

Public Safety Radio Project Fact Sheet

The District is upgrading the radio system used by its police, fire and emergency medical services agencies.

The radio system upgrade:

- Will correct serious deficiencies in the previous system and will provide the District of Columbia the most complete public safety radio **coverage** in the United States
- Will expand radio coverage into many new areas of the city, and add new coverage in the **Metro subway**
- Will meet critical, new **emergency preparedness** needs that have emerged since September 11, 2001
- Will allow District public safety personnel to **communicate with their counterparts** in neighboring jurisdictions in the event of a significant public safety event
- Was qualified for federal emergency preparedness funding, because of the **District's significant new regional and national responsibilities** (Congress appropriated a total of \$45.5MM to emergency information technology (IT) initiatives for the District.)
- Is proceeding **on schedule** and **within budget**
- Is **cost efficient**: the hours spent by our internal team to plan, analyze, design, procure and implement the system is far less than it would cost to use an external vendor to perform these same tasks
- Is **timely**: through extensive discussions with Motorola, the delivery of the system is promised by Motorola in the **summer of 2003**
- Applies a **well-planned implementation methodology**, to meet the project's goals: a careful seven-month design, technical planning, requirements definition, and technical analysis phase preceded the District's public safety radio project implementation (This analysis phase ensured that we solved the right radio problems, in the right way, and at the right price.)
- Utilizes a thoughtful and deliberate approach to project **procurement**: to maintain the District's investment in an extensive base of installed Motorola 800 MHz and 460 MHz radio equipment, and for interoperability purposes, OCTO continued to look to Motorola for new radio equipment (Over several months, we've conducted and concluded successful negotiations with Motorola.)
- Procures all system components from the **most cost-effective vendors**: building construction components, for example, are normally contracted through the radio system supplier (In our case, construction of new radio rooms at the city's 10 transceiver sites was designed and procured separately in a competitive process.)
- Has made significant progress in obtaining **"leases" for the 10 transceiver sites**: we already have written approval from owners of a majority of the sites
- Has **involved** our key project **stakeholders**, including the Police, Fire/EMS, and emergency management personnel
- Provides communications *between* Police and Fire/EMS: the District's integration of the city's 800MHz and 460 MHz radio systems will provide a **seamless communications network between Police, Fire/EMS and EMA**, and will ensure that no public safety officer is ever in harm's way because of an inability to communicate
- Has a team that takes tremendous pride in advancing the personal safety of every District firefighter and sworn police officer through this project: we're achieving dramatically better, **nation-class** results in public safety radio communications with this initiative, and we're simultaneously positioning the District for contiguous, wide-band (700-800 MHz) radio communications in the near future

Please direct any inquiries to Ms. Linda Argo, Chief of Staff and Public Info. Officer, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, (202) 727-2277.