JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, • 1:30 p.m.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Todd Denerson, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Adam Martinez, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Mike Ciszek, Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities' Association
Eric Hunt, At-Large Seat #2
OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Bennett Cummings, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
Robert J. Weber, (Chair), County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Antonio Zavala, At-Large Seat #3
Brandon Coatney, At-Large Seat #4
OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Michael Alegria, Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Scott England, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Lipin Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Ted Pao, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities' Association
Eric Hunt, At-Large Seat #2
TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Bennett Cummings, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
Robert J. Weber, (Chair), County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Antonio Zavala, At-Large Seat #3
Brandon Coatney, At-Large Seat #4
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Michael Alegria, Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association

OFFICERS PRESENT:
Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director
Laura Vasquez, LA-RICS Committee Secretary

AGENDA ITEM A

NOTE: ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM IDENTIFIED ON THE AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Operations Committee Alternate Chair Lieutenant Robert Weber called both the Joint Operations and Technical Committees meetings to order at 1:33 p.m.

II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

LA-RICS Project Team Member Marissa Bosque took roll call and acknowledged a quorum was present for both Joint Operations and Technical Committees.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber welcomed the Joint Operations and Technical Committees Members and proceeded with Approval of the Minutes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (A)

A. June 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked the Joint Committees for approval of the minutes. Operations Committee Member Todd Denerson motioned first, seconded by Operations and Technical Alternate Committee Member Brandon Coatney.

Operations Committee:
Ayes (7): Denerson, Martinez, Hunt, Cummings, Weber, Zavala, and Coatney.

Technical Committee:
Ayes (8): England, Tan, Pao, Hunt, Cummings, Weber, Zavala, and Coatney

Operations Committee Member Mike Ciszek motioned for an abstention.

MOTION APPROVED

Operations and Technical Committee Member Joshua Nelson joined the meeting after the Committees made a motion for Approval of Minutes

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

There was no public comment.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

There were no Consent Calendar items.

VI. REPORTS (B – D)

B. Regional Interoperability Update – Ted Pao and Lt. Robert Weber

Technical Lead Ted Pao greeted the Committees and presented Agenda Item B.

Technical Lead Pao shared a slide showing the System-of-Systems Hub and Spoke model and reported that LA-RICS was working on System-of-Systems interoperability in the Los Angeles region. Technical Lead Pao further reported this involved using the Inter-RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI) to tie different P25 systems within the Los Angeles region; these systems included the City of Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI), Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), Port of Los Angeles (POLA), San Bernardino County, City of Long Beach, and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Technical Lead Pao further stated this would allow interoperability with all systems tied to LA-RICS as a Hub and Spoke model; for example, this allowed a law enforcement unit in the City of Long Beach to roam onto the LA-RICS system when they are in the Antelope Valley or in San Bernardino County. Technical Lead Pao shared LA-RICS was finalizing this Hub and Spoke ISSI interconnections.

Technical Lead Pao expressed that LA-RICS was fortunate enough to accomplish timely completion of all procurements within the last month to make these connections possible and that LA-RICS completed connections, including automatic roaming, with the City of Long Beach. Technical Lead Pao said that LA-RICS had manual-roaming with ICI and that LA-RICS was working with Cal OES to enable the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to roam onto the LA-RICS network; this would be possible by simply running a cable from the LA-RICS shelter to the CHP shelter at site Rolling Hills Transmit (RHT) to make that connection. Technical Lead Pao said that, similarly, LA-RICS was sharing a shelter with San Bernardino County at site Claremont Microwave Tower (CLM) and was working with their contact in San Bernardino County on making a connection; LA-RICS would survey the site next week.

Technical Lead Pao shared that LAWA, POLA, and the LAPD had some work to do with their fleet mapping, however, LA-RICS planned to make the

physical connections with them in the next few weeks; this would complete LA-RICS' ISSI connections for the Los Angeles region. Technical Lead Pao further shared the next step would be testing the functionality of the ISSI and auto and manual roaming. Technical Lead Pao went on to say the Los Angeles region would need to ultimately collaborate on an operations plan in which the region would have to decide on how they intend to use ISSI for the large upcoming regional events such as International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) in 2026 and the Olympics in 2028.

Technical Lead Pao shared a slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 1) on the benefits of ISSI which are listed below.

