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FCC Hands Out E9-1-1 Violation Fines to 3 Carriers (8/31)

The FCC levied fines of up to \$1.3 million to three wireless carriers for not complying with the FCC's enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) handset rules.

In a notice of apparent liability for forfeiture (NAL), FCC officials fined Sprint Nextel \$1.325 million "for the willful and repeated violation of Section 20.18(g)(1)(v) of the commission's rules." Separately, the commission fined Alltel \$1 million for the same violations. U.S. Cellular was fined \$500,000 in a separate NAL.

Among other requirements, the FCC rules require that wireless carriers employing a handset-based E9-1-1 Phase II location technology must achieve 95-percent penetration among their subscribers of location-capable handsets by Dec. 31, 2005. Commission officials concluded that the three carriers that were fined failed to meet the handset penetration deadline.

Several small, regional carriers received waivers to comply with the rules, however, the three nationwide carriers fined were not granted waivers.

APCO Asks FCC to Reconsider 800 MHz Nonreimbursement for Public Safety (8/31)

The president of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International sent a letter to the FCC Thursday asking the commission to reconsider its recent ruling regarding nonreimbursement costs for public-safety licensees.

"APCO is deeply concerned that the current policy of not allowing reimbursement of licensees' post-mediation expenses before the commission will effectively nullify decisions of the [FCC] that are in favor of the incumbent licensee," said APCO President Willis Carter in a letter to FCC Chairman Kevin Martin.

The letter stated that public-safety licensees faced with expensive and time-consuming evidentiary hearings will have no choice but to settle for amounts well below what the FCC determined to be reasonable and prudent, the letter said. "Public-safety agencies should not be forced to incur expenses merely because of Sprint Nextel's refusal to accept the determination of the [FCC]," said Carter.

Public-Safety Groups Voice Support for M2Z

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wireless technology

Strix
Wireless Mesh Networks
For First Response



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(8/31)

The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) voiced support for M2Z Networks' 2.1 GHz broadband proposal by submitting a joint letter to FCC Chairman Kevin Martin providing their views, M2Z officials said.

The organizations stated: "We do believe the proposal could provide a secondary broadband IP network to the public-safety community and do so without using any public funds and at a very low cost." They added that M2Z's network "could supplement the primary 700 MHz public-safety broadband network that the commission recently addressed in another proceeding."

Among other things, M2Z's application calls for leasing spectrum in the 2.1 GHz band to offer free broadband access nationwide to all registered public-safety officers throughout the United States. Additionally, M2Z committed to work with public-safety organizations to enable prioritized access and pre-emptive use of its network in crisis situations and national emergencies. M2Z's broadband IP network will provide U.S. first responders with another public/private partnership that will create an interoperable "network-of-networks" for public safety that can endure in the face of manmade and natural disasters, company officials said.

The FCC has not yet ruled on the M2Z proposal, which was filed more than 15 months ago.

Van Rij Named New Tait Chairman (8/31)

Peter van Rij, a partner with the Christchurch, New Zealand-based legal firm Parry Field Lawyers, was appointed chairman of Tait Electronics following the death of its founder and first chairman, Sir Angus Tait. Van Rij has been a non-executive director of Tait for 16 years and has a depth of experience in the business.

"Angus, as he insisted on being called, was a leader both within the Tait Group and the wider commercial community. He leaves a legacy based upon industry knowledge, business acumen, determination and integrity. Of course it would be presumptuous to think one could fill his shoes," said Van Rij.

Angus had planned ahead, knowing that he wanted the company to endure beyond his passing for charitable purposes with stable ownership. Ten years ago, his shares in Tait Electronics were placed in trust. The structure, based upon the ownership model of the German engineering business Bosch, is intended to ensure Angus's operating principles and business philosophy would be adhered to with ownership remaining in New Zealand for the benefit of New Zealanders, Tait executives said.

Michael Chick will continue as managing director of Tait. Van Rij is also chairman of the Postie Plus Group.

FCC Dismisses M2Z Petition (8/31)

The FCC dismissed the M2Z Networks petition that called for free 2.1 GHz spectrum in exchange for sending a percentage of its revenues to the U.S. Treasury and offering a free broadband service to public-safety agencies.

The 2.1 GHz band has been allocated for fixed and mobile services, including advanced wireless services (AWS). The FCC said the petition is not in the public interest.

"We find that the public interest is best served by first seeking public comment on how the band should be used," the FCC ruling said. FCC staff said they will "expeditiously initiate a rulemaking process to consider service rules for the 2155-2175 MHz band."

TriTech Implements CAD System in Dallas (8/30)

The city of Dallas replaced its 30-year-old mainframe system with a multimillion-dollar CAD system, VisiCAD Command, from TriTech Software Systems.

The system enables the city's three command centers, Dallas 9-1-1, Dallas Police, and Dallas Fire and Rescue to have the flexibility to handle multiagency, multijurisdiction joint responses to emergency and non-emergency calls. Each agency's mobile resources — 1,800 police and 200 fire and rescue — can be jointly coordinated on an interoperable level with the command centers handling the city's 4,000 daily calls.

"Implementing a large-scale project of this complexity offers many challenges and we are making good progress," said Lynn Chaffin, public-safety portfolio manager for the city of Dallas. "The primary frustrations of officers in the field relate to connectivity issues that are being addressed; additional field training should resolve other issues. At no time during this implementation has public safety or officer safety been compromised."

Cooper to Keynote at Enterprise Wireless 2007 (8/30)

Martin Cooper, the executive chairman of ArrayComm, will be the keynote speaker for the Enterprise Wireless 2007 event organized by Enterprise Wireless Alliance (EWA). Cooper serves on the U.S. Commerce Department Spectrum Advisory Committee. He is considered a pioneer in wireless and technology futurist. Cooper conceived the first portable cellular phone and led the 10-year process to bring cellular to the market.

The Enterprise Wireless 2007 event will be held in San Antonio on Oct. 25-26.

Colorado Utility Expands Nighthawk Deployment (8/29)

Nighthawk Systems received an additional order for its CEO700 whole house disconnect units from United Power of Brighton, Colo. United Power placed its original order for units in February.

The CEO700 gives electric utilities the ability to wirelessly disconnect and reconnect power to residential electric meters from a centralized location.

Hutton to Continue to Offer Andrew's LDF Cable (8/29)

In anticipation of news from Andrew that it will cease regular production of the LDF5 and LDF7 series cable, Hutton negotiated with Andrew to continue the availability of the LDF products through the Hutton distribution network. Hutton will continue to offer all of the various styles of LDF cable.

Louisiana Selects Stratos for Satellite Service (8/28)

The state of Louisiana deployed Inmarsat's Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) from Stratos Global to support statewide emergency communications applications. Stratos' mobile satellite communications solution for the state includes installation of roof-mounted satellite antennas and portable units for continuity of operations and field personnel deployment.

Simultaneous satellite voice and high-speed data services are critical for state of Louisiana agencies and allow for voice contact with command centers and for direct access to incident management systems when other terrestrial and wireless systems are not accessible, Stratos officials said.

Separately, Speakerbus is working with Stratos to modify Speakerbus' portfolio of netted voice products for use on Inmarsat mobile satellite systems. The modified products are expected to be commercially available by the end of this year.

Speakerbus, a provider of mission-critical intercom systems, signed an exclusive distribution and product development agreement with Stratos in May. Under the three-year agreement, Stratos will serve as the exclusive global distributor of those products.

