

Press Release – February 2005

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR FIRE MONITORING

February 2005: New Zealand's Fire Service and ADT have announced new technology to monitor commercial fire alarms and sprinkler systems throughout New Zealand.

ADT has been awarded the contract to establish and administer the technology to over 12,000 commercial sites.

"We recognised that the existing monitoring system could not be supported as the technology was becoming outdated and new technologies were required to upgrade the service. This prompted the Fire Service to approach the market seeking new options." said Dr Paula Beever, Fire Service Director, Fire Risk Management.

The fire alarm and sprinkler systems, attached to the Fire Service Control rooms, will be monitored by the new ADT technology which can interface with communications systems such as GPRS, PSTN, CDMA and radio communication.

"We will receive more detailed and relevant information, which will result in a more appropriate level of response to call out. For example, we will be better able to assess the severity of the incident and consequently the number of appliances required," said Dr Beever.

The new system will be progressively introduced from July 1, 2005, a process that will take between 12 and 18 months. The changeover will be managed by a joint team of Fire Service and ADT personnel.

ADT is the largest independent fire monitoring company in Australia. It has successfully operated the system selected for New Zealand with fire authorities across three Australian States for two years.

ADT's General Manager, Ken Pascoe, said that the benefits of the new technology were the application of an efficient and cost effective monitoring system.

"The reduction in monitoring costs his will be passed directly back to building owners. This is a win-win for the Fire Service and its customers."

Dr Beever said the new system could provide information far superior to that which the Fire Service was currently receives. This would allow the service to better utilise its resources.

“Fire and sprinkler monitoring is a risky business, and there is no room for error. We needed to work with a company that could prove its system and its service. ADT has done this.” said Dr Beever.

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