



April 2009 Edition

MBR Demonstrations at Thunder over Louisville and FCC Certification Approval

On April 18, 2009, the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) demonstrated multi-band radio (MBR) technology at Thunder over Louisville (Thunder). As the kick-off ceremony for the Kentucky Derby Festival, this day-long event features an air show and fireworks display. This year, preliminary estimates indicated that nearly 700,000 attendees gathered on the



banks of the Ohio River in both Kentucky and Indiana for Thunder. The event offered a unique opportunity to evaluate the capabilities and effectiveness of the MBR technology in support of emergency responders. Participating organizations included the Kentucky National Guard; 41st Civil Support Team of the Kentucky National Guard; National Guard Bureau; Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division; U.S. Coast Guard; and Murray State University, which supported the Joint Emergency Services Unit. Participants reported that the MBR technology was easy to program and it allowed them to communicate between local and partner agencies gathered for this event.

In parallel, on April 21, 2009, the Thales LibertyTM Multiband Land Mobile Radio received U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certification approval. This certification marks a major milestone in OIC's quest to provide a tool for interoperability among all the Nation's emergency responders. With this FCC certification, the Liberty radio becomes the first FCC-approved MBR. The MBR is the first-ever radio prototype that allows emergency responders to communicate—regardless of the radio band on which they operate.

DHS Holds National Conference on Emergency Communications

On April 22-24, 2009, OIC's SAFECOM partner—the DHS Office of Emergency Communications—hosted the first National Conference on Emergency Communications in Chicago, Illinois. The event provided a forum for approximately 450 emergency response practitioners, government officials, and industry representatives across the Nation to provide input on current and future DHS initiatives and to discuss best practices and lessons learned



for operable and interoperable emergency communications. Highlights of the event included plenary presentations and breakout sessions that addressed the National Emergency Communications Plan implementation, state and local governance planning and coordination, and information sharing on grants and tools development. More information about the event is available at: <http://www.nationalECconference.com/>.

Save the Dates

- The 2009 Homeland Security Science and Technology Stakeholders Conference East will be held May 18-21, 2009, at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Presented by the National Defense Industrial Association with subject matter support provided by the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate, this conference will focus on the future of the S&T Directorate while highlighting the innovative research efforts that DHS has underway in the U.S. and around the world to make the Nation safer. Attendees from the private sector, academia, and all levels of government will learn of exciting business opportunities for partnership with S&T for science and technology research.
- 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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