Rohde & Schwarz Inks U.K. HF Contract (8/28)

Rohde & Schwarz UK won a contract to upgrade the communications system aboard the Royal Navy's offshore patrol vessel, HMS Clyde. The project involves upgrading the existing high-frequency (HF) subsystem onboard to cater for additional data services, such as automatic link establishment (ALE) and automatic repeat request (ARQ) protocols.

The upgrade is required to be compliant with the Defence High Frequency Communications Service Network, an initiative introduced by the Defence Communications Services Agency to streamline the HF communications assets belonging to all three U.K. armed forces. STANAG 5066 is a NATO-wide communications protocol that enables all NATO vessels to communicate efficiently and securely with each other over HF links.

Motorola Sues Aruba on Patents (8/28)

Motorola's subsidiary companies, Symbol Technologies and Wireless Valley Communications, filed a patent infringement lawsuit Monday against Aruba Networks. The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, concerns Aruba's infringement of patents related to wireless LAN (WLAN) communications technologies.

Two of the patents relate to WLAN switching architecture technology, and two relate to WLAN site planning and RF management. The companies are seeking a permanent injunction against Aruba's use of the patented technologies and monetary damages for infringing use.

Intergraph Supplies Public-Safety Software for Pan Am Games (8/28)

Intergraph emergency incident response, planning, and reporting solutions contributed to the safety of the 2007 Pan American Games July 13-29 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. All National Public Safety Office (SENASP) operations, including nine different public-safety agencies, relied on the emergency response and security system delivered by Intergraph and a consortium of security and intelligence providers.

Sisgraph, a representative of Intergraph in Latin America and the Caribbean, delivered the software system and provided training and support for the 15 command-and-control centers, including one main center, one back-up center, eight local centers, and five mobile centers. The implementation also included the management of security events and units, as well as integration with the local police and fire brigades.

More than 5,600 athletes from the Americas and 1.3 million spectators attended the Pan American games in Rio, which has a metro population of nearly 14 million people.

ComCam Outfits Mobile Command Center in Pennsylvania (8/27)

ComCam outfitted a mobile incident management unit (IMU) command center for a Pennsylvania regional taskforce.

ComCam is supplying its Motorola IP networking technology as part of a rapid-deployment wireless system that builds mesh radio clouds and enables video on demand. The command center uses PC rack servers, ComCam IP cameras, and runs the ComCam software suite for video recording, analysis, mobile viewing, and management.

"Traditionally, mobile military command centers receive the highest attention and the largest budgets," said Don Gilbreath, ComCam chief executive officer (CEO). "Now state, regional, and local authorities are pooling resources to address adjacent county and multiagency cooperation with specialized rapid deployment technologies."

STI Considers Chinese Venture (8/27)

Superconductor Technologies Inc. (STI) announced plans to form a joint venture with Hunchun BaoLi Communication, which manufactures push-to-talk (PTT) handsets and associated battery technology for the Chinese market. The venture would focus primarily on manufacturing and marketing STI's SuperLink interference elimination solution for the Chinese market.

"Our goal is to form this joint venture by the end of 2007," said QiangHua Shao, president of Baoli.

Digital Dispatch Partners with Emcom (8/27)

Digital Dispatch Systems and Durban, South Africa-based Emcom entered into an agreement whereby Emcom will purchase Vector 530 mobile data terminals (MDTs) from Digital Dispatch for its client Eskom, South Africa's primary electricity supplier. The agreement could potentially result in orders for all of Eskom's fleet of 5,000 vehicles.

These transactions will be insured by Export Development Canada. Emcom is a mobile communications dealer in South Africa. Using Digital Dispatch's software development kit, Emcom developed software to interface to the Vector 530 to meet the specific needs of Eskom.

Toronto Transit Expands March Network Order (8/27)

March Networks said Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is expanding its rollout of the company's mobile video surveillance solution to its entire fleet of public transit vehicles and will additionally deploy the solution across its Wheel-Trans paratransit fleet.

The TTC previously selected the mobile systems and software for use on its city buses and streetcars. Three hundred units are currently installed on TTC buses, and March Networks expects to ship more than 1,500 additional systems by the end of fiscal-year 2008, including 150 units for Wheel-Trans vehicles.

Hutton to Distribute EION products (8/27)

Hutton Communications said it will distribute EION Wireless products to the Canadian and U.S. markets. In April 2006, EION Wireless acquired product lines from Calgary-based Wi-LAN. The VIP 110-24 and Ultima3 wireless radios and the Libra MAX WiMAX platform will now be available through Hutton Communications distribution.

Vendors Partner to Supply Public-Safety Agencies (8/24)

Public-safety software providers TriTech Software Systems and Locution Systems combined forces to provide their respective technologies to five U.S. cities and counties. Clark County, Nev.; the city of Bellevue, Wash.; the city of Charlotte, N.C.; the city of Fort Worth, Texas; and the West Metro Fire Rescue District in Lakewood, Colo., will all use the technology.

TriTech is providing its multiagency CAD system, and Locution Systems is providing an automated dispatching solution, along with a variety of fire station alerting and automated fire station control devices to the agencies.

"TriTech and Locution have developed a solid relationship working together with many mutual clients, and we have refined our interface and deployment process to provide for seamless integration between our systems," said Chris Maloney, TriTech president and chief executive officer (CEO).

VDC: Rugged Devices Accessories Market to See Growth (8/23)

Global spending on mobile accessories for rugged mobile devices is expected to grow 12.7 percent during the next five years, from \$880 million in 2006 to more than \$1.6 billion in 2011, according to a market research firm.

VDC estimated in a new report, "Mobile Device Accessories: Global Market Demand Analysis," that for every dollar spent on a rugged mobile device, 26 cents is spent on a mobile accessory. Currently, VDC estimates that rugged mobile device vendors hold about 70 percent of this mobile accessories market.

Relm CEO Begins Stock Sales Plan (8/23)

Relm Wireless President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) David P. Storey established a stock sales plan in accordance with Rule 10b5-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The plan is a component of Storey's overall financial planning strategy to enhance diversification and liquidity.

The plan covers the potential exercise of stock options that will expire on June 23, 2008 and the associated sale of up to 97,400 shares of the company's common stock from Aug. 23 to June 23, 2008. Storey will report any transactions executed under the plan on Form 4 filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Rule 10b5-1 enables officers and directors of an issuer to establish stock trading plans for the orderly sale of predetermined amounts of securities. Such plans may be

established only when the officers and directors are not in possession of material nonpublic information about the issuer. The rule allows individuals establishing such plans to sell shares at specified amounts and future prices over a specified period of time, even if subsequent material nonpublic information about the issuer becomes available to them.

Arcadian Partners for Smart Grid Services (8/23)

Arcadian Networks partnered with Horizon Energy Group to offer a complete suite of strategic business, engineering, and technical services related to "smart grid" initiatives to prospective and established client bases.

With the passage of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, electric utilities are implementing smart grid modernization strategies, which focus on improving the reliability, security, and efficiency of the electric grid, the effectiveness of their business processes as well as improved service for their customers. A particular challenge is the need to monitor, command, and control remote assets located in rural areas, where the economics and logistics of providing continuous on-site support are impractical.

