



## **Information from the Project Management Office (PMO)**

### **Update Committee Chairs**

**Ad-hoc Committee**

**SEC Committee**

**R&D Committee**

**CGC Committee**

### **Update IFAFRI Members**

### **Upcoming Events**

Dear IFAFRI Community,

There are several developments and updates since the last newsletter in May. In June IFAFRI members met in Hanover for the Annual Meeting and used the innovative vibes of the fair INTERSCHUTZ to discuss the future of IFAFRI. Questions concerning the next action priorities, requirements for the committee work, and administrative issues were discussed. Here are the key outcomes of the meeting:

- IFAFRI wants to publish and distribute more of its products. It also aims to improve the presentation of IFAFRI content on the website.
- The Forum will reach out to the IFAFRI target groups with more specialized content on the Website, via Social Media and in bilateral conversations.
- The Forum increases its efforts to scout solutions from industry to the Capability Gaps.

The Annual Meeting also offered time to better get to know each other and to exchange ideas informally.



End of August the IFAFRI Chair and PMO were invited to present IFAFRI to the audience of the Symposium for European Civil Security Research in Brussels. The event certainly provided a platform to advocate for security research which fits the IFAFRI Common Global Capability Gaps. It also gave the opportunity to present IFAFRI's activities to European policymakers.



## Update Committee Chairs

### Ad-hoc Committee

The Ad-hoc Committee presented the results from the IFAFRI member survey at the Annual Meeting. One key finding was that many IFAFRI members were not aware of all IFAFRI outputs and services. The dissemination and advocacy for IFAFRI outputs and services are therefore a main task which the Ad-hoc Committee took from the meeting. On top of that, results from our group work will support further public relations activities. Together with all members we summarized IFAFRI benefits for different stakeholder groups. This collection will be the base for the upcoming strategic discussion as well as target group specific outreach activities.

### SEC Committee

Technologies are being developed around the world to help first responders respond rapidly to dangerous situations in a safe and more efficient manner to save lives and property. The International Forum to Advance First Responder Innovation (IFAFRI) Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) works with first responder stakeholders to identify and help companies promote those solutions that could help close the global capability gaps that represent public safety needs from the IFAFRI member countries.

While we don't endorse specific companies or technologies, IFAFRI does help companies promote their capabilities through virtual and in-person technology showcases. The SEC also meets with respective companies through various means to better understand their technologies and applications. Performers from around the world can contact members directly or send requests through the [IFAFRI website](#). Posting in the Solutions Tool on the IFAFRI website is recommended for technologies that are mature and meet at least one of the 10 capability gaps. These technologies are recommended for pilots with interested first responders and performers can also be directed to funding opportunities that are advertised from member countries. We encourage everyone that are developing first responder technologies or know about technologies to contact members of the SEC and we will find the best outlets for advertising your capabilities to an international audience.

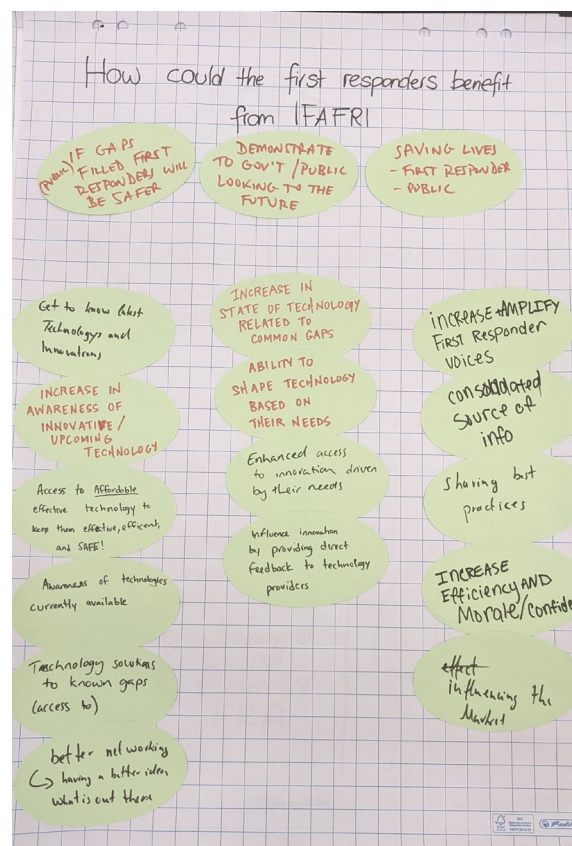
The SEC is currently planning for IFAFRI Virtual Technology Showcases for November 16. These Showcases are open to anyone, especially First Responders, Government Officials, Procurement Officials, or anyone that would benefit from the knowledge of innovative technologies in the first responder market. Please let us know if you would like an invitation!

