

## Stefania Pani (GTA-LON)

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**From:** No Reply (GTA)  
**Sent:** 08 May 2009 14:01  
**Subject:** GTA XML API - Information Regarding New Additional Dynamic Inventory

Dear clients!

It is now possible for all our customers to receive increased hotel inventory via most of our web sites. We are pleased to announce that we will soon be extending this functionality to you, our XML partners. This increase in inventory has been achieved by negotiating very competitive prices with some major hotel chains and by using their XML APIs to feed their latest availability and prices to our XML clients via the GTA XML API.

This additional inventory will be made available to you via XML from the middle of 2009 onwards; our current target date is Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009. It will be necessary to make some changes to your code in order to receive the new inventory via XML and because of that we are publishing the new schema now, even though this modified API will only be available in a few months time. There will be two different options to retrieve the additional inventory:

### **1. First Option (Participation Level 1)**

With the first option we will return a new 'Id' attribute as part of the <HotelRoom> parameter with the <SearchHotelPriceResponse> messages. This new 'Id' attribute then needs to be used by you when sending any subsequent XML requests; i.e.:

- <HotelPriceBreakdownRequest>
- <SearchChargeConditionsRequest><ChargeConditionsHotel>
- <AddBookingRequest>
- The new 'Id' attribute can then also be used as part of the <SearchHotelPriceRequest> if you intend to perform another price and availability check shortly before placing a booking and taking payment from your customer

#### To Consider:

- Only a small schema change is required at your end to incorporate the additional inventory.
- If a property that we source through our new connectivity offers multiple room categories; e.g.: 'Standard queen double', 'Deluxe queen double', 'Deluxe king double', we will only return the cheapest room category to you.

### **2. Second Option (Participation Level 2)**

With the second option we will return a new <RoomCategories> parameter with several sub-parameters (one of them being a new 'Id' attribute) as part of the <SearchHotelPriceResponse> messages. This new parameter will be returned for all inventory, regardless of whether it is for GTA-contracted properties or for properties that we source from a connectivity supplier. The new 'Id' attribute that is being returned as part of the <RoomCategories> parameter then needs to be used by you when sending any subsequent XML requests; i.e.:

- <HotelPriceBreakdownRequest>
- <SearchChargeConditionsRequest><ChargeConditionsHotel>
- <AddBookingRequest>
- The new 'Id' attribute can then also be used as part of the <SearchHotelPriceRequest> if you intend to perform another price and availability check shortly before placing a booking and taking payment from your customer

#### To Consider:

- If a property that we source through our new connectivity supplier connection offers multiple room categories; e.g.: 'Standard queen double', 'Deluxe queen double', 'Deluxe king double', we will return all room categories to you in order to enable you to offer to your customers the widest choice. Additionally, we will also return the GTA properties for which we currently hold different property IDs for different room categories as one property with different category IDs.
- More complex schema changes are required at your end to incorporate the additional inventory.

If you do not have the resources to make any changes at this stage you can, of course, continue working with the same code you are using now, but you will not benefit from the additional inventory.

If you choose to receive the additional inventory from us, regardless of which option you are going to implement, there are a few issues that you need to be aware of:

#### **<SearchHotelRoomsPriceRequest>**

This XML request will not be able to retrieve the information from our connectivity suppliers and if you would like us to switch on the additional inventory for you then your workflow should not use this XML request. If you are using this request and would like to discuss alternative solutions please do not hesitate to contact us.

#### **<SearchHotelAvailabilityRequest>**

This XML request will not be able to retrieve the information GTA from our connectivity suppliers and if you would like us to switch on the additional inventory for you then your workflow should not use this XML request. If you are using this request and would like to discuss alternative solutions please do not hesitate to contact us. The <SearchHotelAvailabilityRequest> will be phased out completely and no longer be supported by in a few months time. An exact date will be set at a later stage and communicated well in advance to you.

#### **<HotelPriceBreakdownRequest>**

At search stage some of our new connectivity suppliers will not supply us with a price breakdown (they will only return this information after a booking has been placed). For these properties we will advise the daily average price, indicated by a new 'DailyAverage' attribute returned with the <HotelPriceBreakdownResponse>.

#### **<ItemConfirmationReference>**

Some of our new connectivity suppliers will not return a reference to us which we can use to populate the <ItemConfirmationReference> parameter and you will therefore encounter confirmed bookings for which we will not return this parameter at all.

#### **<SearchEssentialInformationRequest>**

If you perform <SearchEssentialInformationRequest ItemType="hotel"> and store this data locally in your database or use the information from the <SearchEssentialInformationResponse> to display it on your web site then you should no longer do this once we start returning the additional inventory to you. This is due to the fact that you will not necessarily be able to tell whether a property is returned from the GTA-contracted inventory or from the dynamic inventory and the essential information will only ever apply to GTA-contracted inventory. This should not cause you any problems as all applicable essential information is always returned with the following XML responses:

<SearchHotelPriceResponse>

<BookingResponse>

<SearchBookingItemResponse>

The <SearchEssentialInformationRequest> will be phased out completely and no longer be supported by GTA in a few months time. An exact date will be set at a later stage and communicated well in advance to you.

#### **<SearchSpecialOfferRequest>**

Due to the nature of the dynamic inventory the <SearchSpecialOfferRequest> used to identify properties for which GTA offer free or discounted nights, may occasionally be superseded by the new dynamic rates. This is due to the fact that the hotelier will be able to offer standard deals of a dynamic nature that may undermine the original special offer, driven by their own market requirements. In order to alert you to this fact when this case applies we will return a new "NoOfferDiscount" attribute with the <SearchHotelPriceResponse> message. If this is present no special offer will apply to the property returned and the price returned is the final total price.

#### **Free-Format Remarks**

Unfortunately some of our new suppliers will not be able to process free-format remarks. As you will not be able to identify at search stage which of the hotels returned by us will accept free-format remarks or not you will be able to send these special requests as usual with all <AddBookingRequest> or <AddBookingItemRequest> messages. If the booking is being confirmed by one of those suppliers who cannot process your free-format remarks we will return

another remark, advising that your special requests could not be actioned. Regardless of that, we will confirm the booking for your customers.

We are very excited that we will soon be able to offer these additional properties to you and are sure that you will be equally keen not to miss out on this opportunity. As already stated at the top of this email, our current target date is Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009 at which time we hope to make this available to you on our demo and production environments.

Please find attached the relevant documentation referring to the required schema changes. For further information about the additional inventory please contact your GTA Business Development Manager (for commercial enquiries) or the Online Business Support team at [technical.support@gta-travel.com](mailto:technical.support@gta-travel.com) (for any technical aspects).

Best regards

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