



# JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 • 1:30 p.m.  
Teleconference/Webex Meeting\*

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**Operations Committee Members Present:**

**John Geiger**, Los Angeles County, CEO  
**Steve Cabrera**, Vice-Chair, County of Los Angeles, Fire Department  
**Sven Crongeyer**, Chair, Lieutenant, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department  
**Anthony Vairo**, Los Angeles County, Police Chiefs Association  
**Jeff LaGreek**, Sergeant, Inglewood Police Department  
**David Povero**, Captain, Covina Police Department

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**Technical Committee Members Present:**

**John Geiger**, Los Angeles County, CEO  
**Scott England**, Vice-Chair, Telecommunications Systems Consulting Engineer, LACoFD  
**Sven Crongeyer**, Lieutenant, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department  
**Lipin Tan**, Los Angeles County DHS  
**Ted Pao**, Chair, Information Technology Specialist, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department  
**Jeff LaGreek**, Sergeant, Inglewood Police Department  
**David Povero**, Captain, Covina Police Department

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**Absent:**

**Jeff Morgan**, Los Angeles County DHS  
**James Craig**, Manhattan Beach Fire Department

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**Officers Present:**

**Joann Huerta**, LA-RICS Committee Secretary

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Operations Committee Chair Sven Crongeyer, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – Roll Call**

Operations Committee Chair Crongeyer asked for a roll call and acknowledged a quorum was present for Operations and Technical Committee (Joint Committees).

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (A)**

**A. January 19, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Operations Chair Crongeyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Joint Committee Member David Povero motioned first, seconded by Technical Committee Chair Ted Pao.

Ayes 9: Cabrera, Crongeyer, England, Geiger, LaGreek, Pao, Povero, Tan, and Vairo.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (NONE)**

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR – (NONE)**

**VI. REPORTS (B-D)**

**B. Status Report Update for PSBN Round 2 Deployment Update – Program Manager Justin Delfino**

Program Manager Justin Delfino provided an update on power for LTE Round 2. LA-RICS is currently in a holding pattern waiting for the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Southern California Edison (SCE) to confirm that the installation of the overhead power poles will be compliant with the US Fish and Wildlife. LA-RICS believes that each site will be approved so the power installation can complete for WTR, MML, and MDI.

At Montebello Police Department, all base scope work has been installed there as well as the access door that the station requested. Port of Los Angeles (POLA1 and POLA2) all base work has been installed there and LA-RICS is working on the item remaining where POLA1 requires installation of Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS)



200AMP breaker, it has been ordered, the contractor is expediting it and we will have the part on hand and installed in the upcoming three (3) weeks.

The POLA2 site at Phoenix terminal utilizes an existing electrical power source to energize the LTE2 installation, however the City of Los Angeles has required inspection from its building department before in permission is granted to close contact turning on normal power. Specifically, an inspection of the upsized ATS from 100amp to 200amp must pass inspection.

At the Port of Long Beach (POLB1) there hasn't been a consensus or agreement to the terms of the access agreement between First Net and AT&T for the POLB1 site and for that reason the site has not started construction. Although, the design is complete and design materials will be delivered to FirstNet/ AT&T at close-out.

In regards to Pomona Court Building (POM2) site, the construction is moving along well. The contractor identified a need to reconfigure the lightweight concrete equipment pad. The pads were modified because there was not adequate workspace for the technician to stand on the equipment pad at the level of the cabinet for servicing safely. The architect published the change directive correcting the issue and the pad is being installed according to the revision.

The first batch of 20 sites are completed and all information has been transferred to First-Net AT&T for review.

There was no further discussion.

### C. Status Report Update for LMR – Program Manager Justin Delfino

Program Manager Justin Delfino provided a detailed update on the LMR system and provided information on which sites are in construction, along with additional details supporting the construction-related activities occurring at the sites to date.

LMR is at a critical point in its "Ph. 2" construction build-out, bringing on 14 additional sites with the closing of the UASI 18' grant spend. A majority of these 14 sites are situated in the Angeles National Forest, in fact 9 of the 13 Forest sites are planned for completion with the UASI 18' grant spend. Motorola (MSI) has identified that rain and high winds have been causing work delays at the Forest sites, which threaten the planned completion date in March 2021. With the addition of these 14 sites, it will put the entire LMR Network at approximately 79% complete with the physical build.

Two (2) active sites in UASI 19' are Pine Mountain (PMT) and Burnt Peak 1 (BUR1). There are no outstanding Site Access Agreements (SAA) at this point. LA-RICS is encouraged by the plans to start five (5) additional UASI 19' sites this month. The listing of sites planned to start are the following:



- Universal – at 10UCP and CityWalk
- MTL2 – at Mount Lukens
- BJM- at Catalina Island
- RPVT- at Rancho Palos Verdes
- GRM- at Santa Monica mountains

All five (5) of these sites are scheduled to start construction work this month. Baldwin Hills (BHS) site, which overlooks the Inglewood area, has been delayed by SCE due to a scheduled power outage and recent weather impacts. SCE gave LA-RICS a commitment that by March 25, 2021, the site will be powered on.

Narrowband work is still ongoing with Los Angeles County. MSI is still having difficulty with the integrated master schedule, although MSI has provided updates on a regular basis “for information only”. The Parties are not at mutual agreement on the road map to completion at this time nor the Final System Acceptance milestone date. The team is planning to meet this week to talk about how to reach that consensus over the IMS.

Program Manager Delfino stated that all Site Access Agreements (SAA) are 100% completed. MSI has started construction on approximately 79% of sites. Equipment orders are 100% completed. Site optimization is approximately 48% completed. There are zero recorded injuries to date.

Program Manager Delfino stated Phase 4 work such as site optimization and microwave alignment is currently underway at several sites. All subscriber units for the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) are ready for cut over. LMR Technical Lead Engineer Ted Pao is leading the coordination between the project team and the LASD for completion of infrastructure and frequency coordination between County of Los Angeles and the Authority.

Lastly, Program Manager Delfino stated the site construction at USFS sites were severely impacted by the fires that took place in the months of September, October and November 2020. However, all of the forest sites were able to re-start with the exception of Frost Peak (FRP) which will remain shut down until mid-April, or as soon as the access road re-opens at the end of ski season. The vast majority of the USFS sites are planned to be completed this March 2021, under UASI 18’ Grant completion.

There was no further discussion.

#### **D. Regional ISSI Interoperability Working Group –**



Technical Committee Chair Ted Pao stated that ISSI working group is going to have a meeting tomorrow, March 17, 2021, for the Regional internal support group with the City of Los Angeles to discuss the connectivity via ISSI to other agencies.

There was no further discussion.

## VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (E-F)

### E. Distribution of the LARTCS/ACVRS Channel Plan – Sven Crongeyer and Steve Cabrera

Operations Committee Chair Crongeyer provided an update and stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is still in the works with review remaining at ISD and LA-RICS should have it at our next meeting.

Operations Committee Vice-Chair Steve Cabrera stated that LA-RICS is still validating the frequencies which we have come close to finalizing.

There was no further discussion.

### F. LMR System Capacity and Coverage Update – Steve Page

LMR System Manager Steve Page presented a power point presentation and gave an update on the LMR System Capacity and Coverage.

The question was asked by the JPA Board 'how many agencies can LA-RICS support on the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system?' and in order to answer that question, the team had to go back and look at the entire system holistically and our stringent capacity requirements in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and in the LMR contract, followed up with a lot of math.

LMR System Manager Page stated LA-RICS capacity is based on accommodating 34,000 first responders in the region. LA-RICS also differentiated itself from other regional systems by establishing a minimum number of ten (10) simultaneous talk paths for each cell/site. This is an important differentiator as the capacity is not only being designed to meet first responder's day-to-day operational needs, but in a surge condition where heavy usage is not expected on a day-to-day basis in rural area such as the Angeles National Forest, Lake Los Angeles, I-5 north corridor near the Grapevine. All these areas have the minimum ten (10) talk paths. In addition, the 700 MHz trunked and UHF trunked system were individually designed to accommodate 34,000 first responders. This was done to allow a path forward for LA-RICS to support its member's operation had T-band been pulled back by congress. We are glad to



report T-band auction has been negated by the passage of the latest CARE Act at the end of 2020.

