



The RESPOND-A project tests various innovative technologies for First Responders in Greece

On 22 September 2022, the RESPOND-A project organised its 1st pilot in Egaleo, near Athens. The exercise, led by the National Centre of Scientific Research “Demokritos”, gathered 43 participants including local practitioners from across Europe, with the aim of testing technologies that enhance the safety and operational capabilities of first responders. As a research and development project, pilots are key events in the project’s development as they allow technical providers to test and receive feedback on their solutions. The following technologies have been tested during the pilot:

- 5G Mobile Base Station
- Thermal Camera with 5G connectivity
- Sensorized Vest (wearable sensors)
- Triage System
- Mission Critical Communications (MCX)
- Autonomous ground and aerial vehicles
- Network Security
- Indoor tracking system
- Mobile Command and Control center
- Situational Awareness and Common Operational Picture Applications

These are only a portion of the technologies developed within RESPOND-A. More details about the full range of RESPOND-A products & services are available [on this page](#).

The pilot scenario simulated a strong earthquake in Athens and its vicinity causing panic amongst local residents. Power cuts and a series of communication problems occur as a result as well as the the partial collapse of a building and in an evolving fire in the damaged facility. This complex emergency scenario required cooperation between multiple agencies to conduct search and rescue operations and manage the fire.

Overall, the 5G mobile station and network security allowed to maintain secure communications between the command center and the first responders throughout the operation. The use of sensors and smart wearables gave Crisis Managers the ability to seamlessly track first responders while monitoring their health status during the operation. Finally, the autonomous ground and aerial vehicles deployed provided crisis managers with relevant and up to date information about the disaster, thereby maximizing their situation awareness and providing a common operational picture of the incident.

Two additional pilots will take place until the end of the project, around summer 2023. One in Cyprus on October 19th and featuring a forest fire scenario. The other in Valencia, Spain in February 2023.

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