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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 informs fire and rescue services of the New Dimension long-term maintenance contract award.</b>		

# New Dimension Long Term Maintenance Contract Award

## Issued by:

**Fay Sowerby**  
Regional Resilience and Emergency Response Division

## Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**The Chief Executive of the County Council**  
**The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority**  
**The Chief Fire Officer**

## Please forward to:

**Members of the Transport Officers Group (TOG)**  
**FRS Engineers**

## Summary

Under the Long Term Capability Management project of New Dimension Programme, the Department for Communities and Local Government, through Firebuy Ltd, has procured a long-term maintenance contract to ensure the maintenance and repair of the New Dimension assets for the next 16 years. This circular informs fire and rescue services of the contract award decision.

## For further information, contact:

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## New Dimension Long Term Maintenance Contract Award

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The New Dimension Programme, a collaboration between CLG and the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), has enhanced the ability of the FRS to respond to major disruptive events involving CBRN materials, collapsed or unstable structures, and to displace large volumes of water.
- 1.2 As detailed in Fire Service Circular (FSC) 26/2007, the Long Term Capability Management (LTCM) project of the New Dimension Programme is responsible for putting in place management structures and systems to maintain the New Dimension capabilities in the long term.
- 1.3 To help ensure ongoing national interoperability, consistent practice, and to allow maintenance to be planned across the whole country to avoid leaving capability gaps, the long-term maintenance of the New Dimension capability will be managed on behalf of all FRSs by an appointed contractor, as procured by Firebuy Ltd. This arrangement was outlined in FSC 51/2007.

### 2.0 Contract Award

- 2.1 Over the past few months a robust evaluation process has been conducted on the tenders received for the long-term maintenance contract, involving representatives from CLG, Firebuy and individual FRSs, as nominated by CFOA. On the basis of this evaluation we are pleased to announce that **Vosper Thorneycroft Critical Services (VTCS)** has been awarded the contract.
- 2.2 Contract signature is anticipated later this month when, following the required 10-day procurement standstill period, Firebuy Ltd and VTCS will sign the overarching contract.
- 2.3 The services provided by this contract will be accessed through the Terms of Access. CLG, as the current owner of the New Dimension assets will initially sign the Terms of Access to ensure that the assets are maintained from commencement of the contract, expected in Autumn 2008.
- 2.4 However, in line with FSC 51/2007, we envisage that the ownership of New Dimension capability will be transferred to those Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) hosting the assets as soon as possible, subject to FRA views. It will be a condition of the transfer of assets that FRSs will use the maintenance contract and hence, each FRA will, at that time, need to individually enter into the Terms of Access.
- 2.5 At the point of contract signature we will write out again to FRSs, via circular, to explain the contract in detail, how it relates to the transfer of assets and what it will mean for individual FRSs.

**Fay Sowerby**

**Regional Resilience and Emergency Response Division**