"Our customers can now utilize an unbiased, independent understanding of the costs, benefits, and risks of transforming their field operations by implementing a smart grid strategy via a ubiquitous, IP-based broadband communication platform," said Gil Perez, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Arcadian Networks.

The smart grid initiatives innovate the traditional approaches to monitoring, commanding, and controlling field assets through the application of IP-based, secure, wireless broadband and private networking capabilities.

W.V. Approves Rajant System for Mines (8/23)

Rajant's BreadCrumb wireless system was approved and listed by the West Virginia Office of Miner's Health, Safety and Training (WV OMHS&T) for use by mining permit holders. The system will meet part of the requirements for emergency communications and tracking outlined in the West Virginia legislative rule governing protective clothing and equipment.

The WV OMHS&T validated the successful tests of the Rajant systems, consisting of an interconnected mesh solution connecting laptops and VoIP phones as far as 3,200 feet from the mine communications center. These systems are battery-powered wireless access nodes that enable voice and data communications across a meshed, self-healing network. They can communicate with other IP-based client-devices such as sensors, video cameras, laptops, and satellite terminals.

Rajant's approval and testing plan is posted on the WV OMHS&T Web site.

GMC Begins Satellite Broadband Service in Europe, Middle East (8/22)

Global Marine Communications (GMC), Hughes Network Systems, and Orbit Technology Group, completed interoperability testing and sea trials between the Hughes HN series of broadband satellite modems and the specially adapted Orbit marine stabilized satellite antenna. Using the HughesNet satellite service in Europe, GMC is commencing operations of a data satellite service, initially available in Europe and the Middle East.

GMC will collaborate with operators in other regions to provide global, seamless coverage worldwide using Hughes Ku-band technology. The companies are focusing the broadband service on the maritime and oil and gas markets.

Pantel Wins System Integration Contract (8/22)

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) in Alberta, Canada, selected Pantel International to design, supply, and install the region's emergency radio communications system and broadband wireless network.

Pantel will also provide installation, training, and maintenance and support services for the system and its users.

D.C. Interoperability One of Finalists for Technology Award (8/22)

An interoperability program in the District of Columbia is one of 20 finalists for a \$100,000 award by IBM and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. The District of Columbia Interoperable Communications for Public Safety program, a new platform for voice interoperability among first responders to support public-safety initiatives, was selected from more than 100 applications and from 30 countries around the globe as a finalist.

The 20 programs under consideration for the IBM-sponsored innovations in transforming government award demonstrate best practices for addressing excellence in responding to societal challenges through collaboration and the use of technology. Five finalists will be announced Sept. 12, and the winner will be announced Sept. 24 in Washington.

The award will be one of eight \$100,000 awards that the Ash Institute will announce.

London Fire Brigade Updates Emergency Management System (8/22)

The London Fire Brigade has awarded a nearly \$2 million contract to U.K. technology company VectorCommand for its Command Support System, a new approach for improving the management of major emergencies including flooding and terrorist incidents. The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), the body responsible for the London Fire Brigade, chose the system for its new fleet of mobile command vehicles.

The system will give commanders use of a variety of advanced, integrated display, communications, database, and organizational asset management technologies to create and distribute a clear, common operational picture of any emergency situation. The system will give commanders a wide range of incident data faster than existing systems currently allow. It will also allow for command decisions - in sketch map, GIS map, and organizational asset icon form - to be distributed as a common operational picture through wireless technologies to tablet PCs used by sector commanders and on desktop PCs at command headquarters.

In Motion Supplies Gateway to Hurricane Research Center (8/22)

In Motion Technology will outfit the Hurricane Research Center in Tampa, Fla., with an onBoard Mobile Gateway. The gateway will enhance the safety of the crew by

allowing them to communicate during storms, In Motion officials said.

The Hurricane Research Center is a nonprofit organization formed in 2005 to study the meteorological effects and social impact of hurricanes. The center put together a fleet of research vehicles outfitted with cutting-edge technology to follow and monitor hurricanes.

The center in 2005 installed a satellite dish on one of its vehicles to create a mobile emergency command center with wireless Internet access, satellite phones and a satellite fax line. Unfortunately, light cloud cover and drizzle weakened the satellite signal. The center then deployed In Motion's gateway to provide a more reliable multinet network Internet connection. It also serves as a mobile hot spot for people who have lost communications during hurricanes, such as members of the media and disaster recovery organizations.

EU Looks to License MSS (8/22)

The European Commission (EU) adopted a proposal to select systems for mobile satellite services (MSS) at the European level. If adopted by the European Parliament and the EU Council of Telecom Ministers, this new selection mechanism will allow services, such as mobile TV, broadband data, and emergency communications to develop smoothly throughout Europe as of 2009.

Existing international rules for satellite communications do not cover licensing. Under current EU Telecom rules, the selection of operators is essentially national, leading to diverging national approaches to selection and authorization. This risks impeding the growth of pan-European mobile satellite systems, EU officials said.

"The new way the commission proposes today to select MSS will give Europe's industry the necessary confidence to invest in new EU-wide services for citizens. It will also help bridge the digital divide by improving coverage in the EU's remote areas," said Viviane Reding, the EU's telecoms commissioner.

If adopted by parliament and council, the proposed new mechanism will ensure that there is one, not 27 markets in Europe for MSS, EU officials added. To bring the MSS-reserved 2 GHz bands into use as soon as possible while ensuring fairness for potential applicants, the target date for completing the EU selection process is early 2009.

President Bush Discusses N.A. Border Spectrum Sharing (8/21)

The White House released a statement after a meeting among President George W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and Mexican President Felipe Calderon noting a new process to expedite radio spectrum sharing arrangements for the border regions.

Among other initiatives, the statement said the leaders are committed to improving the compatibility and reliability of wireless communications for public safety and first responders, and that Mexico and the United States signed a protocol in August facilitating cross-border communications, although details of the agreement were not immediately available.

In a meeting in Montebello, Quebec, Canada, the leaders said the new radio spectrum sharing arrangements for the border regions "ensure citizens have timely access to the latest wireless services, and public safety and national security authorities have the spectrum they need, when they need it."

Dataprobe Product Compliant with EU Standards (8/21)

Dataprobe said its iBoot product, a remote power solution designed to remotely monitor, manage, and control electronic equipment, is now compliant with RoHS and WEEE standards in the European Union (EU).

Rooney, Cronkite to Guest Line RCA Banquet (8/21)

The Radio Club of America (RCA) annual banquet will feature a keynote address by Andy Rooney of "60 Minutes." In addition, Walter Cronkite and Dr. John S. Belrose each will receive the club's foremost achievement award, the Armstrong Medal.

Since 1978, Rooney has delivered more than 800 essays on the CBS TV network's Sunday evening news magazine program, "60 Minutes."

Cronkite was the anchor of the "CBS Evening News" program from 1962 to 1981 and is a radio amateur. The Armstrong Medal has been awarded 40 times and always to members. However, RCA officials said the club is making an exception this year in presenting the medal to Cronkite. The medal is given in recognition of an important contribution to radio art and science.

"Many of you know I'm a sailor," said Cronkite. "I really enjoy being on the sea, with the wind at my back, under way, under sail. What most of you don't know is that I'm a radio ham, too. My call is KB2GSD. And you can bet that when I'm on the ocean, even if the GPS, the radar, and the ship-to-shore fail, I've still got my ham radio station. It really is the best backup communications system in the world."

