



IN TODAY'S ISSUE

New Jersey doing something about interoperability

Karl Marx said that history is like the weather: Everyone talks about it but few do anything to change it. We may say the same about emergency communication gear interoperability since 9/11. Not any more. The Garden State is doing something about it by buying gear from a Reston, Virginia veteran of interoperability solutions so that the state emergency units can talk to each other during emergencies. The State of New Jersey said it was putting forth a plan to enable its first-responders to talk and coordinate at the scene of an emergency within minutes, thus addressing one of the more vexing issues facing public safety and homeland security personnel. New Jersey's Department of Law and Public Safety has purchased and deployed an initial order of twenty-one Incident Commanders' Radio Interface (ICRI), one for each of the state's county emergency management agencies, with another twenty-one units pending.

The ICRI, developed by Reston, Virginia-based Communications-Applied Technology (C-AT), is a small, rapidly configurable "bridge" which links typically incompatible UHF, VHF, and 800 MHz radio equipment used by different agencies and jurisdictions. First responders will welcome this new feature: The ICRI's have been designed so they can overcome the problem of disrupted radio communications which may occur when more than one interoperability device is used during an emergency (as may be the case when different agencies rely on different interoperability solutions). The use of more than one interoperability device locks up the bridges and radios connected to them, making them useless. Equipped with Bridge Unit ID, the ICRI transmits a digitized speech message on all talk groups at preset intervals, identifying the unit and its owner and agency. The ICRI can be operated and shut-off using through remote control.

Seth Leyman, president of Communications-Applied Technology, said that "New Jersey's model for ensuring interoperability across all of its localities on a statewide basis is very progressive.... Their coordinated approach also eliminates the costly problem of individual agencies buying inappropriate and

Scan stadiums or large areas for dangerous chemical vapors in seconds. Rely on Bruker instruments for special event protection.

The Radio InterOperability System bridges the communications gap between disparate radios,

satellite,
cell, and
voIP
phones

duplicative equipment.”

-read more about ICRI at C-AT Web site;

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