

# EMS UPDATES

KEEPING THE GAMING INDUSTRY INFORMED ISSUE 1 JUNE 2005



Dr John Katakis, INTRALOT's General Commercial Director and the Secretary of Internal Affairs Chris Blake signed the EMS contract.

## Societies' responsibility: getting venues ready for EMS

Welcome to this, the first issue of EMS Updates. The Department of Internal Affairs will distribute Updates to all gaming machine societies at important times during the implementation of the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) for all gaming machines in pubs and clubs. Our aim is to provide information that will help societies get themselves ready for EMS.

As you might have heard, the Department has recently signed a contract with INTRALOT New Zealand Limited, the local arm of the European gambling technology company INTRALOT SA. The contract is to implement and operate EMS, and is for \$35 million to be paid over six years through to 2012.

The likely question from societies now is, "where to from here?"

To help answer that question this issue of EMS Update includes:

- sources of further information
- an outline of the implementation process
- an indicative timetable for the roll out of EMS (over time this timetable will become more detailed as more of the arrangements are finalised).

### Societies' responsibility

It is important to understand that, while the Department will provide societies with all the information on what is required, the licence holders' responsibility is to have venues ready for EMS on time.

If a venue is not ready on time, then the Gambling Act requires that all the machines at that venue must be turned off. It is up to each society to ensure that this does not happen to any of its venues.

To help societies get their venues ready, the Department has sent all societies a consultation document (Minimum Standards) about the necessary cabling, power, communication and site controller security requirements. (The site controller is the piece of equipment at each venue that will receive and store data from the gaming machines there and connect to EMS.) This document also describes practical requirements (such as cabling) that societies will be responsible for completing to be considered ready to be connected.

The final version of the technical requirements will be distributed as soon as possible so that you can start making the necessary arrangements.

There will be further consultation on:

- QCOM, which is the software that gaming machines will use to communicate with EMS
- the schedule of when each society will have to connect its venues to EMS
- fees to cover the cost of implementing and operating EMS.

### Department's responsibility

The Department's responsibility is to ensure that:

- the monitor complies with its obligations under the contract – including providing the EMS service and EMS helpdesk.
- all necessary minimum operating standards are consulted on and gazetted.

The Department will provide societies with the information needed to get ready for EMS. It is up to societies to then use that information to ensure that their venues are ready.



By Deputy Secretary, Andrew Secker

### Q & A about implementation of EMS

If your society has a question about how EMS will be implemented it is probably not the only one that wants that information. The Department plans to publish a question and answer column in future issues of Updates.

Please e-mail your questions to:

[ems@dia.govt.nz](mailto:ems@dia.govt.nz) or to [robbie.kearney@dia.govt.nz](mailto:robbie.kearney@dia.govt.nz).

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

## Indicative timetable for roll out of EMS

2005 Consultation with the gambling sector on minimum technical requirements for cabling and "site controllers". The site controller is the piece of equipment that receives and stores data from the gaming machines at a venue and connects to EMS.

Consultation with the gambling sector on a minimum standard for GCOM (which is the software protocol EMS will use); regulations setting fees to cover the costs of implementing and operating EMS; and connection dates.

2006 By early 2006, some volunteer operators will connect their gaming machines as part of a pilot rollout.

Subject to a successful pilot, it is expected that the full rollout will commence and be substantially implemented.

2007 March 18, final deadline for all machines to be connected. While this is the final date set in the Gambling Act, there will be deadlines before then and most machines will be connected well before this date.

## Further information about EMS

In addition to publishing Updates as EMS reaches key stages, there are various other ways that the Department is providing information about EMS to gaming machine societies.

If societies have questions about venue preparation or readiness for EMS you can contact the EMS Change and Relationship Manager, Robbie Kearney on 0800 257 887, and [robbie.kearney@dia.govt.nz](mailto:robbie.kearney@dia.govt.nz) and [ems@dia.govt.nz](mailto:ems@dia.govt.nz)

The Department's website ([www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)) provides extensive information about the gambling sector for societies, venues and community groups.

## Gambits

Gambits is a quarterly newsletter published by the Department in March, June, September and December each year. Copies can be downloaded from the website. Gambits is indexed by topic, with the index being updated on the website with each issue and the hardcopy index being distributed annually.

## Implementation of EMS, an overview for societies

This article gives an overview of the process the Department will use to implement EMS. Again, it stresses that the Department will provide as much information as possible and it will then be societies' responsibility to get their own venues ready.

### 1) Regulations and game rules

The regulations and game rules will be, in effect, almost a manual of what societies must do to ensure that their venues can connect to EMS on time.

They will set out the technical details for getting ready for EMS. The Department will also be contacting each Society and club to consult on the date or dates by which that Society or club's venue must be connected to the EMS. Connections are expected to begin at about April 2006 and most venues should be connected by January 2007.

The Department will consult on all the regulations being made and on the amendments needed to the existing game rules. All societies will have the opportunity to have their say.

After the consultation, all societies will be sent copies of the regulations and game rules as soon as they are completed.

### 2) Preparing venues and checklist

When the regulations and game rules are in place, societies can do the work they need to to get their venues ready.

To help societies, the Department will send them a detailed checklist of what things the society must have had done at each venue.

### 3) Advising the Department

At least one month before each venue is connected, the society must return the completed checklist to the Department. This will be the society's declaration that that venue complies with the regulations and game rules and is ready to be connected to EMS.

### 4) Connection

After the Department has received the correctly completed checklist, it will have INTRALOT (which is the company that will operate EMS) contact the society.

Each venue will have a range of possible connection dates within a period of at least one week. INTRALOT and the society will arrange which particular day within that range will be the date for connecting the venue controller to EMS.

INTRALOT will be responsible for that final connection at each venue.

## EMS UPDATES

EMS Updates is an occasional publication produced by the Department of Internal Affairs to provide gaming machine societies with information that will help them prepare for implementing EMS at their venues.

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ISSN: 0-478-09293-8