Belrose was with the Communications Research Centre Canada (CRCC) from 1957 to 1998. In honor of a 50-year career in radio science, he has the status of an emeritus researcher at CRCC.

The dinner will be held at the New York Athletic Club in New York Nov. 16.

Honeywell to Offer 3eTI Product (8/21)

EFJ's 3e Technologies International (3eTI) subsidiary received an order to supply its multinode product, which is now offered as part of Honeywell's OneWireless industrial wireless mesh network solution. The hazardous-location certified multinode product will be used to enable wireless automation, efficiency, and safety in petrochemical plants, mines, and other heavy industrial environments.

Andrew to Upgrade TETRA Network in Hong Kong (8/21)

Andrew won an upgrade contract for the Mass Transit Railway Corporation's (MTRC) territory-wide radio network in Hong Kong. Andrew will modify MTRC's communications infrastructure in stations, tunnels, and other buildings to enable migration of the railway's radio system from a conventional 80 MHz trunked radio system to an 800 MHz TETRA system.

The upgrade will support more advanced functions, including individual call, group call with flexible grouping, and digital data transmission.

Sepura Supplies Radios in Kazakhstan Capital (8/21)

Sepura TETRA digital radios are providing communications for the municipal and government services in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital city. This contract, secured earlier in the year, deployed a commercial TETRA network in Astana.

The digital network will eventually cover the main 16 cities of Kazakhstan for government and commercial organizations. The order comprises more than 500 Sepura radios.

Sepura also announced that one of the largest deployments of TETRA radios in South America took place in July in Brazil when Teltronic and Sepura supplied 15,000 radios to the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro. The radios are now being used by the city's police force.

During the games, the radios coordinated organizing officials and emergency services at venues across a 25-kilometer radius and supported the efficient management of administrators, competitors, transport, and spectators. Rio hosted 5,500 athletes from 42 countries and 1 million spectators. More than 600,000 voice calls were carried out during the 14 days of the games.

TCS Gains E9-1-1 Patent (8/21)

TeleCommunication Systems (TCS) announced the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued patent No. 7,260,186, titled Solutions for VoIP 9-1-1 Location Services. The patent enables updating the mid-call location of a VoIP 9-1-1 caller using a Wi-Fi hot spot.

The invention allows VoIP Wi-Fi E9-1-1 calls to be routed to the correct public-safety answering point (PSAP) while automatically providing the location of the caller at the time the call was established. The invention helps mobile VoIP calls to meet the current FCC mandate requiring that wireless operators provide E9-1-1 service, TCS officials said.

Digital Dispatch Buys Mobisoft for \$7.7 Million (8/21)

Digital Dispatch Systems signed a binding letter of intent to acquire all of the shares of Finnish software company Mobisoft for \$7.7 million, payable by \$4 million in cash and the remainder in Digital Dispatch stock.

Mobisoft specializes in application service provider (ASP)-oriented automated dispatching and wireless data transfer applications for passenger transport. Mobisoft's focus is on real-time scheduling and dispatching for passenger transport.

"The acquisition of Mobisoft is very strategic," said Vari Ghai, chief executive officer (CEO) of Digital Dispatch. "The enterprise taxi dispatch market for large fleets is maturing and saturating. Mobisoft's MobiRouter and MobiTravel Center products for school buses, airport shuttles, and transit authorities provide us with additional products and customers to expand our non-taxi business. We also expect to sell our mobile data terminal (MDT) products to

their existing and new customers by offering a complete one-stop solution."

Cooke-Dallin Joins FDM Software (8/20)

FDM Software appointed Greg Cooke-Dallin as vice president of marketing and sales, responsible for developing and guiding the company's sales strategy and activities, as well as overseeing all marketing activities for FDM's next-generation products and services.

700 MHz Auction to Begin Jan. 16 (8/20)

The FCC scheduled the 700 MHz commercial spectrum auction, which includes a license designated to work with public safety to build a nationwide broadband public-safety network, to begin Jan. 16, 2008. The auction is designated as Auction 73.

IJIS Institute Announces Board Members (8/20)

The IJIS Institute, a nonprofit consortium of 200 companies that develop information technology (IT) services and products for the public and justice communities, announced results of the election for the board of directors. Bruce Kelling with Bask Enterprises was named president of the executive committee, and Glenn Archer with ARC Consulting was named vice president.

In addition, Steve Hoggard of Spillman Technologies will chair the IJIS public-safety technical standards committee (IPSTSC). Other appointments and contact details are listed at www.ijis.org.

Amcom Selected For New Emergency Communication System for Homeland Security (8/20)

Amcom Software announced it has been selected to participate in the Red Cell project – a platform for the detection, response and emergency communications associated with man-made and natural threats to public safety. Amcom is providing the emergency notification software for the solution, which will be demonstrated for the Institute for Defense and Homeland Security (IDHS) in September. The initiative is led by AMERICAN SYSTEMS, which is a government IT solutions provider.

The objective of the Red Cell project is to ensure timely decision making and rapid response in the event of man-made emergencies such as chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive events.

eTelemetry Partners With 911 ETC (8/20)

eTelemetry announced a partnership with 911 ETC to provide a total asset tracking and e911 compliant solution for hybrid TDM and VoIP phone installations. "The eTelemetry and 911 ETC partnership delivers a complete E-911 compliant solution to enterprises with a variety of phone environments," said eTelemetry CEO and President, Ermis Sfakiyanudis.

Cisco Partners with Etherstack on P25 (8/20)

Cisco and Etherstack intend to cooperate on the development of a range of new public-safety radio network infrastructure products aimed at the first responder segment of North American markets.

Through its relationship with Etherstack, Cisco intends to enhance its range of public-safety interoperability solutions for the Project 25 (P25) Inter Subsystem Interface (ISSI) protocol, which allows bridging different manufacturers' radio networks and advanced interoperability beyond radio to telephony, cellular networks, and IP devices. The endeavor is aimed specifically at the P25 digital radio

network market in North America.

Earlier this month, using Cisco IP Interoperability and Collaboration System (IPICS), Cisco and Etherstack conducted a demonstration of P25 interworking technology. Etherstack has been licensing public-safety wireless air interface protocol technologies to equipment manufacturers around the world for more than 10 years.

Cisco announced a separate P25 agreement with EADS earlier this month.

APCO Requests FCC Action on E9-1-1 Accuracy (8/20)

In an FCC filing, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International said it is disappointed that the commission has not yet acted on the public-safety answering point (PSAP)-level accuracy issue. APCO supports the FCC's tentative conclusion on PSAP-level accuracy for wireless E9-1-1 location.

Public Safety Required to Certify 700 MHz Operation by Aug. 30 (8/20)

To effectuate the narrowband 700 MHz consolidation, the FCC noted the upper 700 MHz D block licensee will pay the costs of relocating narrowband public-safety radios to the new consolidated segment. In its recent report and order (R&O), the FCC designated the lower half of the 700 MHz public-safety band for broadband and consolidated existing narrowband allocations in the upper half of the public-safety 700 MHz band.

To clearly define reimbursement costs, the commission prohibited authorization of any new narrowband operations in the 764 - 767/794 - 797 MHz and 775 - 776/805 - 806 MHz bands as of 30 days following the adoption of the second R&O. In a public notice, the commission said no new public-safety narrowband operations will be permitted as of Aug. 30 in the previously cited bands.

