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Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 8 May 2012**

**Replacement of Fireboat No. 7 and three turntable ladders of
the Fire Services Department**

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the replacement of Fireboat No. 7 of the Fire Services Department ("FSD") and an account of the relevant discussions by the Panel on Security ("the Panel") on the replacement of FSD's turntable ladders (TLs).

Replacement of Fireboat No. 7

2. According to the Administration, FSD has 579 operational appliances and vehicles fitted with up-to-date fire-fighting and rescue equipment. The first-line appliances, basically comprising major pumps, hydraulic platforms, light rescue units and turntable ladders/snorkels, are supported where necessary by other special appliances/equipment. A fleet of 22 fireboats and support vessels provides fire protection and rescue services within Hong Kong waters. To continue to modernize the fireboat fleet, a replacement programme for Fireboat No. 7 had been initiated. Details of Fireboat No. 7 are in **Appendix I**.

Replacement of turntable ladders

3. At the Panel meeting on 3 March 2009, the Administration sought the Panel's support for the replacement of three 50-metre TLs deployed at Lei Muk

Shue, Chai Wan and Kwun Tong Fire Stations. Members were advised that the three 50-metre TLs were reaching the end of their normal serviceable lives of 12 years. It was also increasingly difficult to service the vehicle as the manufacturer had ceased to produce some of the critical spare parts, e.g. hydraulic pumps. There were also no compatible spare parts in the market. In view of the above, the Administration proposed to replace the three aged 50-metre TLs in 2011.

4. Members noted that the replacement TLs would have stronger fire-fighting and rescue capabilities with the following enhanced features –

- (a) a rescue cage of load capacity up to 270kg to enhance high-level life rescue capability. This was a new feature as compared with the existing model;
- (b) a built-in telescopic water pipe on ladder sections. There was no such built-in device in the existing model;
- (c) an electronic remote-controlled water monitor to facilitate the movement of water jet at ladder top, as compared with the existing manual-controlled one; and
- (d) the monitoring of ladder movement by a computerized system instead of by manual operation.

5. According to the Administration, the estimated non-recurrent cost of procuring three replacement 50-metre TLs with the necessary on-board fire fighting and communications equipment was \$33.871 million. The Panel supported the proposed replacement of the three TLs. At its meeting on 8 May 2009, the Finance Committee approved the funding sought for the proposed replacement. Details of the TL currently servicing FSD are in **Appendix II**.

Relevant papers

6. A list of the relevant papers on the website of the Legislative Council is in **Appendix III**.

Fireboat 7



Fireboat 7 is a reserve fireboat berthed at West Sea Rescue Berth of the Airport and to be deployed as required.

Principal Particulars

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Crew | 7 (Principal Fireman as Officer in Charge) |
| Built | 1990 by A. Fai Shipyard Co. Ltd., Hong Kong |
| Dimensions | Length : 25 m Breadth : 10 m Draft : 1.6 m |
| Displacement | 43.5 tonnes |
| Engines | Main Engine - 2 x 410 kw MTU diesel engines Auxiliary Engine - 1 x 40 kw diesel generator |
| Fire Pump | 1 fire pump PTO main engine |
| Pumping capacity | 1,800 litres per minute |
| Speed | 25 knots |
| Passenger capacity | 510 persons |

| | |
|---|---|
| Storage | Fuel : 2,400 litres Fresh water : 600 litres Foam compound : 1,000 litres |
| Navigation Equipment | Marine radar and Global positioning system (GPS) |
| Fire Fighting & Rescue Equipment | |
| Deck Monitor | 1 remote controlled water/foam monitor |
| Delivery outlets | 4 x 70 mm diameter outlets |

Turntable Ladder (TL)

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|---------------------------|--|
| <p>Description</p> | <p>The current version of Turntable Ladder (52m) is a computer controlled turntable ladder with lift and light rescue cage. It has modular construction rear body with four lockers, two on each side.</p> |
| <p>Function</p> | <p>To conduct fire fighting and rescue operating at high level.</p> |



**Relevant papers on the replacement of turntable ladders of
the Fire Services Department**

| Meeting | Date of meeting | Paper |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Panel on Security | 3.3.2009 (Item V) | Agenda Minutes CB(2)962/08-09(03) |
| Finance Committee | 8.5.2009 (Item No. 5) | Agenda Minutes FCR(2009-10)11 |

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