- Communications – Extend communication and collaboration across interoperable P25 networks
- Control – Maintain full autonomy and control over your system
- Flexibility – Operate across different frequency bands
- Usability – Eliminate the need to use unfamiliar donor radios
- Contact – Maintain communications and data connection with roaming personnel

Technical Lead Pao stated that LA-RICS was working on another option for interoperability with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (MSI) which is Critical Connect. Technical Lead Pao shared a slide (Agenda Item A – Enclosure 2) regarding the Critical Connect Platform; this is a different form of interoperability that is cloud based and is hosted by MSI. Technical Lead Pao explained that all talk paths would be connected through the MSI cloud and then, in turn, would connect to other agencies' radio systems. Technical Lead Pao mentioned there were some ongoing operational expenses with the Critical Connect platform. Technical Lead Pao further mentioned that Cal OES started using this platform, which was the reason LA-RICS was considering this option; using the Critical Connect Platform would be a second option to connect to Cal OES's California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS) for CHP.

Technical Lead Pao went on to say that an advantage of using the Critical Connect Platform was that physical connectivity between two P25 systems was not needed, and that was one application where the Critical Connect platform had advantage over ISSI. Technical Lead Pao said that LA-RICS planned to finish this work with MSI by the end of this year. Technical Lead

Pao mentioned that Ventura County was on the Critical Connect Platform, and LA-RICS planned to utilize this with them as well.

Operations and Technical Alternate Committee Member Brandon Coatney asked Technical Lead Pao if dispatch centers initiated the patch. Technical Lead Pao said that dispatch centers can initiate the patch, and this was one issue that would need to be worked out by operations teams; initiation of the patch would need to be explained in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and dispatch centers would need to be trained. Operations and Technical Alternate Committee Member Coatney stated that agencies will have this capability by January 2026 but would still need to be worked out operationally. Technical Lead Pao said that all first responder agencies in the region would need to collaborate on this effort.

Technical Committee Member Scott England asked Technical Lead Pao if LA-RICS received a report regarding a Critical Connect outage with Amazon Web Services (AWS). Technical Lead Pao said that he does not believe a report was received and this raised a disadvantage for Critical Connect; if there was an outage, users do not have control unlike with ISSI. Technical Lead Pao mentioned this was a reason why the region was leaning more towards using ISSI, and, unfortunately, the State of California (State) started using Critical Connect and thus to connect with them we opted to go that route or this connection as well.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that LA-RICS was working on the major connections due to the disadvantage of Critical Connect being cloud-based. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further stated that although ICI was not an auto roaming connection, it served the region well, specifically during the Eaton Fire. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that during the Eaton Fire, the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) was able to communicate with first responder agencies in the San Gabriel Valley region on the LA-RICS network via ISSI with ICI.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber further mentioned that from an operations perspective, an advantage of Critical Connect was that agencies did not have to use expensive ISSI connections on both sides for each of the systems; for example, if both sides such as Ventura County and LA-RICS were on Critical Connect, then LA-RICS can configure the connection to enable communication with Ventura County. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say a disadvantage was that because Critical Connect is cloud-based, there could be potential outages that agencies do not have as much control over, and this is where ISSI would be a benefit.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that LA-RICS had ICI ISSI connections with roughly half of the independent cities in the County of Los Angeles (County), and LA-RICS had an ISSI connection with first responder agencies in the City of Long Beach which provided LA-RICS with the ability to test auto roaming. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further stated this would be pivotal from an operations standpoint in that there would be instances when agencies do not prefer to have auto roaming. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say the auto roaming feature would be used in instances when law enforcement agencies in Long Beach are involved in a pursuit that is outside of the Long Beach region such as in the Antelope Valley; in this instance, agencies from the City of Long Beach would not have coverage, however, LA-RICS does, and with auto roaming, the connection should be seamless. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said that, operationally, agencies would need to set this up in alignment with the technical side, where MSI would set it up to meet the agencies' needs; this would also need to be set up with LAPD, and, ultimately, LAWA and POLA.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared that LA-RICS was also using shared IDs with ICI, however, a disadvantage to shared IDs was that if dispatch centers were not aware of unit switching, then command and control would not be aware either. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that from an operations perspective, caution was needed when using shared IDs, and the SOPs should include this.