Furthermore, public-safety licensees must certify the number of narrowband mobile and portable handsets and base stations serving these handsets that are in operation as of Aug. 30. Only those narrowband radios certified as being in operation as of Aug. 30 will be entitled to reimbursement for the costs of relocation to the consolidated narrowband blocks. Narrowband public-safety equipment may be placed into operation on or after Aug. 30 but only in the consolidated narrowband blocks.

Certification is due as of the effective date of the order, which is 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. The FCC will issue another public notice to inform of that date.

NPSTC Announces Interoperability Web Site (8/20)

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) developed the National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX) (<http://www.niix.org>) as a service to the interoperability planning community. The service is specifically for those involved in the development of the statewide communications interoperability plans (SCIPs).

NIIX provides a centralized, secure warehouse for interoperable communications-related information.

Registered NIIX members can access peer-created documents and share information with each other. Members can also use NIIX tools to collaborate in the creation and management of their statewide plans.

Since startup in early July, representatives from more than 45 states have joined and are using NIIX to help create SCIPs within the secure communities they establish.

Phoenix Airport Deploys Interoperability Platform (8/17)

Federal Signal said Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport completed the deployment of the FS Codespear interoperable platform to enhance airport public safety, security, and emergency communications. Sky Harbor also collaborated with FS Codespear on the development of the new Scenario Manager Module, an integrated incident planning and execution tool that allows defined, tiered response plans based on incident events and their dependencies with other tasks, resources, or procedures.

This application module sets a new paradigm in achieving National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance and electronic execution of response plans and mutual-aid requests, Federal Signal executives said. The interoperable system enables more than 1,000 emergency management, first responder, and aviation department personnel to coordinate, prepare and respond to incidents with greater coordination than previously possible, said airport officials.

Sky Harbor is the fifth-largest airport in North America.

New Legislation Expands PSIC Grants Beyond 700 MHz (8/16)

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) modified the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant program as a result of the President's recent signing of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, which amended Section 3006 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that authorized the PSIC program. Section 1481 of the Senate bill generally deletes statutory language that currently limits funding to systems that either use, or interoperate with systems that use, public-safety spectrum in the 700 MHz band.

The new legislation expanded the PSIC grant program's purpose by including planning and coordination as eligible costs; explicitly permitting funds to be used for equipment and software; allowing investments in other public-safety spectrum bands; and requiring the establishment and implementation of strategic technology reserve by public-safety agencies. Accordingly, NTIA amended the notice of availability of funds to include prepositioning activities as a program and selection priority; to remove the restriction involving the 700 MHz frequency band; to amend the funding availability section to set aside \$75 million to fund prepositioning activities; and to exclude planning and coordination activities from the 20-percent cost-share requirement.

Each state and territory continues to be required to submit its application and narrative no later than Aug. 22, and statewide communications interoperability plans (SCIPs) and investment justification are due Dec. 3.

ShotSpotter Wins Contract in Ill. (8/16)

The Village of Bellwood, Ill., is integrating the ShotSpotter

gunshot location system with its wireless surveillance camera network. The integration, scheduled for completion in early September, will allow the ShotSpotter GLS to interoperate with the city's cameras and surveillance system to provide Bellwood police with real-time notification of gunshot events.

Bellwood is the first municipality in Illinois to cover its entire service area with ShotSpotter. Current Technologies Corporation (CTC), the company that provided Bellwood's wireless surveillance system, will install and integrate ShotSpotter with the city's Proxim wireless network and surveillance camera system.

Sprint Demos Direct Connect on CDMA Network (8/16)

Sprint Nextel demonstrated the use of Nextel Direct Connect on its CDMA network, providing push-to-talk (PTT) service between devices on the CDMA network and between devices on the CDMA and iDEN networks. The carrier said Nextel Direct Connect will represent Sprint's product portfolio of PTT service and devices, regardless of network platform or device type.

Sprint plans to expand the Nextel Direct Connect portfolio in early 2008 with new device choices and capabilities. The devices will offer new features, including online contact and group management, PTT voicemail, a single number for voice and PTT, and mobile broadband data coverage.

Customers purchasing or upgrading to a new Nextel Direct Connect handset will continue to have the capability to connect instantly with the community of more than 20 million existing Nextel Direct Connect subscribers, officials for the carrier said.

Vital Alerts Test Mining System in Test Mine (8/16)

Vital Alert executives said its Through-the-Earth Communications system was the first digital technology to send a very low frequency (VLF) two-way voice signal to depths of 300 feet in a government test mine. Testing was conducted at the Lake Lynn Experimental Mine operated by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The surface-to-ground system connected Sprint Nextel i325 radios located on the surface to the same types of radios in the mine through the Vital Alert system supported by Raytheon JPS Communications' ACU-1000. The test, conducted over three days, was a collaboration of personnel from Vital Alert, Los Alamos National laboratory, Sprint Nextel and Raytheon JPS. The system will allow users to communicate during critical emergency situations in underground mines and other environments, such as subways, tunnels, and skyscrapers, said Los Alamos officials.

The underground system uses a VLF electromagnetic radiation in the range of 3 to 30 kHz and digital audio compression to transmit wireless voice and data signals through the earth. Other materials that block high RF signals do not restrict the technology's signal propagation, according to company officials.

Terry Joins Short Elliott Hendrickson (8/15)

Andy Terry joined Minnesota's largest engineering firm, Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH), as director of intelligent

transportation and public-safety services to manage the firm's intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and public-safety communication initiatives. Terry specializes in ITS and public-safety design and project management and has 18 years of experience with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Adesta Wins Video Surveillance Contract in Texas (8/15)

Adesta, a systems integrator, was awarded a \$958,000 contract to install a waterside video surveillance system for the Jefferson County (Texas) Sheriff's Department along the Sabine/Neches rivers. The system will effectively manage and monitor surveillance video at strategic locations along the waterway between Beaumont and Port Arthur, Texas.

Adesta will engineer, install, test and turn up a fully integrated wireless video surveillance network. The project includes a network of cameras from remote locations along the rivers, with video management from the U.S. Coast Guard vessel tracking station and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Construction began in June and is projected to be completed in early 2008.

Adesta will collaborate with Jefferson County and the United States Coast Guard in a public/private partnership. Together, they will work with organizations that own property along the rivers to obtain cooperation for an effective installation and integration.

BIO-key Reports Profit for Second Quarter (8/15)

BIO-key International announced its financial results for the second quarter ended June 30. Total revenue from continuing operations for the three months ended June 30 decreased 19 percent to \$2.5 million from \$3 million reported in for the corresponding period in 2006. The reduction in revenue from continuing operations in the second quarter of 2007 was primarily due to timing issues related to several large orders.

BIO-key's gross margin for the second quarter improved to 81.2 percent compared with 77.5 percent for the corresponding period in 2006. Net income was \$1.7 million for the second quarter ended June 30 compared with a net loss of \$1.1 million for the corresponding period in 2006.

Galveston Expands Telex Vega Installations (8/14)

The Galveston County (Texas) Office of Emergency Management expanded its Telex Vega radio dispatch system to include multiple cities in the region, along with the local government offices.

The county is implementing an in-house dispatch console system and a countywide link to the VHF/UHF interoperability frequencies for all public-safety answering points (PSAPs), county officials said.

Martin Steps Down From NENA (8/14)

Robert L. Martin, executive director for the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) for the past three years, departed the organization to spend more time with his family and to pursue other business interests. The NENA board has named Bob Cobb as interim executive director while it decides how to proceed with a search for a permanent successor to Martin.

