

# ESN

## Emergency Services Network Programme Board Update

August 17

### ESMCP Programme Plan

As reported in July's Programme update, Philip Rutnam, the HO Permanent Secretary (PUS) was keen to have an independent assessment of the Programme plan, and has therefore brought in Simon Ricketts to act as his Senior Advisor on the Programme.

Simon, the former Chief Information Officer of Rolls Royce, has extensive experience of complex, multi-dimensional programmes and so can provide the PUS with the independent assessment and assurance of the Programme which he requires. Simon's role is therefore to support, challenge and scrutinise the re-planning currently being undertaken. Motorola and EE are working jointly on their integrated reforecast plan and the initial findings of this exercise have shown that ESN will not be ready for transition to commence in 2018. Greater clarity on the date ESN will be available is likely to be understood by the end of the year, and a revised delivery plan will follow.

### ESN Delivery Approach

The Programme Board clarified that Service Ready marks the stage where Motorola and EE have delivered all of their mobilisation activities; and that this is not the same as operationally ready, where User Organisations (UOs) have determined that the required end-to-end functionality of ESN is in place, and users can therefore commence transition.

The Programme is going to liaise with suppliers and senior users to explore how UOs may be able to take advantage of the network being in place, in terms of telephony, messaging and internet access, before declaring ESN operationally ready and commencing transition.

### ESMCP Programme Reporting

The Programme is implementing a new reporting tool, which will be used to capture organisations' transition plans, to produce the National Transition Plan. The system has allowed us to be more transparent and share the Programme risks and issues with UOs. These have been loaded onto the User Transition Manual in Huddle and will be updated following their review at each Programme Board.



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## **Mobilisation Progress**

Motorola has completed the upgrade of their reference environment to Feature Pack 4.5, which is a critical path activity.

Additionally, the Public Telephony/Messaging/EE Internet testing phase completed ahead of schedule on 28 July.

## **Coverage Progress**

EE are reporting that out of 491 new sites to be built for ESN, 199 are now built or in the build phase; and that of around 21,000 upgrades required for ESN, around 19,000 have been completed. Upgrades of 800MHz and 1800MHz are counted separately.

## **Coverage testing and assurance**

EE has proposed using a crowd-sourcing tool, Minimised Drive Testing (MDT), to verify coverage. This would be supplemented by specialist drive testing, where necessary, and to confirm the location of each section of the Exception Pool.

To validate EE's coverage testing, the Programme needs assurance that coverage is in place. It is therefore anticipated that we will shortly be launching a procurement exercise for a tool and platform. This platform would take crowd-sourced data from ESN devices located in users' vehicles to provide full user assurance of coverage on all major and minor roads.

## **Special Coverage**

A team of surveyors have started conducting physical surveys on around 340 Airwave special coverage locations to determine those which might require infill ESN coverage. In addition, the Programme is also looking at how coverage may be provided in new and operationally critical locations, such as planned or recently constructed buildings, shopping centres or sports stadia, which are beyond that currently provided by Airwave.

## **Air to Ground (A2G)**

The Programme Board confirmed its commitment to develop an ESN A2G permanent capability based on LTE technology. However, it is recognised that this system may not be implemented across the entire aircraft fleet before Airwave National Shut-Down. Therefore, an interim solution of a TETRA A2G service will be developed in parallel as risk mitigation.

## EAS

Joint radio planning with EE has now been completed to ensure that coverage will be present across all the EAS polygons. This coverage will be provided through a combination of:

- Coverage from EE's ESN sites in the primary area which spills in to EAS polygons
- Additional sectors on EE's sites to provide coverage in to EAS polygons
- Upgrades to 800MHz of some of EE's sites to provide coverage
- Coverage provided from the around 291 EAS-specific sites

## Transport for London (TfL)

Following our appearance at the Greater London Assembly (GLA) Oversight Committee last month, TfL has confirmed that they want to deliver a public commercial service on the back of ESN, and are targeting January 2019 for delivery of ESN coverage in stations and most of the tunnels.

## Dual Mode Devices

There is a clear request from users for dual mode devices, both as a contingency measure to de-risk transition and to compensate for any gaps in coverage. Additionally, a dual mode device would meet the requirement for single device (including for D2D communications), avoiding the need to carry, manage and charge multiple devices. However, there is no existing product that can work on both TETRA and LTE, therefore further work will be undertaken to determine the commercial viability and associated timescales for the procurement for such a device.

## Direct Network Service Provision (DNSP)

A major milestone in the DNSP project was achieved on 1 August with the installation of the first DNSP link (the connection between ESN to Control Rooms) in one of the Metropolitan Police Service's Control Rooms. A secondary circuit router installation is scheduled for later this month, meaning the Control Room will be ESN ready by September.

## Vehicle devices

The procurement process for vehicle devices has commenced with the Selection Questionnaire (SQ) published on 4 August. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be issued this month.

## Vehicle device installation

Crown Commercial Services is establishing a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for vehicle conversion. DPS is a procurement framework which allows suppliers to join at any time and is especially useful for small or medium size enterprises which may not have sufficient capacity to deliver the entirety of a contract, but can be allocated a proportion of the overall quantity required.

The Programme has defined its requirements for vehicle installation as part of this framework. The SQ for the DPS has been published and supplier returns are due by the end of August.

## Device Configuration

As described in the June 2017 Programme Board Update, the establishment of a framework from which users can procure services for the physical build and initial configuration of devices prior to delivery to users has commenced. A Prior Information Notification has been issued, and the RFI will be available to responding suppliers who confirm interest in participating in the formal procurement that will follow.