



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Report Title:	
Thermal Imaging Camera Replacement	
Report to:	Date:
Finance and Investment Board Commissioner's Board Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board London Fire Commissioner	23 June 2022 6 July 2022 26 July 2022
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Report classification: For Decision	
The subject matter for this report deals with the following LFB strategic priorities: Seizing the future Delivering excellence Replacing the Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC's) will allow the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to improve the effectiveness of their service. Replacing the TIC's will allow the LFB to guarantee best value for money whilst ensuring operational efficiency and continuing to provide the best equipment available on the market to the LFB. The Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) is a highly effective and useful tool which can be used to help gather information and assist decision making by Breathing Apparatus (BA) teams and Incident Commanders. TICs can be used to assist in locating casualties, fire, hidden fires or hot spots, identifying heat layers and hot gases, assist in door and compartment entry and resolving cylinder incidents. Five different models of TIC have been identified for extensive testing under a range of conditions to ensure the safety of the fire crews and the public which is paramount. These are the main considerations of the design, build, and operation of the TIC.	
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Not for Publication	

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DECISION-MAKER Please refer to Part 2 report

Executive Summary

Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC's) are an integral and critical item of equipment. They assist the London Fire Brigade (LFB) in providing essential frontline cover to the people of London. The LFB currently has 199 TICs which were introduced to the LFB in 2016 with an agreed life of five years. The current TIC's have passed their end of life and are unable to be maintained for any longer therefore require replacement. The LFB propose to purchase 199 TICs and these will be located on all frontline appliances, the fireboat, and for use within training.

In order to improve operational service/delivery, five different models of TIC's, from four suppliers have been reviewed by both Babcock Critical Services Limited and the LFB to ensure the best TIC is procured. The procurement route is through the 2014 Babcock Vehicles and Equipment contract. The funding is covered within the LFB capital asset replacement programme.

For the London Fire Commissioner

That the London Fire Commissioner approves capital expenditure of up to the amount set out in the Part 2 report for the purposes of purchasing the required replacement TICs and for comprehensive TIC training.

That the London Fire Commissioner delegates authority to the Assistant Director Procurement and Commercial to make the final decision on the purchase of the new TICs.

To note Babcock Critical Services Limited will be responsible for this procurement under the terms of the 2014 Vehicles and Equipment contract on behalf of the London Fire Brigade.

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Babcock Critical Services Limited (BCS) are London Fire Brigade's (LFB's) maintenance and service provider who manage the Vehicles and Equipment contract on behalf of the LFB. This contract was awarded in 2014 and runs until 2035. As part of this contract, BCS replace, service and repair all items listed within the Vehicle and Equipment contract within lifespan profile of each asset.
- 1.2 The LFB TIC asset life is five years, and were due replacement in 2021. However, as a result of the impact of the accelerated Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) asset replacement programme, the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on suppliers and competing priority projects, such as firefighting branches and smoke blockers, a decision was taken to extend the life of the TICs as per the terms of the contract with BCS. A further extension to the life of this asset is

no longer an option as the manufacturer no longer supplies this particular model and they are unable to support them due to lack of available parts, they are therefore beyond economic repair.

- 1.3 The TIC's are required as part of the LFB's essential frontline cover and support their users in the search and rescue for persons, identifying fire spread and aiding safe movement. As well as the above benefits of using a TIC, the footage from a TIC recording at an incident can also be used later by the Fire Investigation Team, to determine where the heat source started and also the Fire Safety Team to assist with enforcement actions.

2 Objectives and Expected Outcomes

- 2.1 The first objective of this proposal is to ensure the provision of TICs meet the required standard. The current cameras are at the end of their serviceable and contracted life and are therefore due for replacement. Due to the demands placed upon the LFB, the replacement TICs must be capable of safe and consistent performance throughout their operational life.
- 2.2 The second objective is to improve the equipment for LFB firefighters. Five different models of camera have been identified for extensive testing under a range of conditions to ensure the safety of the crews and the public which is paramount. These are the main considerations of the design, build, and operation of the TIC. The expected outcome of this proposal will be for all 199 cameras to be replaced with the latest technology and an accompanied specific training programme by financial year 23/24.
- 2.3 The third objective is to mitigate the risk of theft of the TICs. Over the course of the life span of this asset the LFB has suffered approximately £153,000 worth of losses due to theft of TICs. Whilst mitigations have been put in place at station level such as the provision of a secure locker on fire appliances, suppliers have been invited as part of the tender process to recommend additional security measure to prevent theft of this high value item.
- 2.4 To maximise the understanding and capabilities of the new TIC, a comprehensive computer-based training package (CBT) will be required. This CBT will be rolled out to all operational staff through a mandatory training session and absorbed into the Development and Maintenance of Operational Professionalism (DaMOP) training cycle to ensure currency and familiarisation. This is included in the project budget figures.

3 Collaboration

- 3.1 As part of a collaborative approach, LFB in consultation with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service are working together to share the costs involved in practical evaluation to reduce the costs. The joint approach also allows for essential staff to share thoughts and experiences on potential TIC options between the two brigades and discuss common difficulties and solutions and should be seen as an opportunity to learn from each other and develop ideas.

