



Interview with Chief Garis

Topic: Gateway Consulting Project

Chief Len Garis, Fire Chief of Surry Fire Service (British Columbia, CA) has been a long standing client of Deccan International. Chief Garis and Chief Livesey visited Deccan offices recently to discuss developments on the on-going Gateway consulting project.

Interviewer: Please explain the scope and objective of the consultancy project?

Chief Garis: The main focus of the Gateway project is the relocation of a station to a new location to improve or match current performance standards. Deccan's ADAM is being implemented for this purpose. Unlike in other situations where ADAM uses an existing road network, such information is not available for use in this case. The proposed candidate locations for the new station are in planned new developments. ADAM is therefore using future planned street networks to model scenarios. To ensure accuracy, Deccan's team worked with the planning department and engineers to confirm the planned road network and to verify ADAM models. Deccan team also developed a new utility called **scenario analyst** that allows scoring/weighting of scenarios based on criteria as required by the user. This scoring mechanism allows the user to make more informed decisions and rank the strategic deployments by specified criteria.

Although the project has not reached a conclusion yet, I was extremely impressed with the development Deccan was able to make. Deccan's prompt response in building the scenario analyst tool was well appreciated. This tool analyzes what if scenarios, and enables a user to weigh concepts and quickly obtain required results rather than manually working on Excel to obtain results. I'm excited to see how the tool will perform and help fire departments with the analysis.

Interviewer: What are the benefits of this tool?

Chief Garis: This project will result in a very useful and a complex analysis tool to provide data-backed support for the many strategic decisions a Fire Leader makes. From measuring prospective resources, to budget allocation to analyzing various deployment scenarios, this tool enables comprehensive analysis of department's strategic planning needs. I am **very pleased to have chosen Deccan to work on this project and to see rapid developments.**

Interviewer: How is this utility/tool different from what is currently available in ADAM?

Chief Garis: ADAM performs station location analysis for long-term planning purposes to help decision makers make strategic deployment decisions. With the scenario analysis tool a decision maker can run day-to-day scenarios, rank and weigh the scenarios, compare scenarios and thus make improved apparatus deployment decisions and streamline critical resources. It is certainly a welcome addition as an important operational planning tool for fire department leaders.

Interviewer: How does this project re-define Deccan's role in the public safety industry?

Chief Garis: Historically, Deccan has focused on developing tools for decision-makers to make unambiguous and educated decisions for their many strategic requirements. With the Gateway project, Deccan proved that it could not only provide such decision-support tools, but consult with department leaders in obtaining persuasive decisions for department's planning purposes. Deccan can speak the same language as the department, and work together with them to make the best deployment decision. This can re-define Deccan's role as a consultant to Fire Department leaders, who can use Deccan's expertise – both domain and engineering to make sound strategic decisions for the department.

Interviewer: What's in the future?

Chief Garis: Through this consultancy project, Deccan has added a beneficial utility to ADAM that allows for quicker and easier analysis, resulting in more sound decision making. This new tool will benefit Deccan in exploring new avenues of consulting. Deccan can make this tool available for its existing clients, like Surrey Fire Service who will unquestionably benefit from the comprehensiveness of the analysis and the expertise of Deccan's consulting.