

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

23RD MAY 2005

1. **THE ADVANCED MULTI-MODAL INTELLIGENCE FOR REMOTE ASSISTANCE (AMIRA) PROJECT**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee approve participation in the AMIRA Project.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Committee of an invitation to participate in the AMIRA Project and to seek approval for participation.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The RIMSAT (Remote Intelligent Management Support and Training) knowledge management project was successfully concluded during 2004. The outcomes from that project are being further extended by a consortium which has established the AMIRA project.
- 3.2 AMIRA is researching the means to provide people who are engaged in field work away from a fixed base with decision support using multiple input methods including speech recognition technology.
- 3.3 Due to a change in the project structure, West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) have been invited to participate in the project's research and testing work. The work will involve staff of Transport Engineering Workshops (TEW) in their vehicle repair role and the Community Protection Intervention team. This work will require the support of a project manager who will also perform a technical role within the project and its related work.

- 3.4 Subject to approval, WMFS will act as a sub-contractor to Kaidara Software. In return for participation, Kaidara will make available to WMFS:
- total direct funding of 62,550 Euro
 - a supported copy of Kaidara's Advisor product
- 3.5 Advisor is a diagnostic support application that enabled a significant element of the functionality in RIMSAT. The application is used by DaimlerChrysler, PSA Peugeot Citroën and JCB amongst others, to assist remote workers in fault diagnosis. Advisor can be used by WMFS to contribute to the management of operational risk by making timely, relevant and accurate information available to decision makers. Such information could include the outcomes of RIMSAT and Active Intervention Monitoring, including the Units of Experience. Advisor could also provide support for individuals carrying out prevention based activity such as Home Fire Risk Assessment. This level of functionality directly supports the principles of integrated risk management and could form a component of the Integrated Risk Management Information System (IRMIS).
- 3.6 Participation in the project will also enable the continued development within WMFS of other work within the field of knowledge management such as Post Event Analysis which forms a part of the Integrated Risk Management Project.
- 3.7 The ground breaking work of WMFS in this area will also be used to positively support and influence the recently announced Chief Fire Officers' Association KM-Fire Project.
- 3.8 The AMIRA Project started in June 2004 and will conclude in June 2006. The post of project manager at the grade of Watch Manager B/Station Officer will be advertised as a secondment to the Community Protection Department. The secondment will cover the duration of the project and the post project review and reporting phase of approximately 2 months.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

The IRMIS enables the profiling of risk areas within the WMFS area and the targeting of resources towards the most vulnerable people within the community that we serve. Participation in the AMIRA project will support the delivery of IRMIS and improve the quality of service that we are able to provide to all risk groups.

5. **CORPORATE AIMS SUPPORTED**

The principal corporate aims supported by the information in this report are as follows.

1. Meeting the Fire Authority's statutory duties, standards and expectations.
5. Planning for and responding appropriately to all emergencies.
13. Maximising the benefits from the latest technology.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The estimated salary and national insurance costs of a Station Officer/ Watch Manager B grade for the period mid June 2005 to August 2006 is £40,100. Travel and other expenses are estimated to cost £2,500.
- 7.2 At current exchange rates the funding by Kaidara would be sufficient to meet these costs.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

RIMSAT Project – Final Report CB Meeting 10th May 2005 Item 5
WMFS Intranet – RIMSAT Library
Standing Order 15/06 Active Intervention Monitoring
Kaidara Invitation letter – 22nd April 2005
<http://www.kaidara.com/>

F. J. E. SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER