



San Diego County – Imperial County Regional Communications System

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EXECUTIVE BRIEFING - REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM NEXT GENERATION NETWORK MIGRATION PROCESS

The San Diego County – Imperial County Regional Communications System (RCS) was established in 1995 by the County of San Diego to provide public safety and public service agencies at the local, state and Federal levels with a regional interoperable radio network. The County established a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Cities within the County of San Diego (except the City of San Diego), the Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA, a JPA of Imperial County and its 5 cities), the State of California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), and numerous local School and Special Districts. Motorola Solutions was contracted to provide a proprietary 800 MHz Trunked Radio Network, which entered service in May of 1998. The Network is operated and managed by the Wireless Services Division (WSD) of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Today, there are approximately 135 entities operating approximately 22,000 radios on the network.

In 2009 WSD started looking at the need to refresh the 800 MHz Trunked Radio Network with an open-standards based network. In 2013 the original MOA was replaced with a new "Next Generation" (NextGen) Agreement, with a total of 49 Partner agencies. In 2016 a competitively bid contract was signed with Motorola Solutions for the replacement of the proprietary technology network with an open-standards "Project 25" network. The "NextGen" infrastructure equipment has been installed and system testing is underway. Agencies have replaced their mobile and portable "subscriber" radios, the majority of which have been programmed for the migration to the new infrastructure.

There are approximately 3,000 radios that will require reprogramming during the migration. Most of these radios are installed in line Fire and Law Enforcement vehicles equipped with a "Direct Entry Keypad" or "DEK" box to allow the operator to rapidly switch to a pre-programmed 'channel'.



Radio Control Head with DEK box

Motorola technical staff has evaluated the normal operating activity on the existing RCS network and developed a strategy for the migration of users, designed to maintain an operating balance between those agencies who have transitioned and those who have yet to transition. Mutual Aid talkgroups will be configured to operate on both systems. WSD and Motorola staff have been coordinating with individual agency staff to manage this transition process.

The migration for Public Safety agencies in San Diego County will be handled in three phases, as denoted on the attached pages. The first phase will cover the northwest portion of the County (including the Sheriff's facilities in that area); the second phase will cover the southwest portion of the County (except the Sheriff's facilities in that area); and the third phase will cover the Sheriff's Department, County Fire Authority / CalFire, District Attorney, and California Highway Patrol. The goal is to have all Public Safety elements in the County migrated by Veteran's Day weekend.

Agencies will migrate on a scheduled basis, with users being instructed to change their radios to the new system at an agreed-to time. (The new system is denoted in the user's radio with an asterisk in front of the Zone and Talkgroup names on the radio display.) Any radios that require reprogramming for the transition will be programmed on the day(s) that agency migrates.

In the event a major incident takes place requiring the deployment of numerous resources for an extended time frame, the migration process will be placed on hold until the incident has been resolved.

Information for radio users regarding the transition process has been placed on the RCS web site at <http://www.rcs800mhz.org>. RCS Training staff is available to provide briefings to your agency's personnel.

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