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## PRESS RELEASE #8

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### **FIDAL Innovation Event: Beyond 5G solutions for PPDR**

The FIDAL Innovation Event took place on **13 March 2026 in Aschaffenburg, Germany**, following the successful completion of a large-scale pilot trial conducted under the [European Critical Communication System \(EUCCS\) Programme](#). The trial brought together first responders, technical experts, and high-level representatives from across 15 European countries. Building on this momentum, the FIDAL Innovation Event gathered over 60 participants, providing an opportunity to present selected Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) solutions developed within the FIDAL project.

Following an introductory presentation on the project, [Satways Ltd.](#) lead of **FIDAL Use Case 2** presented a solution focused on the use of **Digital Twins for first responders**.

The solution was designed to support firefighter during wildfire scenarios through the use of 5G-enabled devices. These technologies provide early detection of fire and reliable, continuous communication between the field and the command centre.

The presentation included a practical demonstration held at the Aschaffenburg football stadium, involving Italian firefighters as part of the demo which showcased several operational capabilities which were livestreamed to the participants:

- Live communication with the operational area
- Real-time communication through camera feeds connected to the control room
- Early detection of smoke signals
- Real-time location mapping
- Monitoring of interactions with first responders

The event continued with presentations of three solutions developed by third-party entities from Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom, awarded funding through the **FIDAL cascading funding opportunities in 2025**. These projects focused on PPDR and emergency and time-critical applications:

- **ReDrone5G** (presented by the [Norwegian University of Science and Technology](#)) on advanced systems for the real-time remote control of drones using 5G connectivity.
- **Dark5G** (presented by [Rinicom](#)) portable 5G network solution designed to restore communication in underground disaster scenarios, such as subways and tunnels.
- **SafeXCity** (presented by the [Instituto de telecomunicações](#)): a technology aimed at enhancing the safety of vulnerable road users in urban environments through the use of timely digital applications and services.

The event concluded with a panel discussion involving the speakers and one of the firefighters who participated in the Use Case 2 live demonstration. The discussion highlighted several key points:

From a **research perspective**, participants emphasized the need to reflect the operational needs and collection of feedback of practitioners. Close coordination with entities responsible for public communication networks was also identified as essential.

From an **industry perspective**, while advancing technology remains a priority, the continuous involvement of end-users throughout the development process is critical. This approach helps build trust, strengthens collaboration, and ensures ongoing feedback across the technology lifecycle.

From a **user perspective**, participants stressed that communication capabilities must be available at all times and in all locations, which are requirements that are not yet fully satisfied. They emphasized that ongoing research and innovation should be guided by this fundamental operational need.

Overall, future technologies designed for PPDR practitioners must prioritize simple, reliable, and resilient communication. These objectives are central to the work being carried out under the EUCCS Preparation Programme at the pan-European level and projects such as FIDAL play an important role in contributing towards its long-term goal in shaping the future of critical communications.

Resources from the event can be found [HERE](#)