Regarding SOPs, Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that LA-RICS produced a rough SOP about a year ago, and at that time, the systems were not yet developed for use, and now that they are, it would be an appropriate time to revisit the SOPs. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further stated that in the coordination call with the World Cup Emergency Communications Planning Group, discussions were had regarding how the set up for SOPs would be for different agencies and where separate events related to the World Cup would be around SoFi Stadium. Operations Lead Lt. Weber added this was going to be a good test for the LA-RICS system and the SOPs; the SOPs would be set up and adjusted according to agencies' needs for the World Cup event. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say that having the general SOP and all the connections were a big step towards interoperability, and from an operations standpoint, the Joint Operations and Technical Committees and County would need to partner together. Operations Lead Lt. Weber emphasized that law and fire agencies were short staffed, therefore, partnering together was key to move forward to interoperability.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned the City of Los Angeles (City) reported they would be moving over to a trunked system, and LA-RICS was diligently coordinating with MSI and the City to ensure the ISSI connections were in place when the City moved over to a trunked system; completion of this work was projected for May 2026.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber reported that LA-RICS was working with the city in other aspects; for example, LA-RICS programmed over two hundred (200) of their radios for their specialized units, and this enabled the City's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to communicate with the LASD SWAT team and Bomb Squad and Arson / Explosives Detail (AED). Operations Lead Lt. Weber further reported that in December, LA-RICS would be assisting Cal OES in programming their APX NEXT All-Band P25 smart radios; this would enable CHP to have shared IDs, and access to the regional, metro, and local-tactical (L-TAC) channels for LASD.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber said the regional connections were key since they are the ISSI channels and obtaining those via a hard ISSI connection was the goal, however, the second layer was shared or visiting IDs which would enable smaller agencies to have access to these channels without having to purchase the expensive ISSI connection; Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that shared IDs would enable agencies that have their own systems to have access to these channels.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber said that progress was being made, and now is the time to focus on operations, specifically, on who makes decisions, who communicates with who, and how regional connections would work. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said that part of this could be through the Sheriff's Communications Center (SCC) as the LA-RICS Network Operations Center (NOC) that was staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day and seven (7) days a week was located at SCC. Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that with the revamping of their Information Technology (IT), LASD could move forward with their new CAD and dispatch platform at the communication center. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further mentioned that in addition, with the personnel and continuous monitoring at SCC, running operations through SCC would make the most sense.

Technical Lead Pao added that LA-RICS would use ISSI with broadband Push-to-Talk, which was ESChat. Technical Lead Pao shared that ESChat would allow users to communicate between users' cell phones to users on their radios. For example, a Captain may not have their radio with them but will be able to monitor radio traffic when outside their radio area. Technical Lead Pao further shared that LA-RICS would implement ESChat in the next

few weeks, and it would be another feature that LA-RICS could offer to their subscribers.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber added ESChat would be pivotal for detectives as well, and there were other devices that would support that connectivity which would provide a larger web for coverage given you will now also have a layer of cellular coverage. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said this would be another platform for agencies to use where you can be in another state and continue to have access to your radio traffic.

Technical Lead Pao mentioned that ESChat would be useful for daily use and for monitoring daily radio traffic, however, this platform would not be considered the platform to use during a wildland fire. Technical Lead Pao provided an example of the Eaton Fire, where cellular coverage was the first thing to be lost given the damage to towers.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that LA-RICS asked agencies to program the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS) channels into their radios. Operations Lead Lt. Weber explained that LARTCS was the genesis of LA-RICS; it included tactical channels and national interoperable channels, and it was important to have these channels available. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further explained that repeaters were built out as part of the LA-RICS system, and these repeaters could be turned on to support these channels; agencies would work together on these national interoperable channels.

Technical Team Member Scott England asked Operations Lead Lt. Weber how many Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements LA-RICS had with agencies for ISSI. Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that LA-RICS had a long-standing MOU with ICI, and an MOU was completed with the City of Los Angeles a few months ago; a few additional MOUs were also being discussed for the other Los Angeles agencies. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further stated that LA-RICS had agreements with Cal OES, CHP, LAPD, LAWA, and the POLA; the MOU with the City of Long Beach was in process. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say that LA-RICS was in discussions with the Mayor's office regarding having all the city agencies covered under an MOU; San Bernardino County and Riverside County were also in process of an MOU agreement.