Aeroflex Opens Singapore Center (8/14)

Aeroflex opened a new regional service center in

Singapore that enables the Aeroflex Test Solutions (ATS) division to provide instrument service support to its customers within the markets in Asia. The new service center will be the operational hub for ATS products in the Asia-Pacific region and provide regional support to customers, sales teams, direct service operations, and third-party service channels.

Orbcomm Narrows Quarterly Loss (8/14)

Orbcomm, a global satellite data communications company focused on two-way machine-to-machine (M2M) communications, announced financial results for the second quarter and six months ended June 30. Total revenue in the second quarter increased 5.8 percent over the prior year quarter.

The company's reported net loss narrowed in the quarter to \$1.3 million, a 42.4 percent improvement compared with a net loss of \$2.3 million in the second quarter of 2006.

Firetide Partners with OnSSI (8/14)

Firetide and On-Net Surveillance Systems Inc. (OnSSI) entered into a strategic alliance to provide video surveillance control and management capabilities over mesh networks. The alliance combines OnSSI's software solutions to control and manage large IP-based video surveillance systems with Firetide's high-speed wireless networks.

Motient Changes Name to TerreStar (8/14)

Motient, a controlling shareholder of TerreStar Networks and TerreStar Global, said its board of directors and shareholders approved a corporate name change to TerreStar.

"TerreStar more accurately reflects where our business model has evolved in recent years. Today, we are building next-generation mobile satellite and terrestrial communications networks in North America with TerreStar Networks and globally with TerreStar Global," said Robert H. Brumley, TerreStar's president and chief executive officer (CEO).

In addition to the name change, TerreStar will relocate its corporate headquarters from Lincolnshire, Ill., to Reston, Va. TerreStar plans to build, own, and operate North America's and Europe's first 4G all IP next-generation integrated mobile satellite and terrestrial communications networks that will provide service over conventional commercial wireless devices.

PSST: Structure in Line with FCC Guidelines (8/14)

The Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) officials said that the text of the second report and order defines the structure and composition of the Public Safety Broadband Licensee in a manner similar to the PSST. "Where there are differences, the PSST intends to make necessary modifications to its governing documents," the PSST said in a statement.

A review committee of the PSST narrowed the field of potential agents to the trust from 10 to three last week. Monday, the committee conducted interviews with the three remaining applicants and solicited additional information from the three companies. The committee will make a recommendation to the PSST board of directors "after further deliberation," PSST officials said.

MSV Meets FCC Milestone (8/13)

FCC officials determined that Mobile Satellite Ventures (MSV) has met the beginning physical milestone associated with the construction of its next-generation MSV-1 satellite. MSV can therefore reduce its bond amount from \$1.5 million to \$750,000.

MSV's two next-generation satellites are scheduled for launch in 2009 and 2010.

HYT Merges with Marketronics (8/13)

HYT, a manufacturer of two-way radio systems, and Marketronics, a distributor of wireless products to Latin America, merged the two companies to form HYT America.

"This partnership will combine the strength of the HYT brand and product portfolio with the experience of Marketronics in the Americas marketplace," said Qingzhou Chen, founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of HYT. "Our value proposition of offering top-quality, value-added two-way radio solutions, coupled with the know-how and added services provided by Marketronics, is unsurpassed in the market."

Francisco Noyola, former president and CEO of Marketronics, will serve as president and CEO of HYT America.

FCC Releases Full Text of 700 MHz Order (8/13)

The FCC late Friday afternoon released the full text of its 700 MHz auction rules and report and order first announced July 31. The link to the 352-page document is at [700 MHz Auction Rules and Report](#)

Kingston Accepts New BIO-key Mobile Data Software (8/13)

BIO-key International released its InfoExchange Software Module, which was accepted by the Kingston (N.Y.) Police Department. This contract represents BIO-key's first with the municipality of Kingston.

The software delivers information from records management systems (RMS) and other local data sources directly to officers and investigators on the street. The Kingston department will use product for direct wireless mobile access to information on individuals and incidents in the department's RMS.

Nice Honors 9-1-1 Professionals (8/13)

NICE announced the winners of the 2007 PSAPs' Finest awards, a program that salutes top performers in public-safety answering points (PSAPs).

John Merklinger, director of the Rochester/Monroe County (N.Y.) 9-1-1 center, won the communications center director of the year award. Dispatch Supervisor Kathleen Bouchard from Patriot Ambulance in Chelmsford, Mass., was honored as line supervisor of the year. Justin Hopman, emergency communications specialist II with the Orlando (Fla.) Police Department, was awarded telecommunicator of the year. Technician of the year went to Mike Winters, technology coordinator for the Cheshire (Conn.) Police Department.

Azalea to Build Mesh Network for Chinese Oil Firm (8/10)

Azalea Networks was selected by Daqing Oilfield to deploy China's largest industrial wireless mesh broadband network. Daqing commissioned the project to support its requirements for wide-area fixed and mobile video security

and data collection. Located in Harbin province, Daqing Oilfield is one of the world's leading producers of oil and natural gas.

The Daqing network when fully deployed will cover 180 square kilometers and support up to 25 mobile video monitoring and data collection teams, as well as a control center and several fixed locations. Azalea is delivering data rates of up to 12 Megabits per second (Mbps), with video at 30 frames per second over 10 kilometer links in the field. The Daqing network is the first industrial wireless broadband network of this scale in China that uses wireless mesh router technology, Azalea officials said.

Tait to Offer EADS Trunked P25 Network Solutions (8/9)

Tait Radio Communications announced a global agreement between Tait Electronics Ltd and EADS Secure Networks to offer EADS IP Project 25 (P25) trunking network software.

"We are extremely pleased to have signed a global value added reseller agreement that allows Tait to offer EADS P25 core network software in North America and throughout the world," said Bill Fredrickson, president of Tait Radio Communications in North America.

Tait will now be able to offer the EADS Network Controller and software to provide complete trunked solutions along with Tait P25 simulcast networks.

EDX Signs New Distributors (8/9)

EDX Wireless appointed two new global distributors. E-Saudi Networks of Saudi Arabia raises the EDX presence across the entire Middle East region of the globe. Additionally, Gigabytes Networks of India provides EDX with top-level contacts across a wide range of telecommunication, government, and institutional entities throughout India.

Sepura Wins Venezuelan Contract (8/8)

Sepura won a contract in Venezuela to provide TETRA digital radios in an initiative to improve the public security and social needs of the Orinoco delta region. The Estado Delta Amacuro regional government commissioned a TETRA network to assist police and local community leaders in this large area at the head of the Orinoco, South America's second-longest river. The radios will transform communications in the region's main city of Tucupita and with nomadic and permanent communities in the delta's swamp and jungle hinterland.

EADS, Kenwood Partner on P25 (8/8)

EADS Secure Networks North America and Kenwood USA announced an agreement to promote turnkey Project 25 (P25) public-safety radio systems featuring EADS Secure Networks' radio architecture combined with Kenwood's terminals and other applications.

Under the nonexclusive agreement, Kenwood's distribution network will actively market and sell P25 radio systems incorporating EADS' radio architecture. EADS will continue to directly market and sell comprehensive solutions and will include Kenwood terminals in its proposed offers wherever possible and where applicable to each customer environment.

