



Press Release (Detailed)



RISCAuthority has today launched ROBUST (Resilient Business Software Toolkit) to help the SME market to produce effective Business Continuity Plans quickly and efficiently and manage incidents to recovery in a timely fashion. The software is available in complete form entirely FREE from the launch site <https://robust.riscauthority.co.uk> together with all supporting documentation and a significant portion of relevant parts of the prestigious RISCAuthority library.

RISCAuthority is wholly funded by a group of 33 UK insurance companies with a remit to conduct research to support the development of best practice guidance in all areas of loss mitigation and is probably best known for the UK Sprinkler Rules, Risk Control Guides, Security Guides and Property Protection Building Guides. The scheme is administered by the Fire Protection Association; the UK's National Fire Safety Organisation: a not-for-profit company.

The aim of the ROBUST initiative is:

“To produce a software package and distribution process that will encourage the uptake of BC measures in commercial markets that currently give it little or no time (principally SMEs)”

Dr James Glockling, Technical Director of the FPA and Director of RISCAuthority says *“Whilst there is a great deal out there to make everyone aware of the needs and benefits of undertaking Business Continuity Planning there is little in place to help those considering it take the next step without significant commitment of cost and effort”*. Analysis showed the hurdles preventing the next step being taken were remarkable in how small and numerous they were: Cost (any), data storage offsite (even if it does make good BC sense), complex server based configuration (again, even if it does make good BC sense), tools too complex for target audience, expensive software dependencies, BIA's that ask questions from people not in a position to answer them, poor visibility of where the end is, little reward, not much benefit over doing it on paper (regurgitation of what you put in).

To address these issues all production, hosting and support costs have been borne by RISCAuthority and the latest programming techniques have been employed to ensure that the only software dependency is that a suitable Windows operating system is installed (XP or Vista). Inbuilt into the software are routines that continuously update the data, checking for currency, completeness and quality, and displaying this information in simple traffic light form on the front page so the user always has visibility of where they are in respect of completion and upkeep. At all stages the relative importance of Activities and associated Resources to your business is calculated and displayed in 'ranked' lists. An incident Management Planning module enables the creation of a complete suite of documentation for the conduct of the meeting including calling notices, agendas, relevant parts of the BCP and Action Cards pertaining to the causes of the loss of capability.

The ROBUST software is designed to provide for a simple and intuitive introduction to Business Continuity and its development has required careful consideration of many factors, most important of which being achieving the correct balance between functionality and 'instant' appeal to the target audience. Needless to say some elements that represent good BC practice have been omitted on the basis of being too 'black belt' for those whom we have perhaps only 30 minutes to impress from 1st install. The production of the Business Continuity Plan is of course only one part of the Business Continuity Management System but its production does represent a valuable milestone in addressing business resilience. It is hoped that ROBUST will form an introduction that will eventually lead to BCM being engrained within company procedures. Whilst ROBUST may suffice for some it is hoped that once the appreciation is there many will seek BC products and services more bespoke and appropriate to their business.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Fire Protection Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England No. 3806681
Registered office: London Road, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 0RH



Douglas Barnett, AXA's Head of Customer Risk Management says "*The launch of the ROBUST Business Continuity tool is a commitment by the major UK insurers to business in the UK by, for the first time, delivering a free-to-download product for all business that has been developed by the industries experts. Business Continuity planning has for too long been seen as too complicated or too expensive for business to undertake – the new ROBUST tool will resolve many of the concerns of the business community*".

The intention is to develop ROBUST annually under the RISCAuthority scheme and continue to deliver it and the supporting documents ENTIRELY FREE to where it is needed most with the grateful support of RISCAuthority members.

Want to know more?

ROBUST distribution site: <https://robust.riscauthority.co.uk>

RISCAuthority site: www.riscauthority.co.uk

Fire Protection Association site: www.thefpa.co.uk

Dr James Glockling, Technical Director, Fire Protection Association

Images:

RISCAuthority logo:



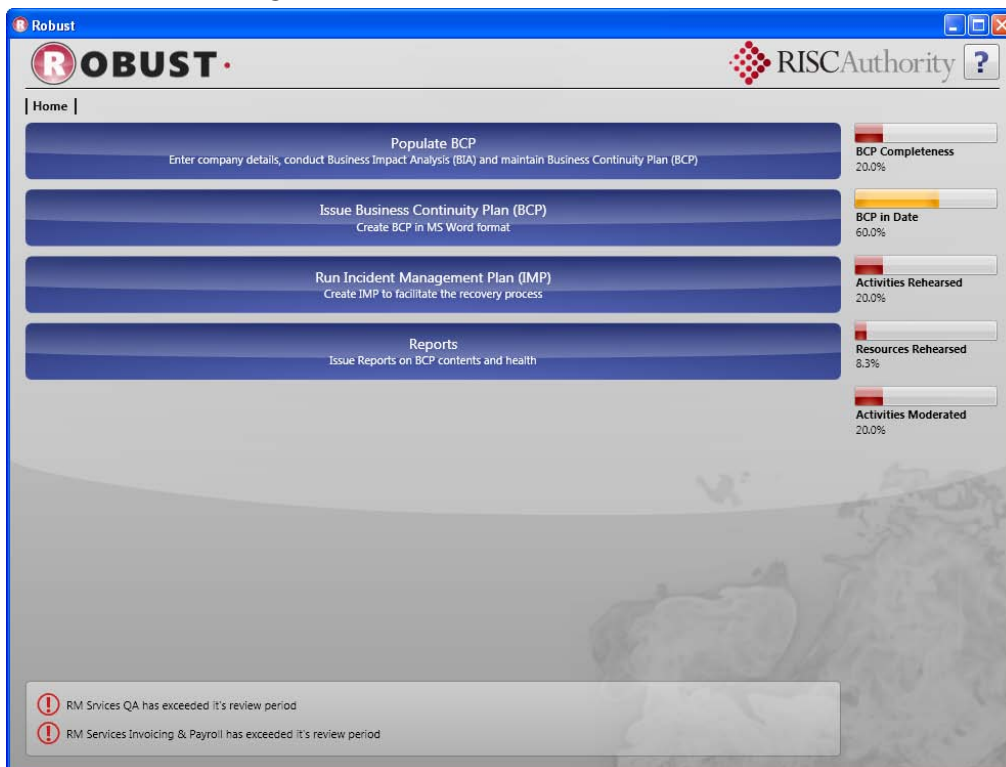
ROBUST logo:



FPA logo:



ROBUST Home Page



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ROBUST · RISCAuthority ?

| Home |

Action	Progress
Populate BCP Enter company details, conduct Business Impact Analysis (BIA) and maintain Business Continuity Plan (BCP)	BCP Completeness 20.0%
Issue Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Create BCP in MS Word format	BCP in Date 60.0%
Run Incident Management Plan (IMP) Create IMP to facilitate the recovery process	Activities Rehearsed 20.0%
Reports Issue Reports on BCP contents and health	Resources Rehearsed 8.3%
	Activities Moderated 20.0%

! RM Services QA has exceeded it's review period

! RM Services Invoicing & Payroll has exceeded it's review period