



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## **NEWS RELEASE**

27 February 2006

### **PSNI MOVES TO THE FOREFRONT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY**

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has signed a £9 million contract with a Canadian software company for a new computer system that will deliver benefits to operational police in the fight against crime.

The Niche Records Management System (RMS) will deliver a range of improvements including:

- Better use of police officers' time
- Provision of rapid access to up-to-date data
- Support for "information-led" policing
- Intuitive, easy-to-use screens and reports
- Improved links with other criminal justice agencies.

Police believe the system will reduce the amount of time that officers will have to spend completing paperwork and free them up for operational duties. It will mean that once a form is completed electronically, it will only need to be updated rather than re-created at its various stages in the criminal justice process.

Assistant Chief Constable Roy Toner, who signed the contract at a ceremony at police headquarters in Belfast today, said:

**"This contract for Niche RMS is one of the most advanced of its type in the world and will fundamentally change the way we do our business. The new system will help officers deliver swifter justice and thus improve our service to the community.**

**"We are implementing a world class software solution to support our operational policing needs. We believe that this will mean a significantly improved service to the public and offer the potential to free up staff time to focus on our core business – fighting crime."**

Niche Technology Inc. is based in Winnipeg, Canada, and provides computer software for law enforcement agencies. Vice President Tom Ellison, who attended the Belfast contract ceremony, said:

**“Niche works with large, progressive police services around the world to support their use of computer technology in the fight against crime and the delivery of operational policing to local communities. PSNI will be joining the global community of Niche customers, which includes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Queensland Police in Australia as well as nine other police services in the UK.**

**“Niche RMS is a single, fully integrated system replacing a large number of discrete systems currently used to manage operational information. Frontline police officers will have immediate and broad access to all the information they need to provide the best possible police service to the people of Northern Ireland. This information will be available regardless of where the officer is, whether he or she is on the street, out in the country, at a crime scene or in a police station.**

**“The Police Service is mobilising the power of the latest in information technology to streamline operational police activities and to support practical, modern crime prevention and detection, with a clear pathway to add further new technological developments as they become available.”**

The implementation of the new system is a key step in a 5-year programme of work costing £65m which is seeking to move the PSNI to the “forefront of law enforcement technology” in line with the recommendations of the Patten Report.