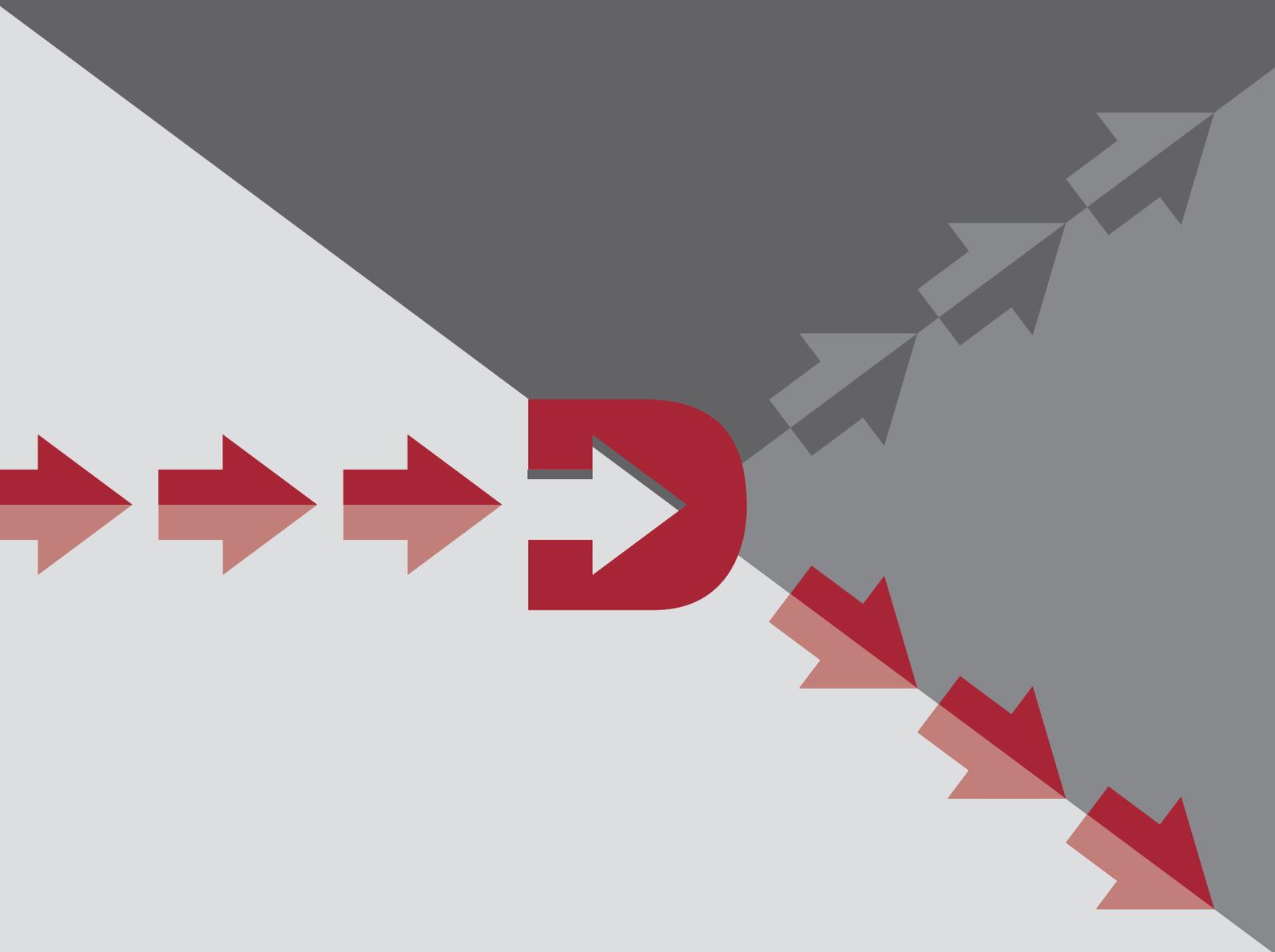


Emergency Responder Data Interoperability Network



REDIRNET

Project overview

The call for greater cooperation and interoperability between different emergency services at scenes of major crisis events has been present for some time. With the increasing level of complexities of events and the greater developed specialisms of experts this need for interoperability will continue to grow and require more effective communication and information exchange - facilitated and supported by a range of sophisticated modern technologies and IT systems.

