

ICMS Sustainable Funding Model: Q+A Factsheet

Q1: Will teams that cannot pay the license fee be unable to use ICMS? If so, will this limit the number of teams that can use ICMS and make the concept described here untenable?

A1: The licenses for ICMS should be seen as an essential tool in order to be able to function effectively as a USAR team. Without this tool, the effectiveness of the coordination is drastically reduced. This is just a very small investment compared to the costs of having a USAR team (cost of ownership), so it shouldn't be an issue to be able to cover this amount. If a team has a sponsor to finance their USAR team, then these costs can also be covered by the sponsor.

Q2: If only a few teams pay the license fee, the system will not be sustainable and may eventually fail. What do you think on that point?

A2: One of the guiding principles of INSARAG is increasing effectiveness and saving more lives through coordination. Therefore it goes without saying that the network should be in favor of and support the most important coordination tool. If the network doesn't pay the fees, then there is no coordination system.

Q3: Is the license fee charged only to classified teams? Can non-classified teams use the system without payment?

A3: All classified and IRNAP teams within the INSARAG network should pay for their access to the system. This includes teams that are seeking a classification. They not only need this for deployment, but also for training their teams. Other non-classified, non-IRNAP teams will be granted limited access or shared licenses with limited functionality. They of course have the choice to also pay for a license to gain full access.

Other teams not connected to the network that respond to an event will receive limited (in time and access) licenses at the RDC. This is advantageous for INSARAG because it allows these teams to gather information that we can then use for a more complete situational overview. After the event these licenses will be rescinded.

Q4: The term “contract” is used, but is it supposed to have flexibility according to the circumstances of the member institutions, for example, based on an MOU, or a membership fee/participation fee for participating in a network, etc?’

A4: It's important for both the treasury function and to the teams to have a legal basis for the payment of the license fee. A clause can be added into the contract that allows for flexibility in the obligations: for example, if a team has been disbanded or is no longer a part of the network. A (network) license fee should fall under the same accounting categorization as a participation fee.

Q5: What costs will be covered by the license fee?

A5. As communicated and published, in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the IMWG, the following (estimated) costs will be covered by the license fee:

Costs	Yearly	
Esri accounts, other licensing fees, administration fees, accountants	€65k	
Development Costs (ICMS 3.0 + help desk solutions including support during a disaster)	€20k	
Updates, continual development of current systems, integration of new technologies and solutions related to Information Management	€5k	
Total 5 years	€90k <i>5-year Period</i>	€450k

Accountability and transparency will be ensured through regular reporting to the INSARAG Secretariat and the ISG. In addition to the reports, a yearly control will be exercised by an accredited accountant.