

Synopsis of Programme Developments.

The last report was presented to Members in July 2017. The below synopsis captures the main developments in the programme. The content is derived from a variety of communications from the programme team and information received from representation at meetings and workshops. The main developments have been:

- Improvements to Programme Assurance – the Home Office Permanent Secretary, Philip Rutnam, has appointed Simon Ricketts (formerly of Rolls Royce) to act as his Senior Advisor to the Programme. His role is to support, challenge and scrutinise the re-planning of the Programme that is currently underway. It has been recognised that the Emergency Services Network (ESN) will not be ready for transition to commence in 2018 and it is envisaged that greater clarity regarding the date it will be available will be understood by the end of this year.
- Senior Stakeholder Engagement - A senior team from ESMCP, including Stephen Webb, Gordon Shipley and Simon Ricketts, attended a two day meeting in Chicago with the Motorola senior team. The visit included numerous technical meetings as well as strategic meetings and there was a constructive exchange of views on both sides on the perceptions of things that had not gone well, where they were improving and the work still to be done to make changes for the better.

The Programme feels that it has a significantly higher degree of understanding in Motorola's delivery plans, confidence that delivery can be achieved and a clearer sense of what we need to do differently to make that happen.

- The Integrated Planning exercise to re-forecast the strategic Programme schedule continues with a team of 15 people allocated to it from the Programme together with representatives from the main suppliers who are providing detail of their reworked detailed implementation plans. This work is due to finish in the New Year, when further Programme communications will be sent with the revised dates and approaches. The work is being scrutinised by the Senior Advisor referred to earlier in this update and User Organisations are not likely see any significant output from this exercise until the New Year. This is a further change to expected dates as we had previously been informed that we could expect a revised plan towards the end of this year. This has caused some frustration for us as we are anxious to see firm dates within the plan.
- A Programme Delivery Toolkit has been released to all User Organisations. The aim of this toolkit is to provide User Organisations with a view of the revised planning assumptions, the updated delivery task list and associated activity mapping and will be reviewed jointly by the South Central Project Managers later in October.

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- Look Forward – the Programme has compiled an overview of some of the key activities taking place over the next few months in the ESMCP sphere. This overview is referred to as the 'forward look'. This is a snapshot in time of the planned dates, on a 'week commencing' basis, for various activities. The Programme has stated that it recognises the benefits in releasing this information to User Organisations (UOs) to facilitate planning, to highlight forthcoming potentially relevant events, and to inform when various communications may be expected to be released by the Programme. It does not however, give any guidance as to what UOs should do with information they receive from the Programme.
- Earlier this year, a review was undertaken by the central programme delivery team on the current resource model being used and it was recognised that further resources were required in order to deliver this programme. As a result, the National Fire Chiefs Council ESMCP team have increased the number of Regional Co-ordination Managers from 4 to 7 and a Technical Requirements and Assurance Manager and various technical support officers have been recruited. These new roles will take effect on 2 October 2017. There has also been a re-organisation of the Home Office delivery team with regional transition managers being assigned to a specific emergency service. Assurance will continue to be provided through the use of three Transition Support posts. It is envisaged that this enlarged team will have a better capability and capacity to provide information, advice and support to regions, Service and the Programme.
- Members of the BFRS project delivery team along with colleagues from the Oxfordshire and Royal Berkshire teams attended a meeting at the Home Office to discuss Direct Network Service Provider (DNSP) issues raised by the Thames Valley fire services. The discussion was positive and most of the questions posed by the fire service were addressed with technical solutions being offered by the central programme team. Dialogue will continue between the two teams until all issues have been resolved.
- In the last update, Members were informed that there continued to be some concern that the provision of an ESN solution that will work underground may not be achieved. It has now been confirmed by Transport for London that they are targeting January 2019 for the delivery of ESN coverage in stations and most tunnels.
- Devices - The procurement process for handheld devices is currently underway with contracts due to be awarded in November 2017. The procurement process for vehicle devices began in August. It is likely that these devices will be an interim solution and will be the smaller handheld devices fitted by means of a cradle into vehicles. Contract award for vehicle devices is expected in March 2018.

There is some concern nationally regarding a potential de-scoping within the Programme. The three emergency services have been very clear throughout the process of the need for devices that will work on both TETRA and 4G/Long Term Evolution (LTE). This is to compensate for any potential gaps

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in coverage and to de-risk the transition from TETRA to LTE. This solution could also provide Device to Device communications. Currently there is no device on the market that can provide this dual functionality so further work is being undertaken to determine the commercial viability and associated timescales for the procurement of a suitable solution.

- Coverage – the EE ESN Coverage Portal is now being rolled out. Users from all emergency services will be able to access the quarterly vehicle and handheld coverage prediction information. The licence for the South Central region will be held by the Coverage and Assurance lead for the region who will liaise closely with each user organisation within the region to provide coverage assurance.

Report Ends