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Newsletter 6

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Reviewer	Gilles Rossou (Addestino)

0. Summary

This deliverable is part of WP6 (Dissemination). The final newsletter was distributed to all of the Smart@fire stakeholders. We used the layout from previous newsletters as a basis. The goal of this newsletter was to inform interested parties of the project's progress. It was sent out in March 2017.

1. Content

The goal of the 6th and final newsletter was to inform all interested parties of the progress and conclusion of the Smart@Fire project. It gives a quick overview of the main events and deliverables since Newsletter 5. It includes short reports of the Testing Days in Aix-en-Provence in November 2016, as well as the Final Conference and the Procurement Network Round Table. On the final pages it instructs the reader to keep an eye out for the PCP guidelines and template documents, which will be made available online after review by the EC. It concludes by thanking all parties that have been involved in the project.

The initial due date for this deliverable was Month 48, but this deadline did not take into account the extension of the project duration. By extending the publication date to March 15th, 2017, we were able to include the Final Conference, etc.

The newsletter was sent to all of the Smart@Fire project partners to be distributed in their networks.

2. Lay-out



Field Testing

At the end of the third phase of the PCP trajectory, the two remaining suppliers submitted their first batch of working prototypes and research results after which they were reviewed by the evaluation committee, composed out of five independent experts. An important part of this evaluation process was the PPS prototype testing at the SDIS13 training facilities in Aix-en-Provence on 7-9 November 2016. Firefighters from Belgium, Germany, France and the UK were asked to test the gear under real-life conditions by participating in several simulated interventions. This enabled the Smart@fire stakeholders and evaluators to see the personal protective systems in full action. As the Smart@

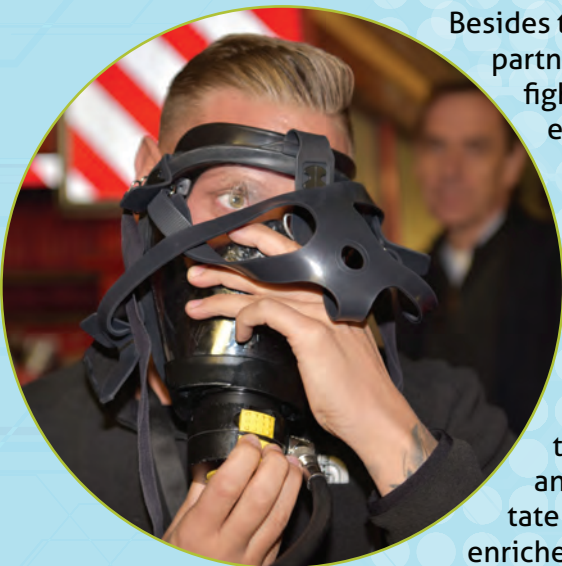
fire team wanted testing to approximate reality as much as possible, we also included the washing and drying procedures of the suits to test their ruggedness and operational impact.



Besides the formal testing procedures that had to be followed, the Smart@fire partners, the reviewers, the firefighters and the suppliers also engaged in an open and fruitful discussion that lasted for three days.

[A video impression of the testing days is available on SDIS13's Youtube channel.](#)

This phase of the PCP was intended to deliver prototypes and insights that would facilitate the future purchase of ICT-enriched firefighter gear by local fire brigades in Europe. After the evaluation, both prototypes were considered to be satisfactory to that end. In the Applycon prototype, the reviewers even found a solution that could be very close to commercialization.



Final Conference

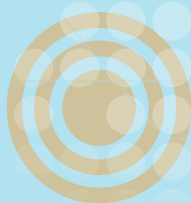
On 14 and 15 December 2016, a large-scale public conference was organized at Huis President Park Hotel in Brussels, Belgium. The final conference marked the “public” end of Smart@fire, even though some work continued into the first months of 2017. Over two days, the conference presented the project’s progress and results, the PPE prototypes that were developed, as well as a forum for focused discussion of the PCP approach.

Over 110 people from 16 different countries attended the conference and contributed to the on-going European dialogue on Pre-Commercial Procurement. We were glad to welcome public procurers from all over Europe, as well as companies from the PPE industrial value chain, researchers, policy makers and the media. They were given an opportunity to extend their network, to learn from the presentations, and to enjoy the lively discussions. The project’s organizing partners considered the event a success.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who participated in the final conference.



[The agenda and all of the presentations are available for download on the Smart@fire website.](http://www.smartatfire.eu)



Smart@Fire is a European project, co-funded by the 7th Framework Programme and coordinated by Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen aimed to support companies and researchers to develop Smart Personal Protective Systems for firefighters by 2016.



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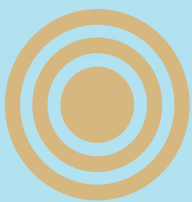
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Round Table

A general information session for interested public procurers was organized in Brussels on 15 December 2016. The Procurement Network Round Table took place as a break-out session during the Final Conference. The session was led by Ms. Nikoletta Nemeth, Strategic Procurer at IFV, who introduced the final tender template and its options and possibilities. The objective of the round table was to have a free and open discussion about procurers' but also suppliers' wishes and expectations.

From the discussion it was soon clear that procurers are still reluctant to initiate a tender to purchase a large batch of personal protective systems. One of the main reasons is that integrating the PPS in their current way of working requests some changes in the behaviour of fire-fighters and in fire brigades' standard operating procedures.

This reluctance to be the first to procure an innovative solution is not uncommon in innovation. To change this behaviour, real results will have to be showcased to find early adopters and convince their followers. One way to do this, is by using the smart PPS as a tool in training future fire-fighters. Another way would be to start with a reduced offering of modular systems with only a few features. In any case, all of the round table participants agreed that Smart@fire had made clear where PPS technology might go in the future.



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What's next

The Smart@fire project ended officially on 15 March 2017. We hope that the project's insights will benefit future development of PPE. We are sure that a lot of the project's deliverables are of interest for future procurers of smart PPE, such as the set of guidelines and the tender template document that have been developed. Once these deliverables will have been reviewed by the European Commission, we will make them publicly available.

Keep an eye out for updates of the Smart@fire website at <http://www.smartatfire.eu>.



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PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS
BY 2017**

Thank You

As a final note, the Smart@fire project partners would like to thank the European Commission for its continuing support, but also the companies, the experts and the fire-fighters who have been involved in Smart@fire over the last four years. By sharing their time, knowledge and experience with us, they have brought the project to a successful end.