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This circular is	<b>For information</b>	No response required	
This circular is	<b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>		
Status	<b>This circular concerns the Firelink wide area radio scheme: it provides an update and highlights a change in the planned date for contract award.</b>		

# *Firelink: revised plan for achieving contract award*

## Issued by:

**Alun Evans**  
**Firelink SRO**  
**Director, Civil Resilience**

## Addressed to:

**Chief Executives of County Councils**  
**All Clerks and Chairs of Fire Authorities**  
**The Commissioner for the London Fire and  
Emergency Planning Authority**  
**All Chief Fire Officers**

## Summary

**A further round of discussions is required with the two bidders for the Firelink contract. As a result of this adjustment to the planned way forward, it is anticipated that Contract Award is now unlikely to take place until Autumn 2005.**

## For further information, contact:

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**1.0 Firelink procurement**

- 1.1 I am writing to update you on the Firelink procurement and to highlight a change in the planned date for contract award.
- 1.2 The Best and Final Offer (BAFO) invitation documents were issued to both Airwave mmO2 Limited and EADS Defence and Security Systems Limited on 15 March 2005. The BAFO returns were received on 18 April 2005, when the evaluation process started. This process has identified a number of areas where the proposals in their current form need further work before they form a basis for contract award. We are therefore instigating a further round of discussions with the two proposers. We have agreed the need for this additional step with the sub-committee of the Firelink Project Board, which was established to oversee the BAFO evaluation and includes representatives of CFOA, ODPM, Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly.
- 1.3 I have already met senior executives from both companies, in order to secure their commitment to moving the process forward. Following a period of review, when we will be working closely with both proposers, we will invite revised offers. These will then be re-evaluated and a recommendation for contract award made.
- 1.4 As a result of this adjustment to the planned way forward, we anticipate that Contract Award is unlikely to take place until Autumn 2005. This, in turn, may have an impact on the Firelink delivery schedule and we have therefore started an assessment of the potential impact of this on operational continuity. Firelink's Brigade Delivery Team will continue to liaise with their usual contacts to ensure that the planning and information flow processes continue.
- 1.5 I will provide you with a further update in the summer. In the meantime, if you have any queries about this process, please contact me, Richard Smart or your Brigade Delivery Team representative.

**Alun Evans**  
**Firelink SRO**