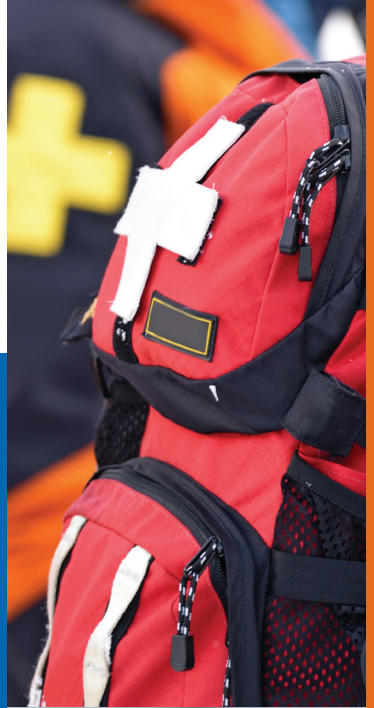




INTRODUCING THE

Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) Incident Command System (ICS) Project

The leading-edge Canadian solution designed to leverage current technology and ICS processes with advanced capabilities to improve search and rescue outcomes.



Today in Canada, ground search and rescue (GSAR) teams, managers, and incident commanders are siloed by the lack of a standardized Incident Command System (ICS) technology solution.

The **GSAR ICS** Project will build and implement a solution to help GSAR organizations collect, share, and report on information at all operational levels in a standardized ICS environment.

*In its research, the SAR Incident Data Management Project found that an ongoing concern within the GSAR community is the need for GSAR standardization across Canada, including ICS. (CanOps. "SAR Incident Data Management, SARNIF Project". March 2022.)

The project's goal is to improve GSAR outcomes and to build a better national picture of GSAR capabilities and needs for policy-making and budgeting purposes.

It aims to configure and implement a national technology platform with voluntary participation from SAR organizations, and funding from Public Safety Canada.

Why it's essential to GSAR in Canada

Right now, there's a big **technology gap** in the Canadian GSAR landscape. In addition to the absence of a standardized technology platform to support GSAR operations in Canada:

- ❑ Some GSAR organizations have tech of varying capabilities, and some have none.
 - ✓ This inconsistency impacts search outcomes and severely restricts timely and accurate data collection, reporting, and automation.
 - ✓ The lack of available data limits the visibility of existing SAR needs and capabilities.
- ❑ Current technology is not interoperable.
- ❑ It doesn't scale for large multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional incidents.
- ❑ There is little to no automation of GSAR data collection or entry.
- ❑ And current technology doesn't integrate with common productivity apps used by most most organizations within the GSAR community.
- ❑ There is insufficient data being generated for knowledge management to inform policy and budgeting.
- ❑ Some existing GSAR tech is difficult or awkward to use and is unreliable.

The good news is that most Canadian GSAR organizations have adopted the standard ICS concept of operations and a standard approach to GSAR workflow.



Why the GSAR ICS solution?

GSAR ICS integrates new configurations of CounterCrisis Tech's IC4W incident management application and the Team Awareness Kit (TAK) — an advanced real-time situational awareness capability.

It will leverage current technology to:

- ✓ Improve delivery and efficiency of GSAR capabilities for lost and missing persons in Canada.
- ✓ Strengthen national SAR coordination through improved interoperability.
- ✓ Foster mutual aid and inter-jurisdictional cooperation with a whole-of-society approach to emergency management within the SAR community.
- ✓ Build enhanced disaster response capabilities and support emergency management.
- ✓ Answer a wide variety of critical incident management requirements.
- ✓ Enhance knowledge management at all government levels and inform national SAR policy.

Advanced capabilities

The following lists some of the advanced capabilities of the **GSAR ICS** solution:

