

# South East Fire and Rescue Services Regional Management Board

---



## **PRESS RELEASE**

## *Achieving a Safer Community*

Councillor Michael Cartwright, Chairman of the South East Regional Management Board, announced today the signing of the FiReControl infrastructure services contract between Communities & Local Government (CLG) and the successful bidder, EADS Defence & Security Systems.

This means that the provisional timetables for the rollout of Firelink (replacement national radio system) and FiReControl (regional fire control centres) can now be published.

The technology provided under these contracts will help to provide fire fighters and control staff with accurate information on the location of incidents, effective and secure communications and ensure that the correct equipment is mobilised, ultimately helping to further reduce the number of lives lost to fire.

FireControl will provide the Fire & Rescue Services with significantly enhanced resilience and common functionality using proven technology in a national network. The contract is worth over £200 million over a period of eight years.

Firelink radios will be fitted to all fire appliances in the South East from June 2007 with the last unit going operational in November 2008. The Firelink National Project Manager, Ashley Truluck, recently signed-off 'Milestone 1' which means that the installations can go ahead.

The first Fire & Rescue Service to cut over into the new Regional Control Centre is Hampshire and this is planned for May 2010 with East Sussex cutting over in May 2011 and finally the Isle of Wight and Surrey in Sep 2011.

----- ends -----  
**For more information please contact:**

Allison Gilson, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service  
20 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1EU, Tel: 01323 462388

---

The South East Fire and Rescue Services Regional Management Board is made up of the following nine Fire Authorities: Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Royal Berkshire, Surrey and West Sussex