Virginia Establishes 3 Radio Caches (8/8)

Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine announced that the commonwealth will establish three strategic radio caches in

Chesapeake, Fairfax County, and the Harrisonburg region to improve the state's ability to establish communications in the wake of a disaster or other large-scale emergency.

The initiative, which is funded by \$5 million in federal homeland security grants, has been a top priority of the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). Chesapeake and Fairfax County each will receive \$1.9 million in grants, and Harrisonburg-Rockingham County will receive \$1.2 million, to establish the radio caches. The localities submitted regional proposals that allow for the deployment of the equipment statewide, if requested. These regional radio caches will consist of a portable radio tower and between 300 and 500 radios in various frequency bands. The SIEC established a team of local and state officials that developed minimum requirements for the radio caches.

"The work that was done by the radio cache team to ensure standardization of the various caches is groundbreaking, and we have already had inquiries from other states on how Virginia accomplished this," said Jim Junkins, chair of the SIEC.

Investor Group Buys CompuDyne (8/8)

CompuDyne signed a definitive purchase agreement to be acquired by an investor group consisting of affiliates of The Gores Group and industry executive Stuart Mackiernan. Clearlake Capital Group has committed to provide debt and equity financing to the investor group in the transaction.

CompuDyne's board of directors has agreed to recommend the sale of the company via a cash tender offer at \$7 per share followed by a merger at the same price. CompuDyne expects the cash tender offer to be made to all shareholders during the month of August. The offer price represents a 32-percent premium to the closing price of CompuDyne common stock as of Aug. 6, the day the plan of merger was executed.

"This action represents the culmination of a long process of exploring the best direction for CompuDyne to take," said Martin Roenigk, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of CompuDyne, "Given our relatively small size, complex structure, and the inordinate costs of being a public company in the post-Sarbanes Oxley era, a sale of the entire company to an organization that has the financial and managerial resources to continue to build CompuDyne without the managerial diversion and financial drain of public company requirements seemed the most appropriate step to take.

National Interop Delivers P25 Radios to Fire Districts (8/8)

National Interop delivered more than 240 of the latest generation Project 25 (P25)-compliant digital handheld radios to various fire districts and agencies in Mason County, Wash. The radios will be used by firefighters, helping the fire districts increase their interoperability with state and federal responders that have already acquired P25 radios.

The Mason County fire districts are believed to be the first deployment in the fire service of P25 VHF radios across an entire county in Washington or Oregon. Initially, the radios will be used in conventional analog mode, but over time the districts expect to transition to P25 digital modes of

operation. A majority of the cost of the new radios was supported by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant.

Tait Founder Dies (8/8)

Tait Electronics announced the death of company founder and chairman Sir Angus Tait. Tait died at Windermere Lifestyle Care and Village in New Zealand.

"He was an immensely determined yet compassionate man, a great innovator and mentor for so many. He was humble and curious; never seeking the limelight but never shy of making his voice heard if it would help business and education in New Zealand," said Michael Chick, managing director.

Tait was the chairman and, at 88, he had been coming to work most days.

N.D. Mine Implements Strix Mesh Networking Gear (8/7)

Falkirk Mining, a subsidiary of The North American Coal, the nation's largest lignite coal producer, deployed Strix Network's technology at its Falkirk surface coal mine in North Dakota. Falkirk Mining's wireless mesh network, which currently covers more than 25 square miles, is used for critical logistics data communications to constantly move coal trucks and bulldoze equipment. Multiple simultaneously active mobile network hot zones roam across the mine at any one time.

Raleigh PD Selects AT&T for Broadband (8/7)

AT&T announced that the Raleigh (N.C.) Police Department is using AT&T's 3G wireless broadband solution, called BroadbandConnect, to deliver mission-critical information to officers across a network that includes more than 500 patrol cars. The solution also supports handheld devices for officers on bicycles and horseback.

The network provides access to photography and databases that are not available on the department's two-way radio systems.

Red Cross Agencies Deploy Iridium Service (8/7)

Iridium Satellite announced that Magen David Adom in Israel and The New Zealand Red Cross, both members of the International Red Cross, have purchased Iridium satellite communications equipment for use in relief efforts. Iridium is used for backing up land-based, cellular, and radio telecom services when they are down in crisis situations. In addition, Iridium is interoperable with all other emergency communications systems, including UHF and VHF radios, as well as others.

Iridium also contracted with seven key partners in the beginning phase of designing and developing its Iridium NEXT satellite constellation. These first partners – Avaliant, Boeing, General Dynamics, KinetX, MicroSat Systems Inc. (MSI), and Trident Sensors – will work with Iridium on systems engineering, requirements definition, and architecture development.

Intergraph Gains New Public-Safety Customers (8/7)

Intergraph said the following agencies deployed Intergraph's emergency incident response, planning, and reporting solutions: city of Abilene (Texas) Police Department and Fire Dispatch; city of Laguna Beach (Calif.) Police, Fire, and Marine Safety; Montgomery County (Pa.) Dept. of Public Safety; St. Petersburg (Fla.)

Police Department; and Vail (Colo.) Police Department.

USPS Extends Relm Contract (8/7)

Relm Wireless extended its exclusive supply contract with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) for a second time through July 14, 2008. The original contract, executed in July 2005, was for a year and has two remaining one-year renewals at the option of the USPS.

Under the terms of the contract, RELM Wireless became the exclusive provider of two-way portable radios and accessories to USPS installations throughout the United States and its territories and possessions, including main and associate post offices, administrative offices, training and technical centers, and headquarters.

Roam Secure Gains Contract in Pa. (8/7)

Officials in the Southeastern Counter Terrorism Task Force (SECTTF) in Pennsylvania unveiled a regional, interoperable, alert and information sharing system built on the Roam Secure Alert Network (RSAN) and Roam Secure Emergency Information Exchange (RSIX). SECTTF includes the city and county of Philadelphia and surrounding Delaware, Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester counties. The system enables routine and all-hazards communication among 25,000 first responders, emergency managers, and key government officials across the region.

NetMotion Wins Orange Country Award (8/7)

The Orange County (Calif.) Sheriff's Department Investigations Division (OCSD) deployed NetMotion's mobile virtual private network (VPN) solution to support its police officers and investigators in the field. NetMotion's software boosts mobile productivity by maintaining and optimizing connections to applications as users move in and out of wireless coverage areas and across various networks, company officials said.

Sprint to Resell MSV Services to Public Safety (8/7)

Mobile Satellite Ventures (MSV) entered into a three-year strategic distribution alliance with the Sprint Emergency Response Team (ERT) to offer continuous wireless connectivity for public-safety agencies in situations where the public switched telephone network (PSTN) is congested or damaged, or where phone coverage is nonexistent. Through the agreement, Sprint ERT will offer unique MSV satellite products and services as part of its Rapid Deployment Solutions portfolio and resell MSV equipment and services to public-safety end users throughout the United States.

Under the terms of the distribution alliance, Sprint ERT will also offer MSV's current services including MSV push-to-talk (PTT) and two-way radio service over satellite, as well as telephony over MSV's MSAT generation satellites. The agreement also includes provisions for adding new and future communications services.

