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
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