

Fire Services Develop Innovative Procurement

Background



London Fire Brigade and the City of Ghent fire service are cooperating in a project aimed at improving the environmental performance of their fleets.

The FIRED-up project has been awarded EU funding over a period of three years (June 2012 – June 2015) to examine innovative solutions and engage with the market. If the solutions are found to meet operational needs, one or more procurements will be undertaken within the project.

Objectives

1. Better understand the key environmental impacts of fire appliances and their relationship to operational requirements.
2. Identify successful approaches to market consultation for innovative procurement.
3. Identify approaches to manage contractual risk, for both supply and service contracts.
4. Develop common performance-based specifications.
5. Undertake innovative procurement meeting operational needs in London and Ghent.
6. Improve awareness within the European fire service community of the environmental impacts of vehicles and how to procure a more innovative vehicle.



Supported by



Timeline

Phase 1: Background research and needs assessment June 2012 to February 2013

This phase will focus on identifying the environmental impact of existing fleet operations and potential market solutions. The solutions examined may be technological or process-based, but must be innovative in the sense of being new to the fire services and offer real potential for measurable environmental improvement.

During phase 1 the contractual and legal aspects of market engagement and procurement will also be identified. A long-list of innovations will be prepared and a shortlist selected for the development of specifications.



Key Dates:

- NOVEMBER 2012 – DRAFT REPORT SUMMARISING RE-SEARCH FINDINGS
- DECEMBER 2012 – LONG-LIST OF INNOVATIONS AND SELECTION CRITERIA (INTERNAL PROJECT DOCUMENT)
- 14-15 JANUARY 2013 – STEERING GROUP MEETING TO REVIEW LONG-LIST AND SELECT AREAS OF FOCUS (GHENT)

Timeline

Phase 2: Market engagement and specification development March 2013 to October 2013 (approx)

Performance-based specifications will be developed to apply the shortlisted innovations in the context of one or both partners' fleets. To feed into these specifications, engagement with suppliers will be undertaken in line with the guidance developed under Work Package 3.

This may involve study visits, testing or the procurement of R&D services. Evaluation of the outcome of these activities will lead to a decision on procurement of a prototype in accordance with criteria agreed by senior management within both organisations.

Key Dates:

- APRIL 2013 – LONDON WORKSHOP WITH SUPPLIERS/EXPERTS
- JUNE 2013 – STEERING GROUP MEETING (GHENT)



Phase 3: Procurement November 2013 to December 2014 (approx)

One or more procurement procedures will be launched during this period, applying the specifications developed and refined in Phase 2. Procurement may be for a prototype, test series, pilot or fleet upgrade. Award criteria will assess the life-cycle cost of all proposed solutions, including GHG emissions and fuel costs.

Key Dates:

- NOV/DEC 2013 – STEERING GROUP MEETING AND INTERIM CONFERENCE (LONDON)
- 2014 – SERIES OF WORKSHOPS LINKED TO THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE(S)

Phase 4: Implementation, Evaluation, Dissemination December 2014 to June 2015

Results from the procurement(s) will be monitored and environmental impact measured. Guidance produced at the outset of the project will be updated to reflect the partners' experiences.

The final report will include outputs from all work packages and this will be disseminated broadly amongst the target groups.

Key Date:

- MAY 2015 – FINAL CONFERENCE (GHENT)



Get involved

We are keen to hear from procurers, suppliers, researchers and others with ideas about how to improve the environmental performance of emergency service fleets.

You are invited to join the FIRED-UP mailing list, to receive our newsletter and other occasional communications linked to the project.

If you would like to contribute ideas for the project please send an e-mail to: secretariat@fired-up.eu

Work Packages

The project is divided into six work packages to deliver against the objectives. Work packages 1 and 6 deal with project management and dissemination respectively. The substantive work packages are outlined below:

WP 2: The Case for Innovative Procurement (Lead: London)

- Create expert advisory group (emergency services and environmental experts)
- Identify models for assessing environmental impact of fleet changes
- Survey of best practice and emerging technologies in emergency/HGV fleets
- Propose long list of innovations and selection criteria for short list
- Interim and final reports outlining methodology, findings and application

WP 3: Risk Management (Lead: London)

- Review available market engagement techniques in line with procurement/state aid rules
- Interview procurers/suppliers with experience of these techniques (frank assessment)
- Analyse existing contractual models and identify improvements
- Produce practical framework for market engagement/contract design

WP 4: Specification Development (Lead: Ghent)

- Inform market of project and hold workshops with potential suppliers
- Engage with suppliers in selected areas chosen under WP 2
- Develop performance-based specifications and challenge
- Determine most appropriate procurement procedure(s)
- Report on findings and evaluate outcome

WP 5: Procurement Exercise (Lead: Ghent)

- Obtain management and operational support for procurement – assemble team
- Ensure co-finance is available based on proposed procedure
- Develop tender documents incorporating performance-based specification
- Launch procedure(s) – EU wide publication
- Apply life-cycle costing as part of award criteria
- Award of contract(s) and implementation, including framework for monitoring environmental impact

Outputs will take the form of guidance on market engagement, a survey of innovations and good practice, models for assessing the environmental impact of fire service vehicles and procurement.

Regular communication and an interim and final conference will help spread these results amongst fire and emergency services, public sector procurers, suppliers and other stakeholders.