

## Risk Management

by David Arber

# Closer working for increased safety

David Arber of Redkite Systems gives an update of some of the inroads into the fire and rescue sector made by the company over the past year

### THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN

very busy for all at Redkite Systems, as new UK airports, local authority fire and rescue services and overseas clients have adopted Redkite Systems as their preferred supplier.

Over the past ten years, Redkite Systems have worked closely with the Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Service and have sought advice from the CAA to ensure that the systems we supply to the airport sector meet the needs for CAP 699 and the regulatory requirement to maintain records of tests and inspections of firefighting equipment.

When we started we were told by marketing gurus to expect 'no more than 11 airports' to take up an electronic recording system and, at the time this did seem very likely. I am glad to say however, that the marketing gurus got it wrong! Today, in welcoming Newquay Airport, we supply over 60 licensed UK aerodromes with systems to help manage CAP 699 as well as record tests and inspections carried out on equipment, making Redkite Systems the undisputed market leader in the UK.

Airport firefighting is not restricted to UK airports and over the past 12 months, we have worked at making our products available in different languages for use throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

Working with Luebeck Airport in Germany (part of the Infracore Europe group of airports who also own Kent and Glasgow Prestwick International airports) the systems have been converted to German. Within this group, the Redkite systems are being extended to record training and equipment test and inspections across the whole airport.

In Bolivia, La Paz, Santa Cruz and

Cochabamba, airports have translated and adopted a Spanish version of the system to help standardise practices within the TBI Group which includes London Luton, Cardiff and Belfast International airports.



Receiving an honorary award at the International Airport Fire Protection Association in Abu Dhabi

### Airport RFFS Upgrade to Web-based Tracker CAP 699 System

The recent release of the latest CAP 699 standards has proved to be an excellent opportunity for our Airport Fire and Rescue customers to update their systems. Most of our airport customers have now moved away from the older client-server version of the systems to the latest web-based versions and in doing so have mainly opted for a hosted solution. This is not surprising; the hosted solution sits on our secure server and can be accessed by authorised users via the web browser from any

PC or laptop, located anywhere.

The hosted solution is supplied at the same cost as a non-hosted solution and this has proved attractive to our airport (and local authority) clients, as they do not have to purchase expensive SQL server licences from Microsoft or install and maintain a web server.

### Local Authority

We are pleased to announce that Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service has selected Redkite Systems as its preferred supplier for the Redkite Tracker, Question Master and Equipment Management System. This now means that a total of 14 local authority fire and rescue services have purchased and are now using a Redkite System.

Eight services are using Redkite Tracker for their personal and workforce development, in line with IPDS and nine are using the Redkite Equipment Management System. Four services have purchased both systems. Several other services are currently piloting the Redkite PDS and EMS systems.

### EMS Mobile

Working closely with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, the Redkite EMS Mobile system has been completely overhauled and now uses wireless and/or GPRS to provide dynamic links between the reader and the EMS database. This means that there is no need to upload and download information at the start and end of a shift, as all outcomes of tests and inspections are recorded as and when they happen.

The EMS Mobile system utilises the Psion Workabout Pro reader with the ability to read either barcode or RFID labels and we have worked closely with our colleagues at Ritchey-id plc who have developed a wide range of barcode labels suitable for use within the Fire Service environment.

### IAFPA Conference – Abu Dhabi

Attendance at the International Airport Fire Protection Association (IAFPA) in Abu Dhabi in March proved very beneficial.

Interest from the Fire Safety Engineering College in Oman was converted into our first software sale in the Middle East, and Redkite has welcomed several enquiries from Airports in this region where we hope to develop interest over the coming years.

At the conference I was made an honorary member in recognition of the help and support that Redkite Systems have given to IAFPA over the years.



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