Technical Team Member England asked Operations Lead Lt. Weber if there was a generic list of frequencies on ISSI that were interoperable and frequencies that were for special use or for agency to agency. Operations Lead Lt. Weber said there were sixteen (16) regional channels which have

not yet been designated and were ready to set up to thirty-two (32) channels; Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated there were some issues with this on the ICI side as their console capacity may be prohibitive, however, LA-RICS encouraged agencies to have these channels in all radios. Operations Lead Lt. Wever further stated these talk groups have not been specifically designated, and a majority of those talk groups were encrypted; SOPs should outline which frequencies are to be used.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared there was progress on the operations and technical aspects in working with MSI to put all this together, and there was a great emphasis in establishing all of these connections in time for the upcoming regional events such as the World Cup.

Operations and Technical Team Member Coatney asked Operations Lead Lt. Weber if utilizing the cloud based Critical Connect platform had an effect on when e-triggers were activated. Technical Lead Pao said that if the user is on a P25 trunked talk group, then there should be no effect.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that agencies will have to decide on how they will handle e-triggers. Operations Lead Lt. Weber further stated that LASD's e-triggers were on analog which was purposeful; although 95% of LASD was on the system, they kept their dispatch system on analog in order to make the interface that was needed with their legacy CAD to continue to operate. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say as LASD moves to a new CAD system in the new year, they will be sorting that out; dispatches will move to trunked talk groups and will move to a different dispatch model.

Technical Team Member England emphasized the importance of MOUs, as MOUs would specify what channels would be used.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned that using these radios should be as simple as possible especially for users in the field.

This concluded the Regional Interoperability Update report with no additional discussion.

C. LMR Network Operation Status and Issues – Ted Pao

Technical Lead Pao reported that in the past four (4) months, the LA-RICS network did not experience any unplanned outages impacting service delivery in the digital trunked voice system, however, some outages on an individual channel or single site were reported on the analog voice radio

system due to the system architecture where each base system is tied to specific channels; there were no region wide analog outages.

Technical Lead Pao further reported that most of the outages were tied to utility power issues and at generator only sites such as Green Mountain (GRM) and Burnt Peak (BUR1), and LA-RICS was actively working on permanent power solutions for both sites. Technical Lead Pao mentioned that these power interruptions stemmed from planned maintenance, unplanned outages, or Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

Technical Lead Pao stated the security enhancement project, which included the installation of video cameras and door access controls was complete. Technical Lead Pao further stated these cameras not only enhanced security monitoring but also provided LA-RICS with valuable situational awareness regarding site conditions such as snow, rain, ice, wind, and even vegetation levels which were important for regulatory inspections. Technical Lead Pao reported that, so far, LA-RICS used the cameras for a variety of issues as mentioned; for instance, at site BUR1, the camera helped LA-RICS confirm that a rental vendor technician left their rollup generator running correctly, which avoided a time consuming four (4) hour drive to the site to check in person.

Technical Lead Pao stated that, on another note, the electrified lockset and key-pad entry system gave LA-RICS the ability to assign unique codes to each staff member, contractor, or anyone else that would need shelter access, and with the combination of using cameras and logging keys, LA-RICS could closely monitor who accesses the site and when. Technical Lead Pao further stated this would cut down on the need for a physical key which could be a security risk if the key was lost or stolen.

Technical Lead Pao shared that, operationally, LA-RICS continued to focus on a variety of site maintenance and repair tasks, and most of the work involved the preventative maintenance of radio equipment and site infrastructure equipment such as fuel polishing for the generator fuel and fuel spill and overfill containment drainage after rain; additionally, LA-RICS continued to focus on site repairs, housekeeping, vendor escort duties, and electrical work.

Technical Lead Pao reported that a system upgrade to the 2024 version of the ASTRO 25 system was scheduled for next September or October, and at the beginning of next year, LA-RICS would be working closely with MSI on any upgrade scope and planning and identify any operational issues.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report with no additional discussion.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

D. 2026 SCHEDULE OF LA-RICS JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations Lead Lt. Weber presented the recommended calendar dates to the Committees.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked the Committees if there were any questions to the 2026 Schedule of LA-RICS Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meetings. Operations and Technical Committee Member Nelson asked if holidays were considered when making the 2026 schedule to which Operations Lead Lt. Weber confirmed as so.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber called for a motion approve.

Operations Committee Member Mike Ciszek motioned first, seconded by Operations and Technical Committee Member Nelson.

