

For discussion on
5 January 2016

Legislative Council Panel on Security

Installation of Electric Locks Security System in Stanley Prison

PURPOSE

This paper consults the Panel on the proposal to install the electric locks security system (ELSS) in the Stanley Prison.

BACKGROUND

2. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) is committed to providing a secure, safe, humane, decent and healthy environment for persons in custody (PICs). Most of the correctional facilities in Hong Kong were either aged or converted from buildings originally used for other purposes. Currently, the gates used in correctional institutions are mainly installed with manually operated mechanical locks, meaning that those gates have to be locked or unlocked by keys manually. These manual operations involve complicated and extensive procedures of safe keeping, collection, return and distribution of keys. Moreover, the manual locking or unlocking processes are relatively time-consuming.

3. To address the problems associated with the locking/unlocking processes of the old system of manually operated mechanical locks, CSD completed a study in 2012 and decided to replace the existing locks with ELSS in various institutions by phases in accordance with the respective security and actual operational need.

4. ELSS is an electro-mechanical locking system operating in conjunction with closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, intercoms and call buttons. Upon the pressing of a call button by CSD staff to request for the unlocking of a gate operated under ELSS, visual and audio signals will be transmitted to the control room immediately. Having acknowledged receipt of such a request, the staff in the control room will unlock the relevant gate by remote control after verifying the identity of the requesting staff through the intercom and CCTV system.

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ELSS

5. CSD proposes to install ELSS in the passageways, cells and facilities at Stanley Prison in order to enhance the security and operational efficiency. The installation works will be carried out by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) under the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. The works will involve modification of server rooms and installation of about 2 300 gates with electric locks, electro-mechanical locking devices, server and associated parts, about 5 000 CCTV cameras, uninterrupted power supply system and charging devices, etc.

JUSTIFICATIONS FOR INSTALLING THE PROPOSED ELSS

6. CSD proposes to install ELSS at Stanley Prison to replace the old system of manually operated locks for the following justifications –

(i) Speeding up emergency support

For security reasons, all keys of the gates with mechanical locks are kept in specific locations which are relatively far away from the custodial areas of PICs. In case of emergency (particularly during night time as PICs are more likely to attempt self-harm at those hours), it takes time for CSD staff to collect the keys from the concerned locations and dash to the scene to unlock the relevant gates.

With ELSS in place, the locking/unlocking of gates will be centrally processed and controlled from the control room. The staff at the scene will only have to press the call button and the staff at the control room will unlock the gates according to standard procedures. This can save the time required for staff to collect the keys and get to the scene in emergency, and will hence allow prompt rescue and support actions.

(ii) Strengthening institutional security

Upon implementation of ELSS, the staff at the control room will unlock the gates only after verifying the identity of the requesting staff. Therefore, the system can help prevent any improper or unauthorised unlocking of gates, and can further enhance institutional security. The security system will keep records of each and every locking/unlocking time automatically. The information generated from the system can also facilitate the evaluation or review of the operation of the institution and improve

operational efficiency. As Stanley Prison is a maximum security prison, CSD considers that there are more pressing operational needs for Stanley Prison to be installed with ELSS.

(iii) Enhancing operational efficiency

Upon implementation of ELSS, procedures can be streamlined by removing the need to keep, collect or return keys, thereby enhancing the operational efficiency of the institution.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The estimated total non-recurrent cost of installing ELSS is \$765.4 million. The detailed breakdown is as follows –

	\$ million
(a) Security system ¹	400.0
(b) Builder and building services works ²	226.5
(c) Builder and building services consultancy ³	15.8
(d) EMSTF project management services ⁴	60.4
(e) Contingencies (10% of (a) and (b) above)	62.7
Total	765.4 (in money-of-the-day prices)

8. The estimated cash flow requirement is as follows –

Year	\$ million
2016 - 17	8.5
2017 - 18	16.3
2018 - 19	71.9
2019 - 20	168.2
2020 - 21	160.5

¹ The security system includes electric locks, electro-mechanical locking devices, server and associated parts, CCTV cameras, uninterrupted power supply system and charging devices, etc.

² The builder and building services works include provision/modification of around 60 Local Equipment Rooms, installation and modification of relevant gates and grille partition, and associated builders works.

³ The builder and building services consultancy includes the consultancy services for builder and building services works.

⁴ The EMSTF project management services include preparation of tender documents, tender evaluation, approval of contractors' design submissions, monitoring of contractors' installation, acceptance tests, and co-ordination among various government departments and the contractors.

2021 - 22	139.2
2022 - 23	79.6
2023 - 24	96.6
2024 - 25	24.6
Total	765.4

9. We estimate that the annual recurrent cost after implementing ELSS, including expenses on corrective maintenance and equipment spare parts, will be around \$38.1 million.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

10. Subject to Members' comments on the proposal, we plan to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee as soon as possible. If the funding approval is granted in the first quarter of 2016, we expect that the implementation timetable will be as follows –

Activity	Expected Completion Date
(a) Engagement of builder / building services consultant	December 2016
(b) Project planning, system design/tender preparation	October 2017
(c) Tendering and award of contract	March 2018
(d) Approval of system design	June 2018
(e) Equipment manufacturing, delivery and site work preparation	September 2018
(f) Installation and building services works	April 2024
(g) Acceptance test and training	August 2024
(h) System commissioning	October 2024

11. The above schedule was drawn up with reference to previous experience and the advice of EMSTF. As Stanley Prison was built over 70 years ago and the works will cover the whole institution, the project is expected to take around eight years. To expedite the project development, installation and modification works will be carried out by phases with several areas being worked upon concurrently. During the installation period, CSD will ensure that the operation of the Stanley Prison will not be affected.

ADVICE SOUGHT

12. Members are invited to comment on the proposal.

**Security Bureau
Correctional Services Department
December 2015**