

Concept Note: Sustainable Funding for ICMS

Introduction

The INSARAG Coordination Management System (ICMS) plays a vital role in enhancing coordination capabilities within the INSARAG network, reinforcing the core principle that “Coordination Saves Lives.” To ensure the continued development, maintenance, and operational effectiveness of ICMS, a stable and sustainable funding model is essential.

Strategic Importance

ICMS has been recognized by the INSARAG Secretariat and members as a key strategic function, significantly strengthening the INSARAG network’s operational effectiveness. The implementation of a sustainable funding model will ensure that ICMS remains an efficient and globally supported coordination tool for disaster response. The Team Leaders, Co-Chairs of the Working Groups and INSARAG Secretariat recognize the need for funding and support the proposal as written below.

Proposal

To secure sustainable funding for ICMS over the next five years, it is proposed that all teams purchase an ICMS license at a cost of €7.500,- per team for a 5-year period. It is also possible to choose for a 5-year contract with a yearly payment. Thanks to the generous sponsoring of Esri for their products in combination with the volunteer development and maintenance work, this amount reflects a great cost reduction.

The license fee will cover:

- Full access to ICMS and its features
- Development of new versions and maintenance of ICMS
- Online training modules
- Development of Face-to-face training courses
- Operational support from the IMWG Technical Support Team during major deployments

Process

In order to facilitate the license fee payment, NED-01 has been asked by the Secretariat to act as Treasurer of the funds. It is not possible for the Secretariat to facilitate this themselves due to internal rules and regulations. NED-01 has been asked to do this due to their past commitments to the development and maintenance of ICMS and due to the financial and accountancy knowledge and experience within their team.

NED-01 will coordinate the following process:

1. A letter will be sent to all INSARAG members (PFPs, OFPs and TFPs) explaining the licensing requirement, along with a contract that needs to be filled in, signed and returned. The contract will not only provide the appropriate billing information for a team, but will also form the legal basis for the payment and invoicing. There will be a choice to pay in one upfront payment or to pay yearly.
2. Upon receiving the signed contract, NED-01 will ensure that an invoice will be sent to the team.
3. Payments should be made before 01-09-2025 to ensure continuation of a team's access to the system and will cover the years 2025-2030. If yearly payments will be made, the initial payment need to be done before 01-09-2025 and then the additional payments should be made before 31-12 each year, including in 2025.
4. The contract will be a commitment for payment for a 5 year license of ICMS. At year 4 a new contract will be sent to secure payment for the next 5 years of licensing.
5. The administration of the licensing funds must comply with the policies (terms and conditions) and accountability standards of USAR.NL and its governing body. This is including a yearly accountants audit and regular reporting. The ISG will receive a yearly report.

Conclusion

A sustainable funding model is critical to maintaining and enhancing ICMS. By implementing this license-based funding structure, IMWG can continue to provide high-quality coordination tools, training, and operational support, reinforcing INSARAG's mission to save lives through effective coordination.