

From: Project team UIFS Amsterdam

Regarding: Questions & Answers (Q&A) with regards to establishment Unified Industrial Fire Services Amsterdam

Date: 22 January 2019

Version: 1.0

By way of this Q&A, we will try to provide you with answers with regards to some important topics about the decision of your commitment to the initiative of the Gezamenlijke Brandweer Amsterdam, or GBA, in English dubbed the Unified Industrial Fire Services Amsterdam, or UIFSA. If there are any questions that remain unanswered by this document, you can undoubtedly contact the project team:

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Q1: What does the UIFSA-initiative entail and what will the unit provide the companies?

A1: The initiative entails designing and building a multidisciplinary safety center aimed at heightening the safety in and around the Westpoort port area in Amsterdam. In the first phase of this process, an emergency service unit will be realized, aimed at commanding and controlling industrial fires, spills, and calamities. This unit will consist of different industrial vehicles and will have a manpower of at least six persons who are available for turnout 24/7. Companies that are a member of this multidisciplinary center will receive (among other things) the following in return for their membership:

- a specialized industrial emergency services unit with a fast turnout time;
- yearly trainings of the unit on the company's site;
- yearly orientations of the unit on the company's site;
- feedback on the plans of the corporate emergency services;
- support in testing safety installations, like fire water mains.

Q2: What tasks and responsibilities can individual companies transfer to the UIFSA?

A2: Companies are responsible for keeping up an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) organization conform the Labor Conditions Act, made up of several trained Emergency Response Officers. In Dutch, this would be called a BHV-organization. The obligation to uphold such an organization will not change when the new safety center is instated. With additions to the OHS services, the execution can be transferred to the multidisciplinary safety center. Commonly used terms for such additions to the OHS are (non-exhaustive): "OHS+", "First Responder Teams", and "voluntarily instated" or "non-appointed corporate fire brigade".

When a company is appointed to uphold a corporate fire brigade (conform Dutch article 31 of the Safety Authorities Act), the execution of the corporate fire care can be transferred to the UIFSA. The company in question remains legally liable for the corporate fire brigade appointment. For companies that do not desire to keep up any additional OHS services, participation in the UIFSA is a possibility to enhance their Emergency Response and continuity management to better protect their personnel, their environment and their personal assets.

Q3: Who will direct the UIFSA and what are the costs for the corporate collective?

A3: UIFSA will be designed like a Public Private Partnership (PPP), in which the Amsterdam fire brigade, the Port of Amsterdam, and the Amsterdam industry will work together. The PPP will be directed by a board of six members: two representatives from the Amsterdam

municipality/Amsterdam-Amstelland Safety Authority, two from the Port of Amsterdam and two from the Amsterdam companies.

Q4: How long will a company have to commit itself?

A4: The goal of the UIFSA initiative is structural presence in the port area, without an end date. A company that signs up for the UIFSA commits itself for a period of 2 to 5 years, dependent on the needs of the company to be secured of the service provision.

Q5: How do individual companies participate in the PPP and how will they be represented?

A5: A separate legal entity will be established of which individual companies will become a member. Additionally, the companies that are a member of the current AMAS will join this entity. The legal entity will become a member of the UIFSA and provide two representatives for the UIFSA-board. Moreover, the entity will financially bind itself to 33% of the yearly exploitation-budget. The individual companies will provide their financial contribution to this joint entity.

Q6: How does the financial allocation for the unified companies work?

A6: Companies contribute a joint 33% to the yearly exploitation-budget of the UIFSA. Assuming an indicative exploitation-budget of 2.5 to 3 million euros, this will result in a total contribution of 833.000 to 1.000.000 euros.

Q7: How does the financial allocation for individual companies work?

