



## May 2009 Edition

### DHS Recognizes First Batch of P25 CAP Labs

On May 7, 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) announced the recognition of the first batch of laboratories to test Project 25 (P25) radio equipment as part of the P25 Compliance Assessment Program (CAP). The P25 CAP provides a process for determining whether communications equipment interoperates, conforms to P25 standards, and meets P25 performance requirements. Recognition is granted to competent laboratories following a rigorous on-site assessment in which trained Laboratory Assessment Teams evaluated the laboratory’s technical competence and quality management system. Each laboratory is granted a Scope of Recognition that details which P25 tests it is capable of performing. A DHS-recognized laboratory is authorized to produce summary and detail test reports for P25 equipment that are available publicly at <http://www.rkb.us>. This lab recognition is a major milestone in the quest to improve interoperable communications and ensure confidence that the products being purchased are capable of performing the functions vital to emergency responders.

A list of the recognized laboratories and Scope of Recognitions are available on the P25 CAP SAFECOM Web site at <http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/currentprojects/project25cap/>.

### Multi-Band Radio Demonstrations Held at the Kentucky Oaks and Derby

On May 1-2, 2009, OIC demonstrated Multi-Band Radio (MBR) technology at the Kentucky Oaks and Derby in Louisville, Kentucky. The MBR demonstration highlighted the first-ever radio prototype that allows emergency responders to communicate with partner agencies – regardless of the radio band on which they operate. The 135th annual horseracing event offered a unique opportunity to determine the capabilities and effectiveness of the MBR technology. The event incorporated communications interoperability demonstrations at multiple locations with participants at the user as well as command and control levels.

Participants included the Louisville Metro Police Department, Louisville MetroSafe, Louisville Joint Emergency Services Unit, Kentucky State Police, HAZMAT Area 6 Team, Civil Support Team from the Kentucky National Guard, Murray State University, and Federal Air Marshals. The MBR Project is currently conducting laboratory testing, short-term demonstrations, and planning for future pilot projects nationwide to ensure that the MBR meets current and future operational requirements.



### **OIC Represented at DHS Stakeholders East Conference**

The 2009 Homeland Security Science and Technology Stakeholders Conference East was held May 18-21, 2009, at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Presented by the National Defense Industrial Association with support provided by the DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate, this conference featured a “Science and Technology Change Everything” theme. The S&T Directorate focused on its future goals while highlighting DHS’s innovative research efforts that are working to make the Nation safer. OIC participated in a host of ways: Luke Berndt facilitated an IPT-focused breakout session on OIC initiatives, Tom Chirhart demonstrated MBR technology, and Dr. Boyd participated in a plenary panel discussion centered on the conference’s theme. Attendees from the private sector, academia, and all levels of government participated in the conference to learn about science and technology research-based business opportunities within S&T.

### **Dr. Tara O’Toole Nominated as Under Secretary of S&T Directorate**

On May 6, 2009, President Obama and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced the Under Secretary nominee for the S&T Directorate: Dr. Tara O’Toole. Dr. O’Toole is an expert on environmental protection and biosecurity, and brings critical experience in health, safety and technology to DHS and the Directorate. Prior to joining DHS, Dr. O’Toole served as the Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She has published extensively in the biodefense field, focusing on the response to biological attacks, containment of contagious diseases and hospital preparedness. A former Federal Government employee, Dr. O’Toole served as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health from 1993-1997. Within this role, she was the principal advisor to the Secretary of Energy on environmental protection and oversaw health and safety for approximately 100,000 workers in government laboratories. Dr. O’Toole holds an M.D. from George Washington University, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University, and a B.A. from Vassar College. Her confirmation hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee is expected to be held in early June 2009. The Senate will then vote on her confirmation.



### **Save the Dates**

- On June 15-16, 2009, OIC and the DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) are hosting the Emergency Response Council’s 2009 Summer Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. This bi-annual meeting gathers public safety practitioners and emergency responders from across the Nation to provide input to OIC and OEC on timely interoperability-related programs. For more information regarding the meeting, please visit <http://ercmeeting.com/index.html>.
- The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) will be hosting the APCO International Annual Conference from August 16-20, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Conference will commemorate the Association’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about local, state, and Federal emergency communications initiatives. The Conference will also feature cutting-edge technologies from over 350 companies. More information is available at <http://www.apco2009.org/>.



- On August 25-29, 2009, the International Association of Fire Chiefs is hosting the Fire-Rescue International Conference. Held in Dallas, Texas, this conference will gather over 13,000 fire and emergency response leaders from around the world. With over 650 exhibitors, full-day seminars, and workshops to choose from, participants will have a wide variety of opportunities to discuss new trends and cutting-edge technologies in the field of emergency response communications. For more information, please visit <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=356>.

*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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