan FOT, a naturalistic driving FOT which focused on in-vehicle functions. In her presentation Helena presented a lot of good practice and advice on practical issues in using the FOTIP. An important one (that is not in the slides) is that the FOT project team should really make use of the steering committee.

5. Working session on the Implementation Plan

The participants worked in three small groups on using the FOTIP for the three imaginary systems that were introduced in seminar 1: an ADA system, a nomadic device and a cooperative system. The groups chose some topics from the FOTIP to work with for their FOT: how should they deal with it? What are the difficulties in using the FOTIP and how do they handle these difficulties for their cases?

6. Introduction study design

Rino Brouwer, senior project manager at TNO, gave a short presentation on the aspects of study design. The study design includes selection of the participants / test drivers, the experimental environment, and the vehicle fleet to be utilised.

7. Selection of participants

After his introduction, Rino Brouwer held a presentation on the selection of participants. He explained critical issues about sample size, participants' characteristics, experience, personality and attitudes. The main message he gave is that you can't take everything into account; sometimes you don't have much choice in your participants, vehicles or study environment. But, it is important that you are aware of the differences there are and the (implicit) choices you have made.

8. Study environment

Rino Brouwer presented the different aspects on the study environment of the FOT. His presentation included aspects as: geographical location, road type, timing and weather conditions. In his presentation is a checklist from FESTA for geographical location, just as with the selection of participants. His main message was: there are so many aspects to deal with; you can't take everything into account (for example the weather is hard to predict!), however, you have to be aware of the study environment and the impact it has on your experiment. This awareness enhances the analysis of the obtained data.

9. Working session on study design

The participants worked in three small groups using again the three imaginary systems that were introduced in seminar 1. They had a short discussion on the following questions:

- What kind of participants do you want in your FOT?
 - i. What are inclusion or exclusion criteria?
 - ii. What are your possibilities to influence this?
 - iii. If you don't have much choice what kind of influence does this have and how are you going to deal with this?
- Try to estimate how large the effect will be of the system
- What kind of study environment do you want in your FOT?
 - i. Geographical location
 - ii. Road type
 - iii. Weather conditions

- How are you going to exclude or include certain circumstances?

After this working session, one of the groups reported back to the whole group.

10. Vehicle fleet

Tom Alkim gave a presentation on how to organize a vehicle fleet. He was involved in the Dutch project 'the assisted driver', where he organized the fleet. He told the participants to aim high in the negotiations since you usually don't get all that you want. Tom gave some practical examples of the problems you can run into while setting, operating and maintaining a fleet for FOT.

11. Summary and overall conclusions

At the end of the day Kerry Malone gave a summary of the most important aspects and issues of the day. She also drew some conclusions on the overall program and addressed issues that were interesting to take into account for future seminars. Slides are available on the website, the main conclusions were:

- Keep the FOT Implementation Plan updated with new experiences, exclude parts which have become standardized
- Use the FOTIP as a checklist for FOT set-up
- The FOTIP is well-suited for in-vehicle functions. What about cooperative systems and nomadic devices? This still needs to be proven in new projects.
- Feedback on FOTIP:
 - i. Now focused on private drivers. What about "professional drivers", e.g. fleet managers?
 - ii. Is there a need to separate project and scientific management?
- Concerning study design, there are a lot of things that need to be considered. Cost issues play a role in the study design and quality of the results (for example considering sample size).
- Have the (financial) support ready and react to your findings (report) quickly
- Include recommendations for deployment in report on findings
- Involve stakeholders with influence on supporting and deployment of technologies e.g. OEMs
- How to deal with combined functionality?
 - i. Possibility of a special session in FOT-NET
- Legal & ethical issues
 - i. Lots of questions but few answers: discussion forum at www.fot-net.eu

Confirmed by the participants, the final conclusion was drawn: the seminars fulfill a strong need for more information and practical on conducting FOTs.