The REDIRNET consortium offers public safety agencies the ability to interconnect their communication infrastructures and systems regardless of state borders and free of charge via a 'REDIRNET' gateway. The concept of free and secure communication interoperability connections originated from the FREESIC project; REDIRNET will provide a significant extension of interoperability capability to wider IT systems such as different databases, images and remote sensor data.

The REDIRNET concept is based on the unification of a meta-data interface with socio-professional networking where an agency can configure all the attributes of their interoperability with selected partner agencies.



Basic characteristic

Despite the ever present need for effective multi-agency interoperability between emergency organisations its implementation has been hindered for various reasons not only because of incompatibility of different communications systems but including security and regulatory concerns, budgetary considerations and procedural differences between agencies.

The approach being adopted by the REDIRNET consortium is unique in that that it will not represent a threat to existing contract and service provisioning arrangements with existing suppliers – but will complement and enhance these existing agreements.

REDIRNET will provide a platform, configuration interfaces and a generic system gateway (open source) that can be modified by agency integrators to connect their system to this platform.

The REDIRNET core infrastructure will be designed to operate on free operating systems (e.g. Linux) and the interfaces will be public (open source code); this approach will reduce financial concerns - a common and understandable challenge for agencies today.

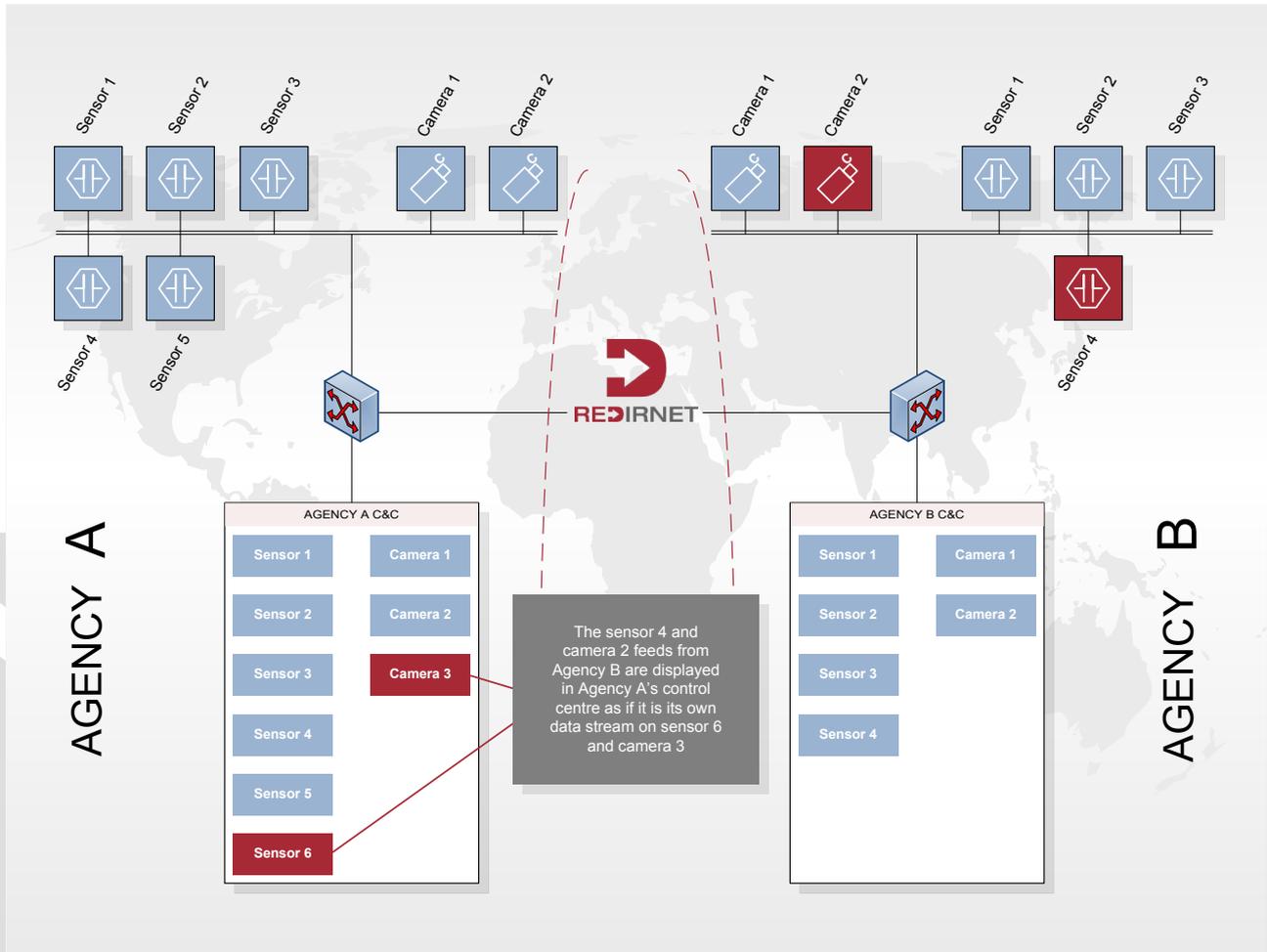
The security aspect

The REDIRNET platform is based on a solution which is designed and tested for highly secure communications. REDIRNET will inherit the security capabilities of the FREESIC platform and develop new features and modules enabling interoperability of access to data fields and streams. Principal non-technical barriers (regulatory, security, financial & procedural) have been identified following consultations with many public safety agencies across Europe and will be accommodated in the final solution.

