



February 2009 Edition

MBR Tested During Live Fire Training in Boise, Idaho

From January 26-28, 2009, the Boise (Idaho) Fire Department (BFD) held live fire burns in 3 commercial structures as part of a training academy for 16 recruit firefighters. During the burns, BFD tested the capabilities of the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility's (OIC) prototype multi-band radio (MBR) in conjunction with the agency's current radios. BFD Captains operated the MBR from outside the building—organizing the recruit teams and managing the overall event—and while supervising firefighters from inside the building. This environment provided a variety of challenges with which to test the capabilities of the MBR. The radio was



introduced to differing temperature conditions, from the intense heat of the fire to the extreme winter weather outside. Additionally, the MBR's audio quality was tested as it competed with fireground noise.

This test was part of the first phase of OIC's MBR project, which consists of laboratory testing and evaluation and short-term demonstrations. In the next phase of the project, OIC plans to evaluate a production-ready version of the MBR through a series of long-term pilot projects nationwide. OIC will gather all of the testing and evaluation results into a final report, which will be available to the public on the SAFECOM Web site.

InterAgency Board Adopts EDXL Standards

The InterAgency Board (IAB) for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability recently voted to adopt the following Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) standards: Common Alerting Protocol (CAP); Distribution Element (DE); Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE); and Resource Messaging (RM). EDXL data messaging standards facilitate information sharing and data exchange among local, tribal, state, and Federal emergency responders. The CAP, DE, HAVE, and RM standards will appear in the IAB's 2009 Standardized Equipment List (SEL), which identifies equipment that aids emergency responders in preparing for and responding to emergency events. Through tools such as the SEL, the IAB is improving interoperability, compatibility, and health and safety within the emergency response community. To learn more about the IAB, SEL, and EDXL standards, please visit <https://www.iab.gov>.



S&T Stakeholders Conference:

CID Gathers Feedback from Emergency Responders and Demonstrates MBR

Command, Control and Interoperability Division (CID) leaders participated in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate's Stakeholders Conference West, which held from February 23-26, 2009, in Bellevue, Washington. This bi-annual event provides a forum for CID to engage with



stakeholders and for partners to gather technology needs and capability gaps from the emergency response community. At this event, CID Director Dr. David Boyd addressed the importance of leveraging emergency response practitioner input in support of homeland security initiatives and strategies on the path to a safer Nation. In partnership with Thales Communications, CID also demonstrated the MBR, which allows emergency responders to communicate with partner agencies—regardless of the radio band on which they operate—at the event.

P25 CAP Governing Board Releases CABs

On February 4, 2009, the Project 25 (P25) Compliance Assessment Program (CAP) Governing Board (GB) convened to review Compliance Assessment Bulletins (CABs). Addressing a range of P25-related issues, CABs serve as guidance documents for the operation and administration of the P25 CAP. Of the four drafted CABs, three—Baseline Common Air Interface Testing Requirements, Laboratory Application Process, and Summary Test Report Requirements—were approved and finalized. The fourth CAB—Supplier's Declaration of Compliance Requirements—is pending further GB review. Supported by OIC, the P25 CAP is a voluntary program by which P25 equipment suppliers formally demonstrate their products' compliance with select P25 standards. These standards allow radios and other components to seamlessly interoperate, regardless of the manufacturer. For more information about the CABs and the P25 CAP, please visit <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/currentprojects/project25cap/>.

Video Quality in Public Safety Conference Tackles Technology Issues

The Public Safety Video Quality project held its kick-off Video Quality in Public Safety (VQiPS) conference from February 4-6, 2009, in Boulder, Colorado. With public safety practitioners, researchers, and select industry representatives in attendance, VQiPS provided a forum for users of public safety video applications to discuss the major policy, technology, and practical use challenges of these applications. The conference also helped lay the groundwork for the development of solutions through collaboration and the establishment of meaningful and comprehensive standards. The conference identified current efforts to improve video quality interoperability. Participants also collaborated to brainstorm the ideal future state of video in public safety and establish an action plan to move toward that vision. In accordance



with the plan, participants will begin developing a guide for end users to leverage when purchasing or updating video equipment.

Save the Dates

- The International Wireless Communication Expo (IWCE) will be held from March 18-20, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Showcasing the latest wireless communications technologies, IWCE draws emergency response professionals, technology end users, wireless service providers, and information technology professionals and dealers worldwide. IWCE provides a forum for emergency response leaders to engage manufacturers in candid discussions about current and future wireless communications technologies. Additional event information is available at <http://www.iwceexpo.com/>.
- To support nationwide efforts to enhance emergency communications, the Office of Emergency Communications is hosting the National Conference on Emergency Communications from April 22-24, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois. This year's focus, "Effective Communications for a Secure Nation," will promote the sharing of information, strategies, tools, and relationships across all levels of government and the private sector, to achieve the goals of the National Emergency Communications Plan. It will also allow emergency responders to identify solutions, break down barriers, and re-define leadership roles and responsibilities.
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Law Enforcement Information Management (LEIM) Annual Conference and Training Exposition will be held May 18-21, 2009, in Dallas, Texas. IACP LEIM offers an international forum for attendees to interact with key operational personnel who focus on information sharing and interoperable communications technologies. At the event, there will be several panels of subject matter experts sharing best practices and lessons learned in the application of technology to fight crime, increase preparedness, and improve operational efficiency. More information about IACP LEIM is available at: <http://www.iacptechnology.org>

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security established the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) in 2004 to strengthen and integrate interoperability and compatibility efforts in order to improve local, tribal, state, and Federal emergency preparedness and response. Managed by the Science and Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division, OIC is committed to developing technologies and tools—methodologies, templates, models, and educational materials—that effectively meet the critical needs of emergency responders in the field.

The Interoperability Bulletin provides updates about OIC-related initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities. This Bulletin is distributed to stakeholders monthly.

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