Operations Committee:
Ayes (9): Denerson, Martinez, Ciszek, Nelson, Hunt, Cummings, Weber, Zavala, and Coatney

Technical Committee:
Ayes (9): England, Tan, Pao, Nelson, Hunt, Cummings, Weber, Zavala, and Coatney

MOTION APPROVED

Operations Lead Lt. Weber shared that he would be moving on from LA-RICS to the Major Crimes Bureau at LASD and that Lieutenant Joseph Dominguez would replace him as the LA-RICS Operations Lead.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE – NONE

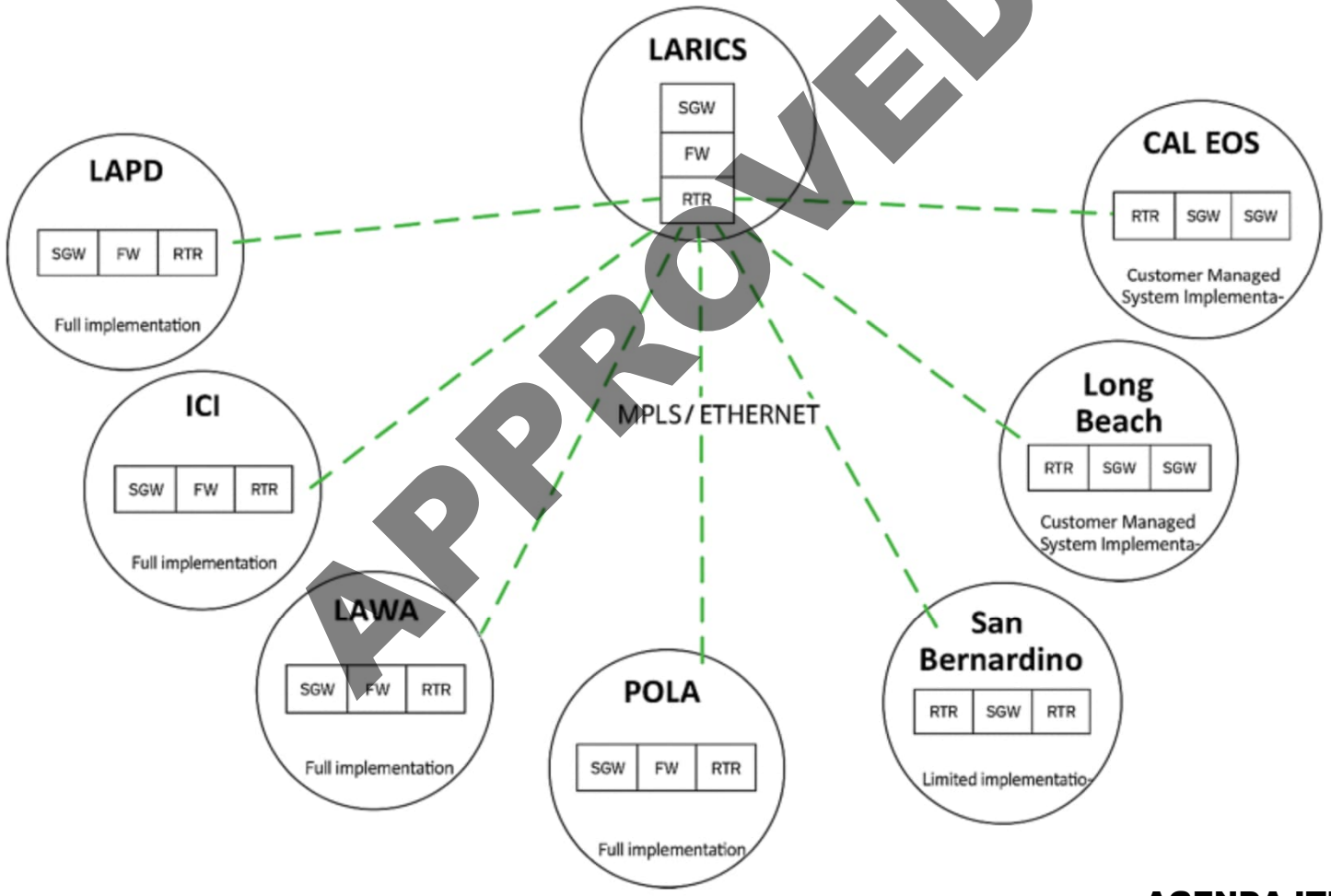
X. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Operations Lead Lt. Weber adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:15 p.m., with the next Joint Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting, to which Operations Member Mike Ciszek made a motion.

