

2024 Annual Conference: Driving the Future - Innovations & Standards in Sustainable Fuelling

We are thrilled to announce the IFSF 2024 Annual Conference, set to take place at the stunning Pestana Douro Hotel in Porto, Portugal, on 13-14 November 2024.

This premier event is a must-attend for the fuel retailing and mobility industry, bringing together senior managers, architects, and engineers from leading oil companies, fuel retailers, and systems and equipment suppliers to explore the latest trends and technological advancements impacting Retail Fuels and C-store operations.

Exploring Industry Evolution

Under the theme of 'Driving the Future – Innovations and standards in sustainable fuelling', the conference will explore the ongoing transformation in the fuel and energy sector, emphasizing the importance of innovation and standards in fostering sustainable solutions for the future.

Our speakers will include representatives from innovative fuel retailers, technology leaders, industry consultants, and partner organisations, all ready to bring unique perspectives and expertise to the table.



The 5-star Pestana Douro riverside hotel.

Key Projects and Roadmap

The programme will also feature updates on the key projects that IFSF is currently undertaking along with an update on our 3-year roadmap, providing attendees with a clear vision of IFSF's future initiatives and goals.

More Than Your Average Industry Event

Adding to the excitement of the conference, delegates will have the unique opportunity to tour and dine at Taylor's Port Cellars. Known as the pinnacle of port wine shippers, Taylor's offers an informative and enjoyable

Continued on page 2, column 1

Also in this issue...

Page 2
MOL Plc. reaps benefits from IFSF Standards

Page 3
Conexus and IFSF Publish White Paper on Joint API Data Dictionary

IFSF Projects Team Update

Page 4
Listen to the latest Forecourtech Podcast

Welcome to our new members





tour of its renowned wine cellars. This experience promises to be both educational and enjoyable, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Venue Spotlight: Pestana Douro Hotel

The Pestana Douro Riverside is an exceptional venue located in Porto. This 5-star hotel features a 24-hour front desk and room service, with private parking available on site. It is conveniently located near Campanha Train Station and the FC Porto Museum, and just 18 km from Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport.

The hotel is housed in a former soap and candle factory, with a large brick chimney in front of the reception as a visible reminder of its history. The Pestana Douro combines modern technology with the heritage of its historic setting. Each floor is dedicated to the scent and colour of flowers once used in soap production, such as lavender, jasmine, and orange blossom. All rooms are equipped with Wi-Fi, USB inputs, air conditioning, and other modern amenities, making it an excellent choice for meetings and large events.

We look forward to welcoming you to Porto in November for what promises to be an insightful and enriching conference that will help shape the future of our industry.



MOL Plc. reaps benefits from IFSF Standards in major European acquisitions

MOL Plc., a leading Hungarian oil and gas company, has successfully leveraged IFSF standards in recent years to streamline its operations and enhance its integration capabilities.

Early Adoption and Initial Challenges

In early 2008, MOL was utilizing the BIC ISO 8583 protocol to integrate its partners into the MOL network for cross card acceptance. At that time, they faced numerous challenges obtaining all the data required to create a comprehensive transaction and settlement process.

In 2015, MOL joined the International Forecourt Standards Forum (IFSF) and implemented the POS to Host (P2H) protocol in its Fleet card payment processes. This move marked a significant step towards simplifying processes and enabling seamless integration with new partners.

Strategic European Acquisitions

In recent years, MOL has made two significant acquisitions in Europe, showcasing the effectiveness of IFSF standards:

Slovenia Acquisition:

Details: MOL acquired 120 service stations in Slovenia, operated by OMV Slovenija d.o.o. under the brands OMV, EuroTruck, and Avanti / DISKONT. MOL Group and INA gained 100% ownership of the wholesale business.

Implementation: The first phase involved establishing Fleet card cross acceptance with OMV. Since both MOL and OMV utilised IFSF standards, the integration process was straightforward, ensuring a smooth transition.

Poland Acquisition:

Details: In 2022, MOL signed agreements with PKN Orlen and Grupa Lotos, acquiring 417 service stations in Poland, including 270 company-owned sites. This acquisition positions MOL to potentially reach a top 3 position in the local fuel retail market.

Implementation: Lotos Paliwa's prior use of the IFSF standard facilitated an easy Host to Host (H2H) implementation, ensuring a seamless integration.

Reflecting on the IFSF Standards Adoption

Reflecting on the initial scepticism from the business department in 2015 about the return on investment for IFSF standards, the recent successful integrations have proven the long-term benefits. The use of standardized protocols over custom developments has facilitated new business partner integrations as well as smooth and efficient operations, validating MOL's strategic decision.

Encouraging Industry Participation

In 2021, MOL's commitment to IFSF was further solidified when Péter Finta joined the IFSF board as MOL's representative. Péter said "The integration of IFSF standards has been a key enabler in MOL's strategic growth in a rapidly evolving market. Joining the IFSF board has given me a deeper insight into the standards' development processes and reinforced my view about the importance of standards. I strongly encourage all IFSF Members to participate in the work groups that shape these standards, ensuring their broad applicability across the industry".

