

Media release: 30 August 2017

## **New technology supporting Australia's emergency management training and response**

Australia's leading emergency management conference, **AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ**, will showcase new technologies and demonstrate live rescue techniques; while expert local and international speakers will present the latest emergency management research at the International Convention Centre Sydney from 4 - 7 September 2017.

Embracing the benefits of collaboration, this year's conference will see emergency management leaders converge to learn about the latest technology, research, and techniques, as well as view live demonstrations of road crash rescues and virtual reality training.

**The FLAIM Trainer™**, a virtual reality (VR) firefighter training simulator created by Deakin University, combines industry standard equipment with innovative technology to create a realistic training scenario for future firefighters. The training experience utilises the patented haptics (touch technology) feedback system in a lifelike emergency situation, combined with the reality of the heavy-weight uniform including the breathing apparatus and personal protective clothing with heat generation components.

James Mullins, Associate Professor of Defence Robotics, Deakin University, commented on this revolutionary training tool for firefighters.

"It's vital we use next generation technologies to solve real world problems. The FLAIM Trainer enables us to replicate real emergency situations and scenarios in a safer and more cost effective way than traditional training techniques.

"Exploring new applications of technology is vital to ensure firefighters across Australia continue to have the highest standards of education, training and knowledge to safely assist during times of emergency," said Assoc. Prof Mullins.

Attendees will have the opportunity to witness multiple live demonstrations. **The Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO)**, road crash rescue experts, will demonstrate a new rescue technique to release legs trapped by compression, it was developed in New Zealand, and is showcasing in Australia for the first time.

Safety is paramount for fire and emergency service workers and the rise in residential solar power to over 1.6 million homes in Australia presents a new risk for responders. Solar panels

when exposed to light continue to produce potentially hazardous amounts of DC electricity – creating a ‘DC Danger Zone’ for firefighters. AFAC17 will feature a live demonstration from **PVStop**, an innovative fire retardant solution that drops solar panels voltage to zero and removes the risk of solar panel explosions, maintaining the safety of emergency responders.

Also on show will be a new **DSPA Fire Suppression Aerosol**, an underwater fire suppression unit primarily used for marine fires. Even when fully submerged in water, the DSPA Aerosol is able to put out a fire safely. The fixed system is a safe solution designed for engine bays on all commercial vehicles, including cab and sleeper units, mining, forestry machinery, long haul freightliners and large buses.

AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ, brings together fire and emergency management personnel from Australia and around the world to witness the latest safety techniques and equipment during live demonstrations at the International Convention Centre Sydney, Darling Harbour. Live demonstrations will be on Tuesday 5 September (8:00am-5:00pm) and Wednesday 6 September 2017 (8:00am-3.30pm).

<http://www.afacconference.com.au>

#AFAC17

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#### Notes to Editors:

- **Complimentary media passes are available, apply by sending name, position and publication title to [jessica@zadroagency.com.au](mailto:jessica@zadroagency.com.au)**
- Keynote speakers are available for interviews via the media contacts listed below
- Available for interview on request via media contacts below:
  - James Mullins, Associate Professor of Defence Robotics, Deakin University
  - Stuart Ellis, CEO, Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC)
  - Dr Richard Thornton, CEO, Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC)
  - Harvey Stockbridge, Managing Director, Deutsche Messe

#### Media contacts:

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**About AFAC17:**

**4 - 7 September 2017 | International Convention Centre Sydney**

**Collaborating for Success – Improving performance in emergency management**

Collaborating and improving performance is essential for success in emergency management. Innovating in the face of disruptions and developing our people to successfully manage organisations of the future is a key challenge. Understanding what our people need to deliver and what communities expect is no simple task. Working together is how we will deliver the best results. AFAC17 will focus on how we can work together to improve our performance, what leading the way looks like and who will benefit from our collective effort.

Held over four action-packed days AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ will attract delegates and visitors from emergency and security services agencies, all levels of government, non-government organisations, research and education institutions from Australia and world-wide.

AFAC17 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is a joint venture between the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and Deutsche Messe, trading in Australia as Hannover Fairs Pty Ltd, and is co-produced with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC.

**Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC)**

Website: [www.afaconference.com.au](http://www.afaconference.com.au)

Facebook: [/AFACnews](https://www.facebook.com/AFACnews)

Twitter: [/afacnews](https://twitter.com/afacnews)

LinkedIn: [/australasian-fire-and-emergency-service-authorities-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australasian-fire-and-emergency-service-authorities-council)

Hashtag: [#AFAC17](https://twitter.com/AFAC17)





**afac17**  
powered by **INTERSCHUTZ**

**Images: (High resolution images are available on request)**

1. Associate Prof James Mullins, Defence Robotics, Deakin University



2. AFAC16 powered by INTERSCHUTZ show floor

