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This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service of progress with the Fire and Resilience Programme.		

Fire and Resilience Programme Highlights – October 2009

Issued by:

Bess Teeger

FRS Development Division

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
London Fire Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

Summary

This continues the series of monthly 'highlights' notes to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) of progress with the Programme.

For further information, contact:

Bess Teeger Fire and Resilience Directorate Department for Communities and Local Government Zone 3/B1 Eland House Bressenden Place London, SW1E 5DU	Direct line	0303 444 2942
	E-mail	bess.teeger@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Website [**www.communities.gov.uk**](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

1.0 New Dimension

NERA REPORT

- 1.1 In 2008, a study was commissioned by CLG for NERA Economic Consulting to assess the economic benefits of the New Dimension project. The final report of this research was published today and is available on the Department's website at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/researchpublications/fulltechnicalreports/>

- 1.2 The main findings of the study indicate that given the nature and quality of the information currently available, there is limited scope for the quantification of New Dimension benefits, and little potential for their valuation. However based on the data available to them during the study, NERA has been able to estimate some actual and potential savings of the project:

- £4.5m to £11m per year cashable and non-cashable efficiency gains realised by the FRS
- £20m to £105m benefit to the society (i.e. the net economic, social and environmental value) over the lifetime of the New Dimension project so far

(NB: The range of estimates define the possible values based on those that could be quantified during the course of the NERA study. They do not represent the total benefits)

- 1.3 The findings also suggest that more systematic recording of the number of incidents involving New Dimension assets should be carried out in the future, to allow for more accurate estimates to be carried out. To that end, the NERA report has made a number of detailed recommendations concerning how data could be recorded in the future for incidents involving New Dimension equipment.
- 1.4 The recommendations put forward by NERA will in the main be picked up as part of the IRS (Incident Recording System) project. Since April 2009, this project has been collecting some of the extra data that was suggested in the NERA report. The recommendations will also be taken forward through work being undertaken by the Fire and Resilience Programme Management Office to develop a framework to quantify benefits to society of the New Dimension project.

2.0 Firelink

FIRELINK MANAGED SERVICE FEES

- 2.1 Fire and Rescue Service Circular 54/2009 set out the financial principles applicable to Firelink service charges. Following issue of the Circular, Rob Collins, Firelink Finance Advisor, has been visiting those regions who have invited him to talk to Treasurers and other finance contacts about the charging policy and calculations. If you would like Rob to visit your region, please contact: rob.collins@mottmac.com

3.0 FiReControl

MOBILE DATA TERMINALS MDT1.0A

- 3.1 Firelink is supplying the MDT1.0A hardware, and are responsible for its installation in those FRSs which have already opted for this capability. FiReControl is providing the MDT1.0A software and the Content Management System (CMS).
- 3.2 Leicestershire FRS has been involved with the pilot exercise of MDT1.0A which is progressing well. Leicestershire's involvement has been extremely helpful and the lessons learned will be applied to the roll-out in the other FRSs due to receive MDT1.0A terminals. The MDT1.0A installations at Leicestershire FRS are proceeding on schedule and the full roll-out will now commence on 16 November.
- 3.3 The FiReControl project is awaiting proposals from EADS on a revised imaging process for later FRS installations, beyond the first six FRSs. The FiReControl project is working with EADS to resolve outstanding CMS issues, including the bulk loading of FRS data on to the CMS laptops.
- 3.4 Any data files that relate to mapping co-ordinates of addresses need to be accurately input by FRSs. Otherwise difficulties could result in the mobilisation system not being able to locate callers' addresses correctly.
- 3.5 The Terms of Deployment letters, which have been sent to FRSs, are accompanied by post-installation test guidance and security guidance. These specify what data FRSs can put on to MDT1.0A – FRSs are responsible for this data. FRSs are requested to review, sign off the response form and return it, as soon as possible, to:

nikki.duro@communities.gsi.gov.uk

EARLY STATION END EQUIPMENT (ESEE)

- 3.6 The rollout of mobilising equipment to local fire stations in Cornwall FRS is expected to be complete by the end of November. The main rollout of equipment in the remaining two FRSs due to receive ESEE – Devon and Somerset FRS and Oxfordshire FRS – will begin in November and January respectively.

STATION END EQUIPMENT SURVEYS

- 3.7 A total of 1349 surveys have now been completed. This means that 92 per cent of local fire stations have now been surveyed. The FiReControl project anticipates the completion of all surveys by the end of November.

INTERGRAPH

- 3.8 The FiReControl project is continuing to work closely with EADS to establish how a possible change to the Intergraph I/CAD product for the main mobilising system would impact on the FiReControl project as a whole. The impact assessment exercise is expected to be completed at the end of October.

3.9 EADS delivered a set of documentation on 1 October. Further work is needed to:

- Establish Intergraph's levels of compliance against the project requirements and the scope of supply
- Validate EADS' assessment of the impact of a switch to Intergraph on the rest of the system
- Identify appropriate solutions for the Data Capture Migration Toolkit (DCMT) and support applications
- Understand and define the approach to integrating and testing the system
- Agree the test strategy and how this will work in practice with EADS, CLG and FRS users
- Produce a detailed schedule

LONDON REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE (RCC)

3.10 The construction of the London RCC in Merton is progressing well and is on schedule to be completed in February 2010. The London Technical Group meeting on Thursday 29 October marked a milestone, as the first meeting where attendees did not need to wear either hard hats or safety equipment.

Bess Teeger

FRS Development Division