Conexxus and IFSF Publish White Paper on Joint API Data Dictionary

Conexxus and the International Forecourt Standards Forum (IFSF) proudly announce the release of a comprehensive white paper detailing the benefits of the Joint API Data Dictionary.

This core component of the Open Retailing project ensures consistent data terminology across applicable information technology systems.

The white paper builds on the collaborative efforts of IFSF and Conexxus, promoting the advantages of Open Retailing standards and the Data Dictionary. These standards streamline the creation of interfaces and data structures for the Transportation, Energy, and Convenience retail industries.

Linda Toth, managing director of Conexxus, emphasised the significance of this collaboration:

“Both Conexxus and IFSF have a long history of providing standards for the Transportation, Energy, and Convenience retail industry. The joint work under Open Retailing was born out of a need for truly global API standards that leverage the expertise of both organisations’ members. Having one standard, no matter the geography of deployment, saves time and ultimately money for suppliers and retailers alike.”

By clearly defining common data elements, the Data Dictionary facilitates easy data sharing with partners and accelerates the creation of data lakes, crucial for advancing business analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

Carl Jones, programme manager and chair of the IFSF board of directors, added,

“The Joint API Data Dictionary is at the heart of the Open Retailing project and provides the foundation for all global API standards. It is critically important to communicate the principles behind the Data Dictionary and its benefits to our members to drive the adoption of Open Retailing standards.”

David Ezell, director of new initiatives at Conexxus, noted,

“The paper outlines the benefits of the joint API Data Dictionary. While maintaining the dictionary requires careful curation, its use results in consistent definitions across systems, reduced development costs, reduced integration costs, and an overall reduction in the total cost of ownership of systems developed using the dictionary.”



IFSF Projects Update

Recently Completed Projects

- **EV Charging White Paper (BRS 4184):** A white paper has been written outlining how IFSF payment standards can be used alongside the EV charging standards, OCPP and OCPI, to support bank and fuel card payment for EV charging sessions. The approach allows a merchant to use their existing payment infrastructure to accept all currently accepted cards for EV charging. The paper is currently in review with the Open Charge Alliance and EV Roaming Foundation and will be published in the Autumn.
- **Security Standard Update Phase 2 (BRS 4186):** The IFSF security standard was updated to align with the latest industry standards and to categorise security methods as recommended, supported, or deprecated, thus providing a clear implementation guide.
- **Reference Architecture (BRS 4192):** A Reference Architecture illustrating the Sales and Forecourt landscape

has been developed. This tool helps visualise current and future states, identify new standard opportunities, and clarify initiatives in the annual roadmap refresh.

- **Spec Validator Update (BRS 4194):** The specification validator program has been updated to include all updates from the Global (Conexxus/IFSF) API design guidelines, ensuring new API code aligns with these standards.

Recently Approved Projects

- **Fuel Card Transaction 2FA Analysis (BRS 4197):** A project has been approved to investigate the development of a new IFSF API standard for two-factor authentication of fuel cards when they are used online. Work on the business requirements and use cases will begin next month.
- **Closed Loop API Updates (BRS 4198):** Approved updates include adding an operation ID, enhancing HTTP return codes, and aligning the additionalProductCode field with the posCodeType data item in the data dictionary.

Listen to the Latest Forecourtech Podcast!



4

We highly recommend tuning in to the engaging podcast featuring Ralph Cochrane and François Mezzina, President of IFSF Limited.

They discuss the evolution of IFSF and address key industry challenges and opportunities, including the energy transition, new mobility and payment solutions, and the partnership with Conexxus.



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INTERNATIONAL FORECOURT

IFSF

STANDARDS FORUM

IFSF Standards & Workgroups: Unlocking the Future of Forecourts

Global reach:

IFSF standards are recognised worldwide, fostering international cooperation and expansion opportunities.

Cutting-edge technology:

Stay ahead of the curve with the latest tech innovations, keeping your business competitive.

Enhanced security:

Ensure data security and customer trust with our robust standards.

Business growth:

Streamline operations and save costs by implementing IFSF standards.

Collaboration:

Join a global network of experts, driving industry excellence together.

PLUS

Be part of the future - joining an IFSF Workgroup means:

Direct influence: Shape industry standards and drive change where it matters most. Influence how the use cases, sequence diagrams and API's will look like in the standard to be published.

Insight: Get fully aware of what is covered in the standard and what is not covered.

Early access: Ability to use the code as soon as the standard is published, either as the standard code or in a combination with your own proprietary code.

Innovation and expertise: Workgroups are hubs of creativity, where new ideas thrive. Gain access to a wealth of knowledge from peers in your field.

Commercial edge: As a member of the workgroup you'll be one of the first companies to apply the new standard.

Join a Workgroup and make a difference!

Scan the QR code to find out more.



FORUM