### R&D Committee

We are happy to announce that the R&D Committee has a new chair! Aron Krausz, a Science Advisor from the Commissioning Hub of the UK's Home Office Science division, will take over the activities. We are happy to report about progress in the Committee soon.

### CGC Committee

As the capability committee is dormant, there are no recent activities.



Collected benefits for first responders

## Update IFAFRI Members

In this newsletter issue member organizations presented themselves with short IFAFRI related organization profiles.

### CANADA

ORGANIZATION NAME:

Defence Research and Development Canada

DRDC

RDDC

DEPARTMENT:

Centre for Security Science

THE DUTIES OF MY DEPARTMENT ARE:

The Centre for Security Science (CSS) develops and delivers innovative science and technology solutions and advice to the Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces, other government departments, and the safety and security communities

FIRST RESPONDER INNOVATION PLAYS THE FOLLOWING ROLE IN MY DEPARTMENT:

CSS is responsible for managing the Canadian Safety and Security Program (CSSP) in partnership with Public Safety Canada. As a federally funded program, the CSSP's mission is to strengthen Canada's ability to anticipate, prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, serious accidents, crime and terrorism through the convergence of science and technology with policy, operations,

and intelligence. First responder innovation is one of six lines of effort that allow the CSS to better respond to the ever-changing needs of the public safety and security communities. These lines of effort - including innovation intended for first responders - are designed to encourage the horizontal convergence of knowledge and science through collaboration, which includes CSS subject-matter experts and stakeholders

WE MAKE SURE CAPABILITY GAPS ARE CLOSED BY:

Remaining needs of first responders, developed through engagement between CSS and myriad other stakeholders, help shape science and technology challenges which are: relevant, will lead to impactful CSSP investments, and ultimately will improve the safety and security of all Canadians. In addition, CSS has a team of experts that provide operations analytic support to security operations, risk assessments and exercise coordination

WE ACHIEVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS AND ACADEMIA BY:

CSS responds to a broad range of public safety and security priorities articulated by service providers and their respective orders of government, across the six lines of effort: Preparedness and Resilience; First Responders; Border Security; Surveillance, Intelligence and Interdiction; Critical Infrastructure Resilience; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Security. Collaboration between industry, government, first responders and academia is supported by leveraging CSSP, Innovation for Defence and Security (IDEaS), and Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC) programming.





## GERMANY

### ORGANIZATION NAME:

German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)

**Technisches  
Hilfswerk**



### DEPARTMENT:

Research projects

### THE DUTIES OF MY DEPARTMENT ARE:

The Federal Agency for Technical Relief (Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk) is a higher federal authority under the jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community. THW provides technical support when dealing with civil protection, disasters, public emergencies and major accidents. The division Research Projects applies for, manages and accompanies funded research projects related to civil security topics.

### FIRST RESPONDER INNOVATION PLAYS THE FOLLOWING ROLE IN MY DEPARTMENT:

The department is currently involved in about 20 national, international and supranational research projects with around 200 partner institutions. All of these projects are

either funded by the European Commission, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action or the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community. These research projects aim to develop new approaches in fields such as search and rescue or emergency infrastructure. THW ensures in research projects that the needs of first responder organizations are met and the applicability in the field. We also advocate for more capability driven research agendas.

### WE MAKE SURE CAPABILITY GAPS ARE CLOSED BY:

THW is an organization with more than 80,000 voluntary emergency responders. The capability gaps are therefore paramount for the institution in every day's business. The division Research Projects advocates for more funding opportunities by lobbying and networking for first responder needs. The research done today will solve the challenges of tomorrow.

### WE ACHIEVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS AND ACADEMIA BY:

All of our research projects are joint projects between first responder organizations, academia and industry. The first responders define the scenarios and requirements, whereas academia is responsible for the research. At the end industry is needed for the market uptake. This close collaboration is the base for long-term knowledge exchange between these stakeholders.



## SPAIN

### ORGANIZATION NAME:

Ministry of the Interior



### DEPARTMENT:

R&D Department

### THE DUTIES OF MY DEPARTMENT ARE:

To agree, coordinate, execute and carry out any other necessary action related to participation in European research, development and innovation (R+D+i) projects in the field of security in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State. In this line and among others, the department represents the Ministry of the Interior before the EC in R&D projects in which it participates: H2020, Horizon Europe (2021-2027), or innovative projects from European funds such as are the Internal Security Fund and the Digital Europe Programme.

