

News Release

February 26, 2004

**TSO launches first UK portal
to allocate 'digital identifiers'**

~ digital identifiers set to accelerate the reliability of online information ~

TSO (The Stationery Office), has launched the first ever UK Digital Object Identifier (DOI) portal to purchase DOIs online at www.tsoid.co.uk

As a member of the International DOI Foundation and DOI Registration Agency, TSO can supply DOIs to any organisation that needs to improve the speed and accuracy of searching for information.

DOIs are used to digitally tag an ID to any information object, just as a barcode tags physical objects. They can be assigned in a number of ways e.g. to a file – such as a PDF, or even to each piece of content, - a paragraph of text, a sentence or a single image. These can be persistently connected to reliably link to other related documents or information assets across distributed information locations.

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is one of TSO's first customers, purchasing 30,000 DOIs via the new portal. Known for its statistical information, OECD saw the benefits of using DOIs to enable end users to find not only complete reports, but also to locate specific chapters, articles and tables more easily, link to other related documents and to be able to persistently find the underlying information wherever it is held.

"DOIs are set to revolutionise the way people find and retrieve information online," said Robin Wilson, director of digital identifier and metadata services at TSO. "We all know how frustrating it is trying to find a piece of information - it's often like looking for a needle in a haystack. This should cut the time it takes from hours to a matter of minutes."

"More and more organisations are waking up to the benefits of DOIs, particularly those with a mandate to share large volumes of information both in print and online formats," added Wilson.

For further press information about TSO, please visit LEWIS' Virtual Press Room at: <http://www.lewisvpr.com/clients/tso.html>.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About TSO

TSO (The Stationery Office) specialises in providing publishing services to the UK Government, Parliament and Assemblies and has more than 200 years' experience in publishing and disseminating official and regulatory information. It is Britain's largest publisher by output, issuing up to 15,000 publications, CD-ROMs and related products each year.

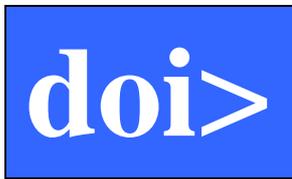
The company has clients in both the public and private sector. These include the UK Parliaments and Assemblies, Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO), the Office of Government Commerce, the Driving Standards Agency, the Home Office, the Department of Health, the Financial Services Authority, BT, Network Rail, the British Retail Consortium, and the European Investment Bank.

TSO has recently been awarded a BS 7799 PT 2 certificate for the scope of 'The Central Provision of Corporate IT Systems and Services'.

TSO now employs over 720 people at locations throughout the UK including London, Norwich, Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff, Manchester and Birmingham. Formerly part of HMSO and privatised in 1996, the company has revenues of £78 million per annum.

For more information: www.tso.co.uk





The International DOI Foundation

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