



March 2009 Edition

IPAWS Team Meets with Industry to Discuss Collaborative Opportunities

With support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently hosted an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) meeting with the industry community. With 22 vendors and carriers in attendance, meeting participants discussed the current state of the IPAWS project, including the development of an alert messaging profile. The meeting also served as an informal forum in which industry representatives could share thoughts on their role in the IPAWS project. IPAWS is a system of systems that is looking to build upon the Nation's Emergency Alert System, which is currently limited to radio and television audio messages.

With Support from OIC, Industry Representatives Plug In at IWCE

The International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) was held March 18-20, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Showcasing the latest wireless communications technologies, IWCE drew emergency responders, government officials at all levels, industry representatives, and communications professionals who shared thoughts and ideas on wireless communications technologies. During the conference, OIC hosted five demonstrations of their Bridging Systems Interface Core Profile. The Profile is a collection of standards, parameters, and values that, when implemented in bridging devices, allows disparate radio systems to communicate using voice over internet protocol, regardless of equipment manufacturer. Six industry groups participated in the demonstrations, which generated significant interest and dialog among attendees.



IPAWS CAP Profile Available for Public Comment

On March 3, 2009, the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) released the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) IPAWS Profile specification for public comment. FEMA and OIC originally submitted a 53-page requirements document to OASIS in the fall of 2008; this document was then used to help create the CAP IPAWS Profile.

The CAP IPAWS Profile is a subset of the CAP Version 1.1 standard, which allows a consistent warning message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different warning systems. The CAP IPAWS Profile builds on this standard by establishing a message profile that can be used by the national Emergency Alert System and other alert and warning systems. Emergency responders from the local, tribal, state, and Federal levels as well as industry leaders are asked to review the draft Profile and provide comments to OASIS by May



2, 2009. For more information about the CAP IPAWS Profile, please visit <http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/tc-announce/200903/msg00001.html>.

OIC, OEC, and FEMA Testify on Capitol Hill

On March 17, 2009, Dr. David Boyd, Director of the DHS Command, Control and Interoperability Division, testified before the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security. The hearing provided the Committee with an update on DHS's efforts in the area of interoperable communications. Chris Essid, Director of the DHS Office of Emergency Communications, and W. Ross Ashley III, Assistant Administrator of FEMA's Grants Programs Directorate, also testified. Dr. Boyd advocated the system of systems approach as the most viable path forward in the arena of interoperability. Dr. Boyd also used the conference to highlight some of OIC's major projects, including Radio over Wireless Broadband and the Multi-Band Radio.

Save the Dates

- The Law Enforcement Intelligence Units Training Conference will be held April 20-24, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada. This annual conference provides a series of workshops and panel presentations aimed at improving the law enforcement community's understanding of organized crime and terrorism issues. This year's conference theme is "Criminal Intelligence: Improving the Odds." For more information, please visit: <http://leiu-homepage.org/events/index.php>.
- 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. Additional information is available at: <http://www.nationaleconference.com/>.
- 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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