A7: For the companies, a contribution model has been designed based on 3 levels:

- € 20.000 a year for companies with a basic-industrial preparatory effort (module 1)
- € 55.000 a year for companies with a regular-industrial preparatory effort (module 2)
- € 90.000 a year for companies with a regular-industrial preparatory effort and also a corporate fire brigade appointment (conform article 31) (module 2 +3)

These contributions have been capped for the first two years. The here presented model is a proposal from the project-group. The cooperating companies can choose to design a different contribution model, just as long as the total contribution remains at 33%.

Q8: How are entrants to the UIFSA handled?

A8: The financial allocation of the unified companies assumes a maximum contribution to the yearly exploitation of $1/3 = € 1.000.000$. This amount is divided into a number of units. The number of units that a company contributes is dependent on the modules that are applicable to the company in question. Dividing the yearly exploitation contribution by the number of units results in a price per unit. New entrants to the UIFSA will increase the number of units, which will cause the price per unit to drop. This means that the contribution of individual companies will drop with new entrants.

Q9: How are resignations from the UIFSA handled?

A9: For the workings of the financial allocation model, we refer you to Q&A 7 and 8. Those who resign from the UIFSA will drop the number of units, and thus will cause a rise in price. Resignation is limitedly possible, because members are asked to commit to the initiative for a period of 2 or 5 years. To protect those participating in the UIFSA from the rise in cost that can come from resignations, each (combination) module has determined capped contribution amounts for the first two years, as shown in Q&A 7.

Q10: Will member companies be prioritized in the case of multiple simultaneous alarms?

A10: The UIFSA will turn out to all requests for assistance based on the 'first call' principle. Statistics from the Amsterdam-Amstelland Safety Authority, or AA-SA, show that a so-called 'simultaneity' happens on average once every 1.5 years. Dependent on the need for

assistance, the deployment is differentiated. This way, there is a choice to deploy fewer personnel for a smaller incident type in the public space. Moreover, by means of redistribution, long term deployment of the basic firefighting service can be handed over to a regular unit of the Amsterdam-Amstelland Safety Authority. UIFSA will be deployed within the operational confines of the Amsterdam-Amstelland Safety Authority and the alarm and communication lines of the Alarm Response Centre of the AA-SA. Thus, the employability and fire station order in case of alarm and redistribution is always guaranteed.

Q11: Is there a possibility of ‘free-rider behavior’ and how will this be handled?

A11: the term ‘free-rider behavior’ is used with regards to companies that receive more services than what they pay for. It is desirable that there is little to no ‘free-rider behavior’ within the UIFSA-initiative. A port and industrial area, aside from companies with special risks that require special preparation, also has companies that have no need to arrange special operational fire safety. Additionally, it is possible that these companies don’t feel the need from a continuity standpoint to put in some extra effort. When a fire or a calamity happens, these companies have a right to governmentally organized fire care. To provide this service, the Amsterdam-Amstelland Safety Authority takes part in this initiative and contributes its 1/3 share to the yearly exploitation. The group of companies that do not participate, but do receive assistance from the UIFSA during calamities is then not a free riding group; there is explicitly a different way of financing, through the contribution of the Amsterdam-Amstelland Safety Authority. The paying participants will receive extra services for their contribution. See Q&A 1.

Q12: Can the (so-called) “AMAS-materials” be made available for all companies that join UIFSA?

A12: The AMAS-materials is aimed at combatting and controlling large liquid surface fires like tank fire scenarios. This requires large amounts of water and foaming agents deployed with heavy-duty pumps and monitors. This has some pros and some cons. A pro: a lot of water brings a lot of extinguishing capacity. A con: a lot of extinguishing water requires proper storage capacities on a site and comes with some logistical challenges. For now, the AMAS-materials will remain exclusively available to the current AMAS-companies, and will be paid for by this group. Should it become evident that these materials can be beneficial for other participants, we can find a way to have them financially contribute to the acquisition, storage and maintenance of the materials.

Q13: What is the intended location of the UIFSA?

A13: We can say with near certainty that the location of the UIFSA will be the Galwin near Amsterdam (near highway A5, exit 3). This location secures the fastest turnout time for the largest group of companies.