Positron Secures \$7 Million Contract (8/6)

The city of Modesto, county of Stanislaus and Stanislaus Regional 9-1-1 Center in California awarded Positron Public Safety Systems a \$7 million contract to install, service, and maintain its new public-safety system throughout Stanislaus County for 10 years. Positron's end-to-end CAD and records management solution will empower 2,700 users with open access to the systems and immediate, seamless communications among 300 mobile-data devices, 36 dispatch units, and numerous public-safety databases.

MSV Launches New Service with DOJ, FBI (8/6)

Mobile Satellite Ventures (MSV) launched Satellite Mutual Aid Radio Talkgroup (SMART) on its nationwide push-to-talk satellite network, conceived and administered in conjunction with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The SMART program allows law-enforcement and public-safety officials authorized by DOJ to participate in a nationwide two-way satellite radio talk group. By using MSV's unique push-to-talk satellite technology, each group member can either listen to or join in the conversation taking place over the talk group. MSV is making this talk group available without additional cost to MSV's public-safety customers.

Federal Signal Buys License Plate Recognition Firm (8/6)

Federal Signal acquired PIPS Technology, a privately held developer and manufacturer of automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) systems. The cash purchase price of \$115 million was financed using existing cash balances and funds available under the company's revolving credit facility.

PIPS Technology, with offices in Hampshire, United Kingdom, and Knoxville, Tenn., designs and manufactures ALPR systems and optical character recognition software. ALPR solutions are used in control and surveillance applications in markets such as traffic and tolling, law enforcement, public safety and access control. The PIPS transaction, together with the recent Codespear and Riverchase acquisitions, underscores a tightening of the company's strategic focus on public safety, company officials said.

Wi4Net Expands Video Surveillance in Long Beach (8/6)

Wi4Net, a division of CelPlan Technologies, was selected to expand the existing video surveillance network in Long Beach, Calif., adding 12 wireless cameras to a 4.9 GHz based surveillance network. Ultimately targeting citywide security, the expansion will provide surveillance for the sports arena, convention center, world trade center, and various other facilities and high-traffic areas.

Radio IP Wins Contracts to Boost Data Speeds (8/6)

Radio IP Software announced two contract wins. Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) purchased 2,500 Radio IP MTG licenses to achieve continuous wireless connectivity for its public-safety and service agencies on its Motorola DataTAC network. The software has enabled Ohio MARCS to improve its data flow 10-fold and reduces the amount of information technology (IT) support required in the field by managing network connections and compressing data traveling over the network, Radio IP officials said.

In addition, Forsyth County, Ga., implemented Radio IP MTG to support a mobile-office initiative for its public-safety and service agencies. The software improves the county's data transmission 100-fold by compressing data transmitted across wireless networks. Implemented in 350 vehicles, the continuous wireless connectivity solution enables officers to leverage high-bandwidth databases over a private Motorola Integrated Voice and Data (IV&D) network and public Wi-Fi network without experiencing latency or dropped connections, executives said.

NPSTC Urges Digital Paging Licenses at 900 MHz (8/3)

A public-safety group urged the FCC to allow public-safety agencies to be licensed in the 900 MHz business and industrial/land transportation (B/ILT) band for digital paging. In a letter to the FCC, the National Public Safety Telecommunication Council (NPSTC) agreed with the Enterprise Wireless Alliance (EWA) regarding 900 MHz access for paging purposes.

The EWA supports nonwaiver access to the 900 MHz B/ILT band for some public-safety responsibilities requiring wireless messaging capability. "NPSTC believes EWA's concept is a reasonable accommodation of the competing interests in this band provided that the commission's rules recognize that all public safety eligible agencies have access to these channels for digital paging operations," the letter said.

Allocating paging channels in the 900 MHz band to public safety was a core recommendation of the FCC's independent panel addressing Hurricane Katrina. Paging's benefits include reliability, efficiency in transmitting critical information to alert many units at the same time, and cost effectiveness. In addition, paging offers fire services, particularly volunteer forces, an efficient means to notify responding members.

Public-safety applicants should be subject to no conditions other than availability and normal frequency coordination parameters, NPSTC officials said. Appropriate interference protection measures also should be adopted.

FDM Hires Dubé (8/2)

FDM Software appointed Michel C. Dubé as vice president product strategy. Dubé brings 30 years of fire and emergency services expertise as a police officer, CAD project manager, and information technology (IT) division chief.

Harris Supplies Radios in Pakistan (8/2)

Harris awarded a \$76 million contract to supply the government of Pakistan with Falcon II high-frequency (HF) tactical radios. Harris will also supply ancillary and support equipment, spare and repair parts, training, and logistics support.

GE MDS Gains SCADA Contract in Algeria (8/2)

GE MDS signed a contract for an estimated value of \$3.3 million to provide an Algerian electric company with a wireless infrastructure to support its countrywide supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. As a subcontractor, GE MDS is providing more than 1,000 radios and antennas for the entire system. In addition, GE MDS will manage the engineering and procurement of more than 140 towers across the country.

Motorola to Supply, Manage Nationwide Danish Network (8/2)

Dansk Beredskabskommunikation, a subsidiary of Motorola, was selected by the Danish government as the preferred supplier for a nationwide public-safety communications service. The 10-year "build-own-operate" contract is worth about \$289 million. The network, called SINE1, will improve cooperation and integration among Denmark's public-safety agencies and will replace more than 100 independent radio networks currently being used by Denmark's public-safety services.

Dansk Beredskabskommunikation and Motorola are responsible for the equipment supply, rollout, installation and ongoing operation of the nationwide network as a managed service. The network will be based on Motorola's Dimetra IP technology. The first phase of the rollout, due for the first half of 2008, will involve all relevant public-safety agencies on the islands of Lolland and Falster. The rollout will continue on a regional basis and is scheduled to be completed within three years.

The revenue from the contract will be recognized over the 10-year period of the contract.

EFJ Reports Increasing Quarterly Revenue (8/1)

EFJ reported increasing revenue for the second quarter. The company's revenue was \$57.3 million for the second quarter of 2007, an increase of \$28.5 million compared with revenue of \$28.8 million in the second quarter of 2006. The increase was driven by an increase in radio product shipments in the company's private wireless communications business segment where revenue totaled \$51.5 million in the quarter.

The net income for the second quarter of 2007 was \$3.9 million, the same as the net income for the same period of 2006. "Earnings were flat this quarter due to the decreased contribution from our traditionally high-margin voice encryption business, which as anticipated continues to experience declining sales. We expect to improve our earnings as we continue the transition from being a voice-centric company to one that provides integrated voice, video, and data solutions for public safety, public service, and homeland security," said Michael E. Jalbert, EFJ chairman and chief executive officer (CEO).

The company's cash position at the end of June was \$23 million, and its backlog was \$83.1 million at the end of the second quarter of 2007 compared with \$65 million in backlog a year ago. "We feel well positioned for the future, and we are finalizing the next stage of our strategy to build on our accomplishments," Jalbert said.

Georgia Signs Absolute for Data Security (8/1)

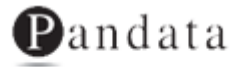
The state of Georgia signed a statewide purchase contract with Absolute Software for data security. The purchasing contract encourages and enables state agencies and universities to acquire Absolute's Computrace solutions at a volume discount as part of the state's "securing sensitive data" initiative.

"The goal for this agreement is to provide coverage for 35 universities in Georgia representing more than 260,000 students, 29,000 staff and 11,000 faculty members, as well as other state agencies in Georgia, and will serve as a template to pursue similar contracts in other states, company executives said.

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