**APD Communications is the first to gain accreditation for next generation Emergency Services Network**

**Press release**

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Software developed by technology leader APD Communications is the first to be officially certified to support a new state-of-the-art LTE-based communications network for the UK’s emergency services.

APD’s software, Cortex, has been accredited by the Network Approval Testing Service (NATS). The NATS endorsement – a critical element of the requirements to operate on the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) – provides emergency services organisations with assurance and confidence in APD as a software supplier in pole position to support the blue light sector as it undergoes this communications revolution.

The Home Office is driving the transition to ESN, which will be an essential part of Britain’s critical national infrastructure. ESN will provide police, fire and rescue and ambulance services, as well as other public safety organisations, with secure and resilient voice communication and data services matching those available through best-in-class commercial networks.

Mobile network operator EE is responsible for building the LTE (long term evolution) network and providing network coverage whilst Motorola Solutions is delivering the user services and critical public safety applications on top of the network.

As a supplier of critical, life-saving software used by one in two UK police forces and other emergency services organisations across the UK, APD is at the forefront of the ESN transition process.

Cortex is APD’s software-only Integrated Communication Control System (ICCS) and is used to answer emergency calls and communicate with front line responders in more than 70 control rooms around the world. The software brings radio, telephony, CCTV and access control together on one screen enabling organisations to connect, collaborate and communicate rapidly and effectively.

APD Managing Director Mike Isherwood said: “We’re delighted to gain this accreditation for our ICCS software, which is the result of many months of work by our development teams and collaboration with the Home Office, emergency services organisations and our technology partners.

“We’re totally committed to ensuring existing and future customers are prepared for ESN, to ensure they experience a seamless transition and are able to maximise the benefits from this revolution in life-saving communications.

“Cortex helps our customers connect, collaborate and communicate when it matters most. It’s radio, telephony, CCTV and access control all on one screen.”

As part of its role delivering user services, Motorola Solutions has established NATS as the testing service for suppliers seeking certification that their technology is ESN compliant and can be part of the new communications framework.

Mick Rhodes, ESN Programme Director at Motorola Solutions, said: “NATS is a vital part of the preparations and enabling procedures for ESN. It is a rigorous and demanding process and sets the bar very high for ESN compliance.”

Sean Hancock, APD’s Technical Manager and ESN Lead, said: “Achieving this accreditation validates the highly-structured process we applied to this challenge. We built a dedicated team and infrastructure for the project, as well as an in-house test environment.

 “The core functionality of Cortex is ready for ESN and provides further assurance to existing and future customers that it will deliver a business-as-usual transition to the new network.

“We’re ahead of the game and can now focus on further features to deliver additional, value-added operational benefits, such as incorporating video streams into control rooms.”

APD is committed to supporting the emergency services community through the transition to ESN and has established a position of thought leadership, sharing freely its acknowledged expertise in this field.

APD’s website features an ESN section with information, updates and resources, including white papers and blogs, at [www.apdcomms.com/ready-for-esn](http://www.apdcomms.com/ready-for-esn) APD also has a private online portal for customers to help to shape the ongoing development of Cortex, including dedicated groups focused on ESN.

APD’s Agile collaborative and iterative approach to software development is a key feature of the company’s extensive programme of ESN workshops and webinars. These interactive sessions ensure emergency service organisations are kept fully up to speed and involved in APD’s work to develop industry-leading solutions to the ESN challenge.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

**APD Communications**

* APD Communications creates secure, intelligent and connected control room and fleet technologies that help organisations protect and preserve society.
* Founded by two academics from the University of Hull in 1984 and still based in the city, APD has developed cutting-edge digital technology for more than 30 years and is an acknowledged market leader in software development.
* APD made its name in the 1980s by designing and delivering the world’s first real-time bus tracking system, which then became the industry benchmark. Later, APD engineered the Eurotunnel communications network, facilitating connectivity between the British and French borders and inside the tunnel itself.
* Today, one in two UK police forces employs APD’s technology, while APD also services the national transport and aviation sectors. The London Underground runs safely and on time with assistance from APD technology, which tracks train locations and supports control room collaboration across the 250-mile network.
* Internationally, APD has an ever-growing presence, powering mission-critical control rooms in Sweden, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates. At Dubai Airport – the world’s busiest international passenger airport with 77m passengers annually – APD’s integrated control room solution keeps the entire operation safe, secure and running efficiently.
* The company’s partners are an integral part of the service and technology APD delivers. APD’s technology partners include mobile communications pioneer Motorola; global digital solutions provider Avaya; network services provider telent; and digital transformation leader Sopra Steria.
* APD is at the forefront of preparations for the UK’s new digital Emergency Services Network (ESN). APD is working with police, fire and ambulance services around the UK to upgrade to world-leading technology, enabling a business-as-usual transition.
* APD provides its customers with a dedicated support team, available 24/7, 365 days a year. Every APD employee has official security clearance, ensuring customers can have full confidence that their sensitive data is in safe hands.
* The company is showing strong growth, with turnover in 2017 reaching £9m, up 32% on the previous year, powered by APD’s market-leading products, including Cortex, Aspire and Artemis.
* Cortex is APD’s Integrated Communication Control System (ICCS) used in more than 70 control rooms around the world. Cortex brings radio, telephony, CCTV and more together on one screen, helping organisations to connect, collaborate and communicate rapidly and effectively when it matters most. A trailblazer in this field, APD has developed and launched the world’s first hosted ICSS, at Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden, supporting the efficient running of the entire hospital operation all day, every day.
* Aspire is APD’s contact management solution, designed to help emergency services organisations to identify and protect vulnerable people. A software solution that can be integrated easily with existing command and control applications, Aspire provides APD’s customers with full contact history to make informed decisions and save lives.
* Artemis is APD’s solution for fleet management and the remote transfer of data and information from vehicles to control rooms and fleet managers. The only technology of its kind built specifically for the emergency services, Artemis helps customers to improve use of resources and driver behaviour and ensure vehicles get to where they need to be promptly and efficiently.
* These technologies work independently and inter-dependently to support organisations across the public and private sectors. APD is attuned to meeting the needs of organisations with critical operations that rely on instant and highly-resilient communications.