

FIRESA Council

The FIA's Fire Fighting Suppliers and Their Role in Fire and Rescue Evolution

**The Emergency Services Show,
19th September 2019**

What Is The Fire Industry Association?

- **Largest TA for Fire Protection and Fire-Fighting sectors**
- **Over 850 members**
- **The 'go to' organisation for government and regulators**
- **FIA members sit on over 150 Boards and Committees**
- **Dedicated to the highest standards and quality**
- **Formed in 2007 from merger of BFPSA and FETA**
- **FIRESA became a Council of the FIA in 2013**



The FIA Structure



FIRESA Council

- **Enacting key policy with links to FIA Board, Marketing, Liaison**
- **Chairman** **James Jones**
- **Vice-Chair** **Lesley Routh-Jones**
- **Guests at Council include CFOs, NFCC, IFE**
- **Quarterly meetings at Fire and Rescue Service HQs open to internal/external guests**



Key Evolutionary Processes

- **Fire and Rescue transferred to Home Office in 2016**
- **Mandatory Fire and Police collaboration**
- **Combined Fire/Police Directorate**
- **National Fire Chiefs Council and Fire Commercial Transformation Programme**
- **HM Fire Inspectorate**
- **Professional Standards Body for FRS**



The Suppliers' Perspective

- Looking for halt to proliferation of Frameworks/Tenders/Mini-Tenders
- Elimination of duplication in aspects of FRS/Supplier interface
- Some uncertainties
 - What will FRS collaboration ultimately look like for Procurement and R&D?
 - What will 'Blue Light' collaboration look like?
 - What will PCC or Mayoral control bring?
 - Will budget reductions ever bottom out?
 - What future products and services need to be developed?



Our Key Objectives

- **Internal and External Networking**
- **Supplier influence on sectoral issues and decisions**
- **Proactive roles in FRS R&D and National Collaborative Procurement via Customer and Supplier Engagement Group**
- **Key partner on JIFB and the ‘UK Fire and Resilience Offer’**
- **Links with Government, NFCC, HM Inspectorate etc**
- **Presence at industry exhibitions and other events**
- **Representation on BS, EN and ISO Standards Committees**

FRS R&D Activity in England and Wales

- FIA Report produced by Kingston University published Sept 2016
- Significant R&D within each Service
- Largely unstructured and uncoordinated
- Duplication and processes inefficient and not cost-effective
- Annual R&D expenditure est. £9 m - £13 m
- Centralised approach would yield cost savings and better results



CFOA R&D Survey Report 2017

- **‘Every Service does R&D’**
- **FRSs had tested wide range of equipment inc. Thermal Image Cameras, PPE and Rescue Tools**
- **FRSs were evaluating many product types, notably PPE, Tools, Fog Spikes, Ultra-High Pressure and Hose**
- **Requests for R&D on 33 types of equipment**
- **Vital for informing immediate and future R&D requirements**

FRS R&D Activity

- Previous duplication yields direct and indirect costs to suppliers and the FRSs



- Need to better understand innovation requirements to develop the equipment of the future

Collaborative Procurement

- Need to move away from 45 customers with differing requirements
- Significant progress but need comprehensive FRS buy-in



Summarising Some Priority Work Items

- Continuing to develop liaison with NFCC and FCTP
- Growing FIA/FIRESA Council awareness across all strata of the FRSs
- Delivering Collaborative Procurement and National R&D innovation
- Understanding and contributing to inter-FRS collaboration and mandated intra-Blue Light collaboration
- Key member of the Joint International Fire Board
- Membership Growth
- Growing vital networking opportunities for our members



To Find Out More

- Speak to us here today
- Visit the FIA web site at www.fia.uk.com
- Contact the FIRESA Council Secretary Dave Smith at dsmith@fia.uk.com
- As an inclusive and outreaching Council and Association, we want to engage with you





Fire Industry Association