Practical solution

The REDIRNET interface and platform will be built as an extension of the FREESIC gateway with the addition of data interoperability. By using the REDIRNET platform agencies can control which data fields are visible to other partners; also each agency will have the ability to search and browse profiles of other agencies and where the operational need exists request interoperability linkage simply in one click.

In addition to Agencies being able to link up to partner agencies as operationally required they will also be able to manage the scope of such interoperability. REDIRNET will provide a Common Meta-Data Gateway combined with a collaboration networking system where each agency can set the visibility and controllability of its data per partner agency and per data field.



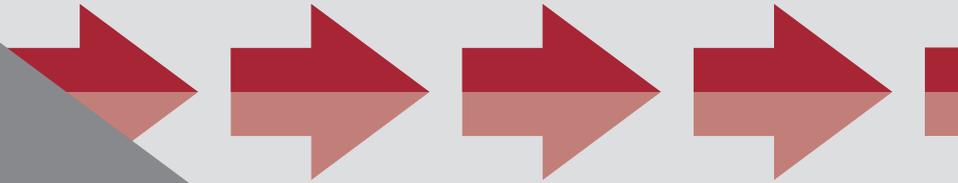
Following agreement for interoperability between Agency A and B, Agency B is offering a data stream from Sensor 4 and Camera 2 to Agency A. This data stream is received in Agency A's control room on its own sensor 6 and camera 3 positions and can be passed to Agency A's deployed officers in accordance with their procedures and device capabilities.

Results

The REDIRNET project introduces a system that provides seamless interoperability for participating agencies at virtually 'nil cost' yet it offers great flexibility (as regards what data can be available to partner agencies) via a REDIRNET socio-professional web. This level of interoperability offers emergency service agencies a more effective response to major crisis incidents that ultimately can lead to enhanced safety and security of the public across Europe.

This project aims technically to provide a communication solution involving information exchange between agencies in terms of voice, data, images, video, CCTV and remote sensor information. All these features will be developed with an emphasis on security of transmitted data in a user-friendly, ease of integration and costs-effective solution.

Consortium members



www.redirnet.eu

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