System-of-Systems Hub and Spoke



Benefits of ISSI

COMMUNICATIONS

Extend communication and collaboration across interoperable P25 networks

CONTROL

Maintain full autonomy and control over your system

FLEXIBILITY

Operate across different frequency bands

USABILITY

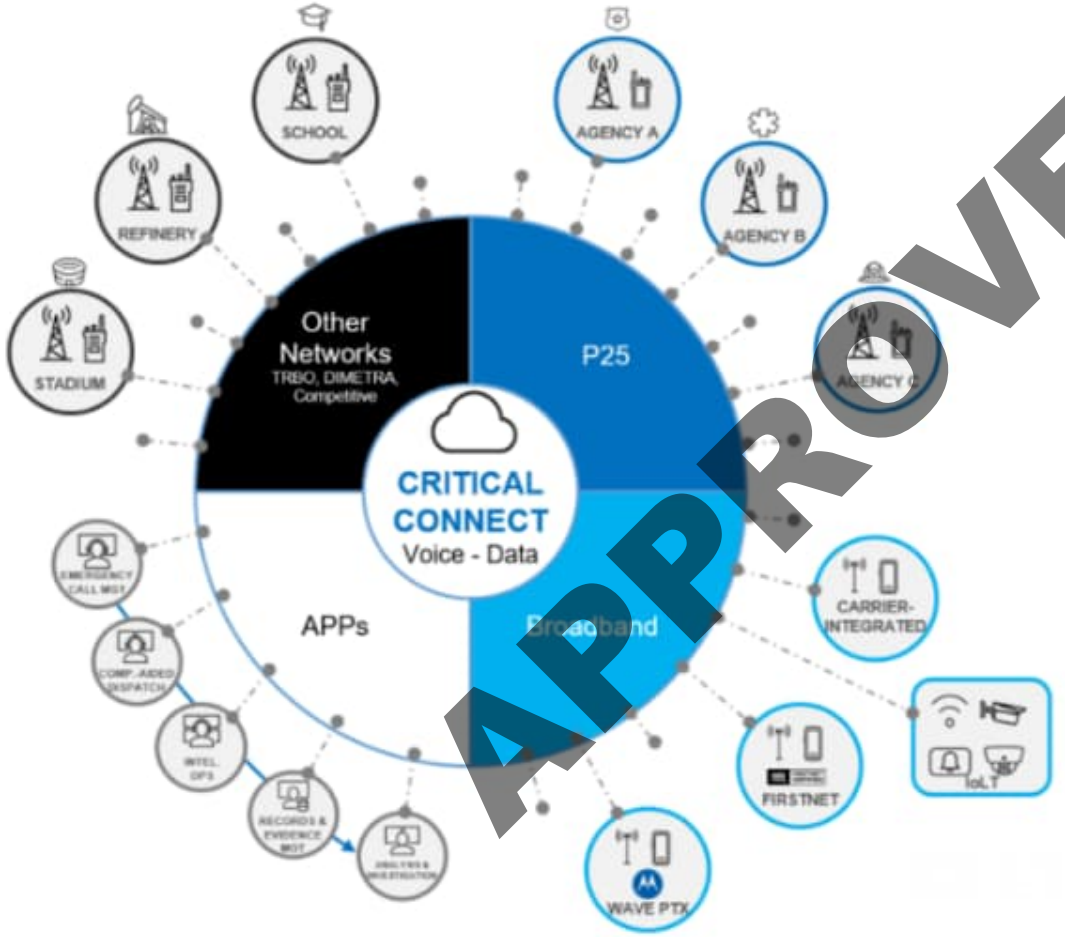
Eliminate the need to use unfamiliar donor radios

CONTACT

Maintain communications and data connection with roaming personnel

Critical Connect Platform

Part of Our Mission Critical Ecosystem



Solution

- Centralized Hub
- One-to-many
- Multiple Interfaces

Application

- Interoperability for all
  - Nationwide
  - State
  - Local
- Mission Support
- Large Scale Coordination
- Incident Management

Interfaces

- ASTRO 7.17 +
- Dimetra 9.0 +
- MotoTRBO
- APX / APX Next
- Wireless LMR
- IMW Data
- PTT-Over-Cloud

Seamless Communications Between LMR, Broadband PTT, and Applications