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**First responder advanced
technologies for safe
and efficient emergency response**

The increasing number of disasters derived either from natural phenomena, technological accidents or human actions affect EU citizens, the EU economy and environment every year. The economic and societal impact of these disasters will continue to escalate, as weather-related disasters alone could affect about two-thirds of the EU population annually by the year 2100.



First responders are those specialized professionals who must arrive first and provide assistance at the disaster scene, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, rescuers, K9 units, civil protection authorities and more. Due to the nature of their work, first responders operate in hazardous conditions and may experience incidents during operations that can put their own health at risk and affect the mission's success.

The focus of disaster response must then be twofold: to **mitigate the disaster's impact** in terms of casualties and damage; and to cater to **the safety of the first responders** themselves. The two work in tandem: safer first responders are more effective, both short and long-term.

FASTER aims to address the challenges associated with the protection of first responders in hazardous environments, while at the same time enhancing their capabilities in terms of situational awareness and communication.



FASTER is developing a set of ergonomic wearable devices, sensors, autonomous air and ground vehicles, AI capacity, augmented reality interfaces, autonomous vehicles and resilient communications technology to support first responders, including K9 units, in their operations.

The first responders themselves are at the heart of the project and will be involved during all phases. For this reason, FASTER engages multi disciplinary first responder organizations in its consortium to allow from their specific viewpoints a wide grade of involvement during the project's design, development and testing phases. Operations will be organised into three phases:



1. Mapping and communications relay node setup, using autonomous vehicles.

2. Search and rescue, with first responders entering the affected, now mapped, area to locate and help victim, sharing information between each other and the control centre.

3. Risk mitigation, in which victims are evacuated and resources transported by autonomous vehicles to inaccessible areas.

All solutions will be designed for specific scenarios and tested in use cases that simulate actual operational scenarios so that FASTER will deliver validated solutions for first responders.