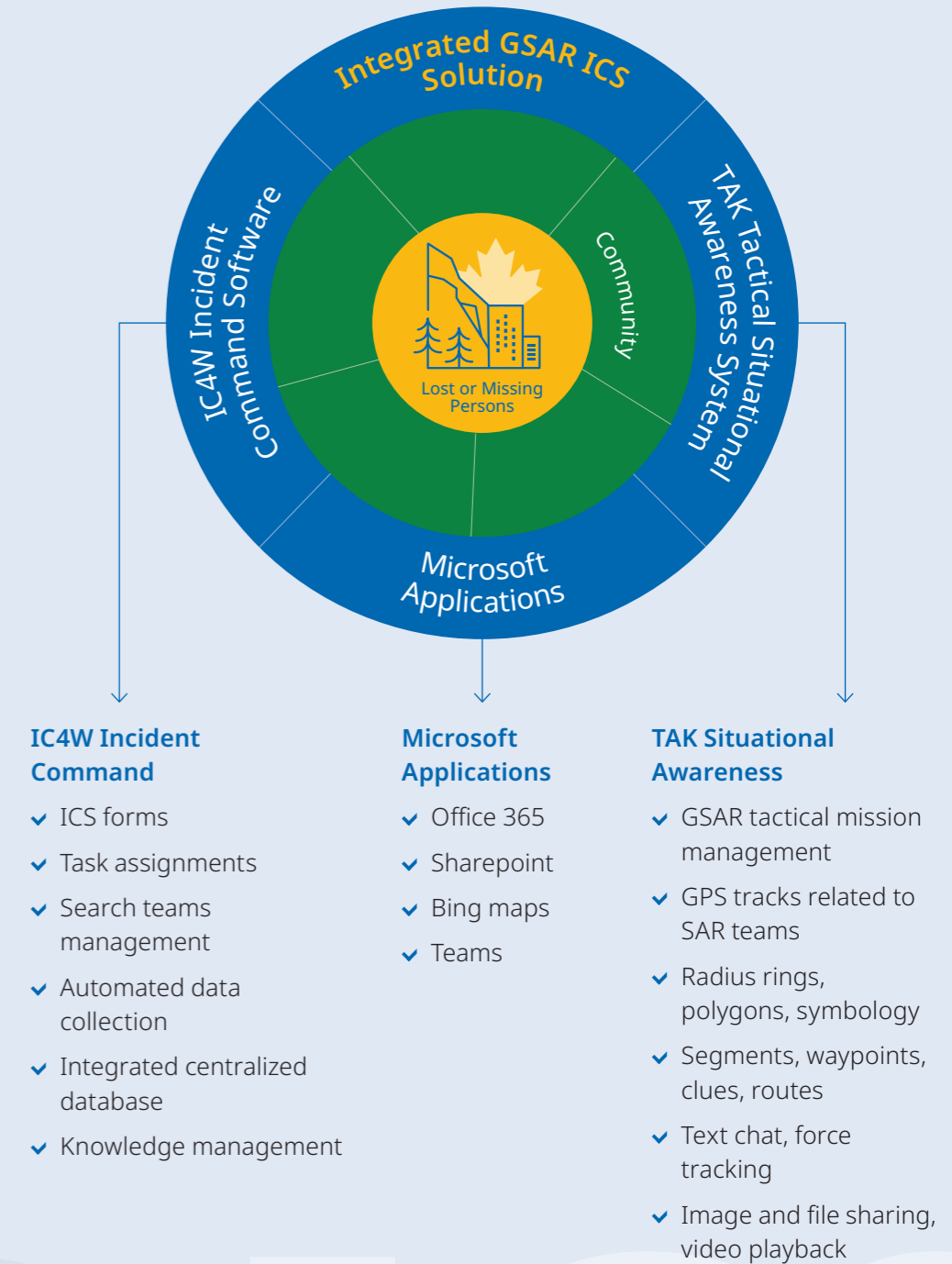
- ❑ Scalable, mobile (cloud-based), configurable, user friendly, and interoperable.
- ❑ Online/offline capability with real-time situational awareness at the tactical edge.
- ❑ Automated data entry, collection, and storage including evidence, images, videos, and chat.
- ❑ Flexible incident management, reporting, and knowledge management capabilities.
- ❑ Integration with existing technology investments and plug-in architecture that enables onboarding of new capabilities.

How the project will happen

The **GSAR ICS** solution is all about interoperability. With the support of an expert Advisory Group representing leading GSAR organizations from across Canada, our industry team will integrate and build upon core capabilities from adaptable and flexible technology platforms already in use today. These platforms have been widely deployed, proving reliable in military and public safety environments.

The GSAR ICS solution

The **GSAR ICS Project** team led by **CounterCrisis Tech** is developing an integrated solution that leverages the ICS concept of operations and established GSAR workflows with advanced capabilities.



Adaptable and flexible cloud-based Incident Command System solution which also supports the wider emergency management and public safety communities.

Project Stakeholder Community

The **GSAR ICS Project** is being led by **CounterCrisis Tech**. Our industry team is receiving valuable input from an Advisory Group representing leading organizations in the Canadian GSAR community.

This three-year project is funded by Public Safety Canada (PSC) including funding the participation of Canadian GSAR organizations that would like to test and use the **GSAR ICS** solution.

When the project will unfold

We're approaching the end of Year 1

The initial operational capability (IOC) release is scheduled for completion by March 31, 2023.

Year 2

User acceptance testing (UAT).

GSAR portal development.

Partner training, onboarding, and support.

Ongoing solution enhancements.

Year 3

Ongoing Partner training, onboarding, and go-live support; portal and ICS solution enhancements; and solution sustainment and communication.

The **GSAR ICS Project** is looking for GSAR community member organizations to participate in testing the GSAR ICS solution. Testing of the solution will include licenses, training, and ongoing support.

Please contact Don Williams if you are interested or have any questions about testing the integrated GSAR ICS solution within your organization.



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For more information and to subscribe to email updates and the upcoming GSAR ICS Quarterly Newsletter, please visit our project page at:
gsar-ics.com

