

Bay Area SUASI Program

1st Annual Interoperability Forum Dispelling the myths of digital radio

January 16, 2009
1pm to 5pm
Alameda County Sheriff's Office OES
4985 Broder Blvd.
Dublin, CA

Bay Area Counties have agreed to build regional, P25 radio systems to replace aging and outdated analog systems to allow for the functionality needed in today's Public Safety. Today's first responders need the ability to roam seamlessly throughout the Bay Area, to be able to communicate with whom they need to without being limited by a lack of spectrum, inefficient analog conventional systems or lack of functionality.

Learn about the many successful P25 communication systems being used today though out the United States.

Come hear P25 experts and current users talk about the interoperable benefits and dependability of P25 digital communications which conventional systems just can't match.

Hear about the true causes of system mishaps and how they could have been avoided.

Hear how a Regional System will provide a higher level interoperability which is in line with the State's Communication Plan and SAFECOM's federal guidelines.

Featured speakers include:

Dereck Orr, NIST

Mr. Orr is the Program Manager for Public Safety Communication Standards at the National Institute for Standards and Technology's (NIST), Office of Law Enforcement Standards, and has held that position since December 2002. However, from October 2003 until October 2004, Mr. Orr was detailed to the Department of Homeland Security to serve as the Chief of Staff of the SAFECOM office within the Science and Technology Directorate, to help establish the new program. Prior to working at NIST, Mr. Orr served as a professional staff member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of

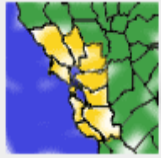
Commerce, Justice, State and Related Agencies under Senator Fritz Hollings. In that position, Mr. Orr was responsible for the appropriations accounts relating to state and local law enforcement issues. Mr. Orr served in that position from July 2001 to December 2002. Prior to that, Mr. Orr served four years at the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) at the Department of Justice. At COPS, Mr. Orr held positions as a management analyst, then as Special Assistant to the Principal Deputy Director, and finally as Budget Officer of the COPS office.

Dr. Kenneth Ballard, CTA Communications, Inc.

Dr. Ballard has 27 years of engineering experience with two-way radio communications systems, RF propagation, antenna design, and aerospace electronics. His career includes experiences with the Electronic Warfare Laboratory, and the Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory, the Radio physics Laboratory at the Thayer School of Engineering, as well as leadership roles with GE Aerospace, Ericsson Private Radio Systems, and now at CTA Communications. His recent two-way radio design experience has involved engineering of a variety of two-way radio applications, including wide-area trunked radio systems, both digital and analog systems, and the control and networks required for integration of these systems. This systems design experience enabled Dr. Ballard to successfully manage the implementation of several complex, wide-area communications systems. Since September 2001, Dr. Ballard has been the Lead Wireless Architect on a major contract with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The task undertaken here was to develop a conceptual design for a wireless network that would encompass the entire nation and provide functionality for all law enforcement components and bureaus in these two departments. In addition to the Federal project Dr. Ballard has worked on 12 other projects with CTA.

John Powell, P25, Special liaison on interoperable communications to the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Mr. Powell has over 30 years of law enforcement experience at both the municipal and state levels as a police officer and supervisor for two San Francisco area agencies. During his career, Mr. Powell implemented and/or managed several major projects including a statewide trunked radio system and E-911 computer aided dispatch center for the University of California. He has served on numerous local, state, national and international committees, including the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Radio System (CLEMARS) Executive Committee; the California Legislature's Joint Committee on Fire, Police, Emergency and Disaster Services; and the FCC's Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC). He also served as chair of the Interoperability Subcommittee for the FCC's 700 MHz Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC). He has testified before numerous legislative bodies at all levels of government.



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Don Wright, Executive Director, Interagency Communications Interoperability System; ICIS

The ICIS radio system is a UHF, trunked radio system operating in the UHF (450-512 Mhz) band. It is a shared system with components purchased and constructed by individual cities and linked together through a microwave network in order to provide regional coverage. The concept of the ICIS was born out of the need for its current member agencies to replace their aging infrastructure. In discussions amongst the technical staffs, it was determined that each was looking at very similar system requirements and performance in thinking to the future. A little research showed how the systems could be interconnected to create a regional footprint that would allow agencies to enjoy wide area coverage for the cost of a small municipal system.

Who should attend?

Elected Officials
City Managers
Police and Fire Executives
Municipal Information Technology Executives

Please RSVP by e-mail at jada.jackson@sfgov.org or by calling 415-705-8512.

For more information, contact:

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