

DRAFT RELEASE

## **ALARMING NEW TECHNOLOGY**

**February, 2005** : The Fire Service and ADT have jointly announced that ADT has been awarded the contract to establish and administer an upgraded system for managing New Zealand's commercial fire alarm and sprinkler systems which are connected to the Fire Service control rooms.

This fire protection service currently extends to over 12,000 sites throughout New Zealand.

ADT will establish a new division in New Zealand, called ADT Fire Monitoring to implement and manage the new system.

Fire Service director fire risk management, Dr Paula Beever, said the benefits of the new monitoring system were the application of an advanced system which had already proven itself for fire services and ADT in Australia, as well as lower monitoring costs for building owners and managers.

"We recognised the existing monitoring system could not be supported and new technologies were required to upgrade the service. This prompted the Fire Service to approach the market seeking new options.

"In the ADT system we have new and proven technology which can interface with a raft of communications systems (including GPRS, PSTN, CDMA and radio communication). It will provide additional relevant data to control rooms and be a more cost-effective solution for building owners.

"The benefits of the reduced cost of new technology will be passed directly back to building owners.

"This is a win-win for the Fire Service and its customers."

She said the new system would provide information far superior to that which the Fire Service was currently receives. This would allow the service to better utilise its resources.

"We will receive more detailed and relevant information, which will result in more appropriate level of response to call out. For example we will be better able to assess the severity of the incident and consequently the number of appliances required."

ADT is the largest independent fire monitoring company in Australia. It has successfully operated the system selected for New Zealand with fire authorities across three Australian States for two years.

Dr Beever said the Fire Service had seen the new system in operation and had talked to the fire authorities who use it.

“Fire and sprinkler monitoring is a risky business, and there is no room for error. We needed to work with a company that could prove its system and its service. ADT has done this.

The new system will be progressively introduced from July 1, 2005, a process that will take between 12 and 18 months. The changeover will be managed by a joint team of Fire Service and ADT personnel.

General Manager for ADT New Zealand, Ken Pascoe said ADT highly valued the Fire Service contract.

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