### FIRST RESPONDER INNOVATION PLAYS THE FOLLOWING ROLE IN MY DEPARTMENT:

The R&D Department of the Ministry of the Interior duties include acting as the manager of innovation for first responders. In this line, they forward information obtained from webinars, meetings, events, company portfolios, and any other information related with innovation, to first responders in Spain. The R&D Department also forwards information to the Department that administrates the Spanish critical communications system, that is used by first responders.

### WE MAKE SURE CAPABILITY GAPS ARE CLOSED BY:

Encouraging the procurement and participation in projects that will enable to solve the capability gaps, as well as performing intensive research and analysis of the state-of-the-art and possible solutions to the needs of first responders, which are in line with the capability gaps stated by IFAFRI. For instance, the Spanish critical com-

munications system is currently migrating to broadband critical communications, so will improve the interoperability of the system.

### WE ACHIEVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS AND ACADEMIA BY:

Managing and coordinating the Spanish Community of Users (CoU), which is the national version of the European Community of European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS). The purpose of the CoU is to facilitate and promote the participation of end users in security projects, identify proposals of interest according to the needs of end users, and stimulate R&D between industry, academia and public organizations (Security Forces, Maritime Rescue, Customs, Emergencies, Civil Protection).

## SWEDEN

### ORGANIZATION NAME:

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency



**Swedish Civil  
Contingencies  
Agency**

### DEPARTMENT:

Civil protection department

### THE DUTIES OF MY DEPARTMENT ARE:

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is responsible for helping society prepare for major accidents, crises and the consequences of war. The department's main task is to be responsible for the development of emergency services (fire and rescue) and protection against accidents.

### WE ACHIEVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS AND ACADEMIA BY:

The civil protection department aim to be the link between the different stakeholders to focus the activities and connect parties with the same interests, which is not aware of one another.



## ITALY (OBSERVER COUNTRY)

### ORGANIZATION NAME:

Ministry Of Defence



### DEPARTMENT:

Policlinico Militare di Roma (main Italian Military Hospital)

### THE DUTIES OF MY DEPARTMENT ARE:

In Italy we act as a hospital with many specializations and we are able to deploy field hospitals in short time and in every context (disasters, wars, etc.)

### FIRST RESPONDER INNOVATION PLAYS THE FOLLOWING ROLE IN MY DEPARTMENT:

Improves the effectiveness and the efficacy of the medical actions in emergencies and disasters

### WE MAKE SURE CAPABILITY GAPS ARE CLOSED BY:

In my opinion a capability gap about the medical issues (first responders training with advanced technologies, simulations in virtual reality, etc.) would be needed

### WE ACHIEVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS AND ACADEMIA BY:

We are a Government hospital. We have links and associations with all the medical Universities in Rome, we cooperate with the red cross in our country and all around the world. We don't have direct links with industries (except some companies involved in advanced digitalization of our hospital).

## UNITED STATES

DHS S&T's [National Urban Security Technology Laboratory \(NUSTL\)](#) has released a few additional articles since the last IFAFRI Newsletter.



### FEATURE ARTICLE: FIELD TESTS CULMINATE 4 YEARS OF BIOAGENT STUDIES

The Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) collaborated for four years with top scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to ensure first responders and USCG personnel are properly equipped and trained to respond to a variety of biohazard emergencies.

### DHS CONCLUDES INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY OPEX

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and its National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) hosted Urban OpEx 2022, an Operational Experimentation (OpEx) where first responders evaluated new and emerging technology solutions in realistic, urban settings throughout the New York Metropolitan area during the week of July 18 - 22.

IFAFRI's Paul McDonagh (U.S.) and Gerry Doucette (Canada) attended this event!

### FEATURE ARTICLE: WILL THE SUN SOON POWER FIRST RESPONDERS?

Fabric woven to harness solar power recently completed weaving trials. The fabric will ultimately be used to design high-functioning gear that can keep responders' tech charged and ready.

No contributions from Australia, Finland, Greece, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Belgium, European Commission, United Kingdom, Israel and the Netherlands

## Upcoming Events



September 28, 2022 | Online

**EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DAYS**

[Find out more...](#)



October 7, 2022 | Centro Fiera di Montichiari, Montichiari, BS, Italy

**REAS 2022 (POWERED BY INTERSCHUTZ)**

[Find out more...](#)



October 13, 2022 | Dresden, Germany

**FLORIAN 2022**

[Find out more...](#)



November 15, 2022 | Porte de Versailles, Paris, France

**EXPOPTECTION 2022**

[Find out more...](#)

**IFAFRI** International Forum to Advance First Responder Innovation focuses on enhancing and expanding the development of affordable technology and innovative solutions to improve first responder safety, efficiency and effectiveness

**Contact us** today to find out how we can work together to help first responders.



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