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# Press Release

## **Hovercraft Search & Rescue UK [formerly The Association of Search & Rescue Hovercraft] make a major announcement regarding plans for future operations.**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> 2008:** A new name and logo for The Association Of Search & Rescue Hovercraft as they today announced some major changes in the Charity's development. Following some low key fundraising activities over the past two years the Trustees are pleased to announce the acquisition of two new, fully equipped Eagle 4 hovercraft to form part of a UK based flood response team. Currently undergoing training, the team will expand the current areas of operation to include the confines of flooded towns and cities. HSR-UK Trustee Bill Allen said "We learned a lot from the operations in Windsor in 2003 and wanted to acquire craft small enough to be manoeuvred around the sort of obstacles these areas of operation present. These hovercraft, however, only represent the first phase in a planned expansion for the Charity and we anticipate seeing our fleet expanded by a variety of different craft to suit different scenarios"

In addition to the new hovercraft, the Charity also announced that it had now received consent from the Charity Commission to extend its activities worldwide. This extended area of operation forms part of a strategic plan aimed at taking the Charity forward over the next 10 years. The Trustees are confident that funding sources will enable new hovercraft to be added to the fleet approximately every 18 months but did stress that regular donations and contributions were vital to ensure day to day operational expenses are covered. HSR-UK Trustee Alan Orchard added "We felt that the work done behind the scenes by the Board of Trustees and our core helpers combined with these new changes was such a major development for the Charity that a new name and logo was appropriate. We will be actively promoting our work during 2008 and hope to have more developments to announce within the next 6 months". The charity also today unveiled its' new website at [www.hsr-uk.org](http://www.hsr-uk.org) and confirmed that all future enquires

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can be directed to [info@hsr-uk.org](mailto:info@hsr-uk.org). The old ASRH website at [www.asrh.co.uk](http://www.asrh.co.uk) will continue to exist with any visitors being redirected to the new website.

The charity was the first national charity to be formed in the UK with the objectives of using hovercraft to assist in difficult search and rescue scenarios, particularly those on tidal areas. It has continued to actively promote their use to the existing emergency services and undertaken many demonstrations. It has also been involved in many projects and activities during its' time, the most successful of which has been the joint venture in setting up the Burnham Hovercraft based at Burnham on Sea which is now managed by a local charity.

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