**Leading public safety organisation backs Control Room Awards**

**Press release**

**December 11, 2017**

An organisation representing public safety communications professionals has thrown its weight behind the first national awards to celebrate unsung heroes within emergency services and other critical control operations.

The British Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (British APCO) is backing the Control Room Awards launched by APD Communications, a company specialising in mission critical, life-saving solutions for the emergency services.

The awards are the first to recognise the life-changing work of control room staff across the emergency services in their day-to-day duties, often dealing with harrowing and distressing situations.

A not-for-profit, membership organisation, British APCO is the leading UK-based association for everybody who uses public safety communications and IT.

Launched in 1993, British APCO works to increase public safety by the development of technology and sharing of ideas throughout the public safety and critical communications community.

Ian Thompson, Chief Executive of British APCO, who will join the judging panel of the Control Room Awards, said: “We’re thrilled to support these fantastic awards. Many of our members hail from a control room environment and we’re very keen to highlight the incredible work they do.

“When we heard about the APD Control Room Awards our Board of Directors were very eager to lend our support as it’s a cause very close to our hearts.

“Often we focus on the technology in control room environments, but it’s vital to remember that nothing would be possible without the professionalism and skill of the people behind the scenes.

“These awards are all about recognising the work done by critical control room staff and personnel within public safety organisations. We’re keen for there to be recognition for the vital work of professionals in mission-critical operations, no matter what badge they wear.”

British APCO will dedicate a section of its website to the Control Room Awards and promote the awards in quarterly e-newsletters circulated to its 1,100 members. Details of the awards will also be featured in the well-read quarterly British APCO Journal.

Mike Isherwood, APD Managing Director, said: “We’re honoured to have the backing of British APCO. The association and its members truly understand the commitment and dedication of control room staff around the UK.

“We’re celebrating the individuals who save lives, reduce crime and make our communities a safer place to live. British APCO’s support in spreading the word of these awards is invaluable in recognising these unsung heroes.”

The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at the luxury De Vere Orchard Hotel in Nottingham. Nominations are open until January 18, 2018, with the shortlist revealed on February 1, 2018.

To nominate an individual or team for the APD Control Room Awards, visit <https://www.controlroomawards.com/nominate/>

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the event, visit <https://www.controlroomawards.com/sponsorship/> for more information.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

**APD Communications**

* APD Communications creates secure, intelligent and connected control room and fleet technologies that help organisations protect and preserve society.
* Founded by two academics from the University of Hull in 1984 and still based in the city, APD has developed cutting-edge digital technology for more than 30 years and is an acknowledged market leader in software development.
* APD made its name in the 1980s by designing and delivering the world’s first real-time bus tracking system, which then became the industry benchmark. Later, APD engineered the Eurotunnel communications network, facilitating connectivity between the British and French borders and inside the tunnel itself.
* Today, one in two UK police forces employs APD’s technology, while APD also services the national transport and aviation sectors. The London Underground runs safely and on time with assistance from APD technology, which tracks train locations and supports control room collaboration across the 250-mile network.
* Internationally, APD has an ever-growing presence, powering mission-critical control rooms in Sweden, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates. At Dubai Airport – the world’s busiest international passenger airport with 77m passengers annually – APD’s integrated control room solution keeps the entire operation safe, secure and running efficiently.
* The company’s partners are an integral part of the service and technology APD delivers. APD’s technology partners include mobile communications pioneer Motorola; global digital solutions provider Avaya; mission critical communications networks provider telent; and digital transformation leader sopra steria.
* APD is at the forefront of preparations for the UK’s new digital Emergency Services Network (ESN), due to go live in 2018. APD is working with police, fire and ambulance services around the UK to upgrade to world-leading technology, enabling a business-as-usual transition.
* APD provides its customers with a dedicated support team, available 24/7, 365 days a year. Every APD employee has official security clearance, ensuring customers can have full confidence that their sensitive data is in safe hands.
* The company is showing strong growth, with turnover in 2017 reaching £9m, up 32% on the previous year, powered by APD’s market-leading products, including Cortex, Aspire and Artemis.
* Cortex is APD’s Integrated Communication Control System (ICCS) used in more than 70 control rooms around the world. Cortex brings radio, telephony, CCTV and more together on one screen, helping organisations to connect, collaborate and communicate rapidly and effectively when it matters most. A trailblazer in this field, APD has developed and launched the world’s first hosted ICSS, at Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden, supporting the efficient running of the entire hospital operation all day, every day.
* Aspire is APD’s contact management solution, designed to help emergency services organisations to identify and protect vulnerable people. A software solution that can be integrated easily with existing command and control applications, Aspire provides APD’s customers with full contact history to make informed decisions and save lives.
* Artemis is APD’s solution for fleet management and the remote transfer of data and information from vehicles to control rooms and fleet managers. The only technology of its kind built specifically for the emergency services, Artemis helps customers to improve use of resources and driver behaviour and ensure vehicles get to where they need to be promptly and efficiently.
* These technologies work independently and inter-dependently to support organisations across the public and private sectors. APD is attuned to meeting the needs of organisations with critical operations that rely on instant and highly-resilient communications.