



The CPCC Technology Refresh Programme

The Central PPE and Clothing Contract (previously the ICP) Technology Refresh programme is now well advanced and this newsletter is the first in a series I intend to send over the coming six to eight months to update you on developments.

The principal purpose of the mid-term refresh is to undertake a comprehensive review of the performance of the scheme, and to review technological advances in fibre, fabric and clothing design since its launch and to introduce new PPE garments to take advantage of improvements over the past seven years. The programme began in the spring of 2013, when we submitted a plan for agreement with the User Group (made up of all FRAs which have adopted the scheme). Trials began in the early summer when new PPE options were put to the test by DFRMO at RAF Manston for the structural kit and RAF Episkopi in Cyprus for the wildland PPE. The USAR PPE was trialled by Lincoln FRS at RAF Waddington.

The programme has now moved on to the extended wearer trials which involve all existing Users who are engaged in the wide ranging programme. These trials include physiological loading tests, comfort assessments and durability and appearance, as well as compatibility and inter-operability, evaluations. These will be concluded by December.

The key benefit planned for the ICP at its introduction in 2007 was to provide participating FRAs with easy access to an independently assessed range of PPE and non-PPE items of clothing which would make available, for the first time, an unrivalled source of technically advanced clothing under a simpler, less time consuming and less costly integrated programme. The flexibility built into the procurement scheme affords opportunities for the User Group to monitor and, where advantageous, make changes to the products and processes involved. One notable example of this has been the introduction of a new station wear colour range which saw the navy and red option introduced in 2012.

Recently, as many of you will know, we set aside part of our stand at the recent Emergency Services Show to exhibit the full PPE range and station wear products. It also provided us with the opportunity to demonstrate the CPCC's benefits, which remain the same as when the scheme was introduced, but now with the added benefit of a seven year successful track record with over 7500 fighters.

The Technology Refresh programme is being chronicled in a series of five articles in *Fire* magazine. The first appeared in September and can also be accessed on our website news page at [CPCC Technology Refresh](#). The second will appear in the November issue.

Given the considerable savings in both time and costs which the CPCC offers, might I suggest now would be an ideal time to review these in relation to your own operational requirements? Please bear in mind that a decision to join the CPCC is totally free of fees and costs. Additionally, it offers the most flexible range of procurement options available by including Purchase Only (PO), Purchase Managed Service (PMS) and Fully Managed Service (FMS), the latter offering the full flexibility of a lease contract. Together, these could potentially yield considerable operational cost savings over the coming 10 years.

Please do call me if you would like to discuss the options more fully with me.

Regards

Roger Startin
Bristol Uniforms