



As an existing APD Co-Ordinator customer, you will be familiar with the operational benefits that APD's Location product suite has to offer; for example the ability to view the current and historical *location* and *status* of all of your resources, the monitoring of resource utilisation and in-depth analysis of post-event information, coupled with a powerful reporting package and links to Third Party systems.

APD is now able to take this concept to the next level and provide even greater benefit by offering customers the ability to share all of this invaluable information with their neighbouring Co-Ordinator users.

In recent times there has been an increased requirement for Emergency Service Organisations to co-operate more closely with their neighbouring counterparts – whether this be from an operational, financial or administrative perspective. At APD we work closely with our Location customers and together we have recognised that significant operational and cost-saving benefit can be achieved through effective cross-border collaboration.

As a result, APD is now able to offer customers the ability to easily share and exchange resource location and status information with neighbouring colleagues.

### Resource Sharing Options

Customers are able to choose the level of collaboration which delivers the maximum benefit.

For some customers this may be the sharing of a limited number of key resources such as armed response vehicles, roads policing units or other shared specialist resources. In this scenario each resource continues to report its location and status information to its "home" ARLS system as normal. Additional functionality at the server side automatically forwards this information to the neighbouring ARLS systems.

Some customers may decide to share resources by geographical location, for example when they cross the border between the two operating areas, or perhaps when they are within 20 miles of the border, or enter an area which is of interest to both organisations.

Again, each resource continues to report to its "home" ARLS system and additional functionality at the server side monitors each resource and automatically forwards information for resources which match the agreed criteria.

For some customers there may be a requirement for whole fleet information to be shared with each other irrespective of type or geographical location - this is also easily achievable with the additional functionality.



### **Ease of Implementation**

Aside from a minor additional administrative activity, the cross-border collaboration solution has been designed to be implemented with the minimum of disruption to normal operations.

There is no need to re-configure mobile resources to send data to different AVL systems – resources continue to function in accordance with their current configurations and the sharing of data is handled by the server-side components of the solution.

The new functionality is achieved by *adding* new components to each of the ARLS systems rather than by *replacing* existing components. This ensures that systems continue to function without impact whilst the new functionality is added and configured.

There are a number of options available to minimise the administrative changes required to implement the sharing of resource information between ARLS system. These vary depending upon the individual deployment characteristics and range from a manual administrative process to a fully integrated and automated administrative process.

The only pre-requisite is that customers provide an inter-site communications link to facilitate the information exchange.

### **Brief Description of Options**

Three levels of integration are offered:-

#### ***All resources shared***

Each ARLS system is configured with a Third Party Interface (TPI) connection and an additional Co-Ordinator AVLS gateway. All resource information is shared by utilising the two new ARLS components.

#### ***Selected resources shared***

As above, but with the addition of a filtering proxy which can be configured to restrict the shared data to those resources which fulfil certain criteria (for example resource type or geographical location).

#### ***Fully automated collaboration***

As above, but with the additional benefit of fully automated administrative functionality. This is achieved by modifying each of the Co-Ordinator databases and sharing certain tables between the collaborative systems.

Whichever option is selected, customers will not need full re-training as they will already be familiar with the products. A simple technology update is all that is required, keeping costs to a minimum.

### **Contact APD**

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