4. Equality comments

- 4.1 The LFC and the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience are required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) when taking decisions. This in broad terms involves understanding the potential impact of policy and decisions on different people, taking this into account and then evidencing how decisions were reached.
- 4.2 It is important to note that consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty is not a one-off task. The duty must be fulfilled before taking a decision, at the time of taking a decision, and after the decision has been taken.
- 4.3 The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination), race (ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex, and sexual orientation.
- 4.4 The Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision-takers in the exercise of all their functions, to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
 - foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 4.5 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic where those disadvantages are connected to that characteristic
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
 - encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 4.6 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 4.7 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- tackle prejudice
 - promote understanding.
- 4.8 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. It is anticipated that the review and replacement of the Thermal imaging camera will have an overall positive impact on

operational staff groups from trainee firefighter through to station officer and there are no anticipated adverse impacts.

- 4.9 In addition, the Babcock Critical Services Limited contract requires Babcock Critical Services Limited and any sub-contractor they may engage, to conform to equality legislation and LFB equalities protocol. Babcock Critical Services Limited also assess all of their providers approach to equality and ensure they are satisfied that they meet appropriate protocols, prior to them listing those companies as approved providers. Therefore, it is considered that there is an appropriate approach to equalities through the supply chain in respect of this procurement.

5. Other Considerations

Workforce comments

- 5.1 Representative bodies have been involved throughout this project. Trade Unions have been invited to all parts of the evaluations and end users have been approached for their feedback on all of the options available. The trade unions were provided with this report in advance of the Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board meeting on 26 July 2022.

Sustainability comments

- 5.2 The existing TIC's will either be resold or recycled by Babcock Critical Services Limited under the provisions of the 2014 Vehicle and Equipment Contract. The disposal process will fulfil LFB obligations under the Environmental Duty of Care Regulations and if the equipment is to be scrapped, or broken up for parts, the Vehicle and Equipment Contractor will provide full details relating to the disposal of the component parts and will ensure that the Authority's obligations are documented and adhered to.
- 5.3 FEP2237, the 2014 vehicles and equipment contract with Babcock Critical Services Limited provides for the capital replacement of fleet and equipment throughout the contract period of 21 years. Under the contract, Babcock Critical Services Limited procure the new vehicles and equipment and replace the existing assets at their life expiry. Babcock Critical Services Limited have policies in place relating to anti-slavery, sustainability, and anti-corruption and this is done in accordance with the specifications and approvals issued by the LFB.
- 5.4 A technical Sustainability Development Impact Assessment will be completed once the new item of equipment has been chosen.

Procurement comments

- 5.5 BCS are responsible for the procurement of vehicles and equipment as set out in the 2014 Vehicles and Equipment contract with Babcock Critical services Limited. The draft procurement strategy for the TIC Assets was shared and approved by LFBs Procurement and Commercial team. Specific comments covering the source of the components and the ongoing availability of spare parts to support repairs to the TICs were included together with confirming the overall evaluation of price and technical aspects of the final submissions. Initially BCS issued a request for quotation based on LFBs requirements. Four suppliers were

identified as being able to offer a product which met these requirements. To ensure the optimal product was selected a request for proposal, including a detailed requirement specification, was issued to these suppliers. Desktop evaluations have taken place, which will be followed by practical evaluations. It has been agreed with Procurement and Commercial that the initial desktop scores will be reviewed following the trials to ensure the final score reflects both aspects. The successful supplier, to be awarded the contract, will be the one with highest overall score combining both technical, quality and price using whole life cost as stated in the evaluation criteria.

Financial comments

- 5.6 This report is requesting the approval to commit capital expenditure up to the amount set out in part two of this report for the purchase of replacement TICs.
- 5.7 The capital programme has an approved budget in 2022/2023 for the purchase of TICs.
- 5.8 The capital budget is funded through capital receipts and borrowing. The cost of borrowing is made up of minimum revenue provision; and is based on the asset life per year, and interest on borrowing assuming a rate of 2.5 per cent per year. The cost of borrowing to fund the capital programme is reflected in the revenue budget.

Legal comments

- 5.9 Under section 9 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the London Fire Commissioner (the "Commissioner") is established as a corporation sole with the Mayor appointing the occupant of that office. Under section 327D of the GLA Act 1999, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the Mayor may issue to the Commissioner specific or general directions as to the manner in which the holder of that office is to exercise his or her functions.
- 5.10 By direction dated 1 April 2018, the Mayor set out those matters, for which the Commissioner would require the prior approval of either the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience (the "Deputy Mayor").
- 5.11 Paragraph (b) of Part 2 of the said direction requires the Commissioner to seek the prior approval of the Deputy Mayor before "[a] commitment to expenditure (capital or revenue) of £150,000 or above as identified in accordance with normal accounting practices...". The decision to purchase new thermal imaging cameras will therefore require approval from the Deputy Mayor.
- 5.12 The proposed recommendation is also for the Commissioner to delegate authority to the Assistant Director Procurement and Commercial to make final decision regarding the purchase of the thermal imaging cameras referred to in this report which is permitted under Part 4 of the LFC Scheme of Governance.
- 5.13 The statutory basis for the actions proposed in this report is provided by sections 7 and 5A of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 ("FRSA 2004"). Section 7 (2)(a) FRSA 2004 the Commissioner has the power to secure the provision of personnel, services and equipment necessary to efficiently meet all normal requirements for firefighting and section 5A allows

the Commissioner to procure personnel, services and equipment they consider appropriate for purposes incidental or indirectly incidental to their functional purposes.

- 5.14 The report confirms the provision of the thermal imaging cameras will be secured via an existing contract with Babcock Critical Services, which was tendered compliantly in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations.

List of Appendices

Appendix	Title	Open or confidential
1.	None	Open or confidential*

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – YES