

Blog Post 2: Bridging the Gap: Aligning Tech with First Responder Needs

In the heat of a crisis, technology should be a lifeline, not a burden. Yet, a 2022 study by the European Commission (DG HOME) revealed a troubling disconnect in the EU security market: there is a significant gap between the technologies suppliers are building and what end-users actually need.

Often, funds are spent on generic surveillance systems when first responders are crying out for specific, interoperable tools that work when infrastructure collapses.

The "Capability-Driven" Approach

PANTHEON is adopting a "capability-driven approach" to fix this. Instead of building technology and hoping it's useful, we start by identifying the specific gaps and challenges faced by practitioners.

Research from networking projects like **FIRE-IN** has already mapped out what first responders are desperately looking for in the mid-to-long term:

- **Resilient Communications:** Systems that don't fail when cell towers go down.
- **Advanced Command & Control:** Better ways to manage diverse teams on the ground.
- **Geolocation & GIS:** Accurate tracking of personnel and assets in harsh environments.
- **Realistic Training:** AR/VR simulation software that actually reflects complex, modern disaster scenarios.

PANTHEON is directly addressing these needs. By listening to the experts, the firefighters, medics, and disaster managers, we ensure that the tools we build will genuinely increase operational capacity when it counts the most.