



PRESS RELEASE

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SDI Web Application Provides FDNY On-Line Accountability Capability

(May 18, 2011) Systems Definition, Inc. (SDI) deployed the “Electronic BF-4” web application to deliver an on-line tour staffing capability for the Fire Department New York City (FDNY) to support FDNY strategic objectives to apply electronic/digital technologies to Firefighter locator efforts.

The EBF-4 application replaces the paper-based “riding list” (known as the “BF-4” form) that FDNY Officers fill out by hand for each tour’s staffing plan. The paper-based BF-4 approach lacks a streamlined way to aggregate FDNY staffing data for Firefighters and Officers working each tour. With more than 11,000 active Firefighters and Officers, the twice daily tour shifts across each FDNY Company involve large-scale personnel change-overs. FDNY personnel can access the EBF-4 application from any Department computer.

The EBF-4 web application is built upon commercial software technologies including Adobe Flex, Java technologies, and Oracle components. Bart Posselt, SDI Web Technologies Manager, stated that “The EBF-4 application is an easy-to-use tool that provides immediate information identifying personnel on a tour. Because the application is tied into FDNY dispatch resources, it also identifies which personnel are at a given incident. We were fortunate to work with a great FDNY and Naval Research Laboratory team to develop very specific, high-value features.”

The EBF-4 project is an offshoot of FDNY’s strategic objective to develop an electronic Firefighter Locator System. Under an innovative teaming arrangement, FDNY tapped the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC to investigate technologies with potential value to FDNY accountability efforts. Working with the Naval Research Laboratory, SDI developed the EBF-4 application along with a demonstration Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system currently installed in five FDNY Engine, Ladder, and Rescue Company rigs in Queens, NY. This on-going effort is evaluating applicability of commercial RFID technologies to firefighter accountability. The intent of the RFID project is to link the EBF-4 with active RFID tags installed in firefighter protective gear—detected by an RFID reader aboard the fire apparatus—to automatically identify firefighters responding to incidents.

SDI is a privately held small business located in Alexandria, VA, serving government and private industry with focused and innovative software application development and technical services.

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