Looking at what is required to determine the capacity, LA-RICS started by looking at the hardware of the system itself, starting with the 58 individual RF sites, of which we have 47 of them either done or in construction. The sites that LA-RICS has are a mixture of UHF and 700 MHz, based on balancing coverage among all the sites and cells and the subscriber units out there in the field. Each site/cell has the capacity of ten (10) talk paths minimally on the 700 MHz trunked system and the UHF trunked system. In essence, these are two (2) separate trunked systems that can work in a standalone configuration if an agency has only single band subscriber radios. For an agency with dual or multi-band radios, it can still default to operate on a single band operationally if that talk group's radios are all reachable in the band. Although the system does have dynamic capability to link between the 700 MHz radios to UHF radios, operating on a single band is the most spectrum-efficient and reserves system capacity to the maximum. Pine Mountain (PMT) in the Angeles National Forest is the only location with a 6-channel UHF site due to unavailability of commercial power as it is a solar power site.

LMR System Manager Page stated this is important because as we look at capacity, we are having to combine this with the details of how each radio interacts with the system and how we consider the permissions and roaming abilities for each talk group in the network.

LMR System Manager Page stated to determine the number of users this system can support comfortably; some important factors must be considered such as:

1. What is the average length of each transmission on each talk group – understanding that a tactical talk group is going to have shorter per-transmission length versus a dispatch channel for Law, but the opposite for Fire which has long transmissions for dispatch but shorter per-transmission length on the tactical channels, even though there are more transmissions. The good news is that in the long run, everything balances out and LA-RICS has some numbers that we can really use.
  - a. It is good to note that the Contractor is planning on implementing a solution within the system that will provide automation in terms of reporting and data analysis, which will alleviate us having to perform manual data analysis.
2. How many talk groups are allowed on the particular site? LA-RICS has all regional tactical and interop talk groups allowed everywhere, but for example, Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) talk groups will only be allowed on the South cell, and will not affect any other cells in the system; Rose Parade talk groups for



Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) will only be on the San Gabriel and Downtown cells.

3. The Tech/Ops group can, and will receive requests to allow a talk group to roam on another site, but that will be the exception rather than the rule. Having one talk group roaming to the Oat Mountain (OAT) site just so that one person can listen when they are home is not a very efficient use of network resources. Change Management and the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) system are a vital part of our processes to make sure LA-RICS does not waste these precious resources.

LMR System Manager Page stated now that we have the information needed, the team can calculate the capacity for each particular site, and once the team has a decision on which talk groups can go where in the system, the algorithm from the 2019, presentation can be used to give us the answer for each site.

Currently, in the early deployment and testing configuration, LA-RICS has the following:

**LASD:**

- 195 Talk groups
- UHF/700 Dynamic Dual Mode (DDM)

**LACoFD:**

- 45 Talk groups
- UHF/700 DDM

**Other Agencies, Interoperability, Testing:**

- 444 Talk groups
- UHF/700 DDM

LMR System Manager Page stated the answer the underlying question, which is what is the capacity per site to allow for additional agencies?

Using capacity-modeling software, we have used the information to run projections and while the numbers are conservative and based on the probability of 'surge' events that will invariably happen the team came up with the following:

- UHF Frequency Division Multiple Access (FDMA) Sites: Eleven (11) RF channels can support 120 talk groups in purely FDMA mode. Balancing in a number of DDM



talk groups will push that number to 215 (conservatively) and going purely Phase 2 will allow for almost 340 talk groups. Of course, based on conservative calculations and the ability of the Tech/Ops group to allocate talk groups appropriately throughout the network. Remembering that in a DDM talk group, it only takes one radio on a talk group to bring the entire channel back to FDMA.

- UHF 6-Channel Sites: six (6) RF channels can support 40 talk groups in purely FDMA mode. With a number of DDM talk groups, that number can be raised to 75, and if the site is made purely Phase 2, it is capable of 120 talk groups.
- 700 6-Channel TDMA Sites: 120 talk groups.
- South 700 Cell: forty (40) talk groups if all channels are kept in FDMA mode. The site can be configured to have some channels be FDMA and some be DDM, based on the requirements of the agencies that will be using it. This will be a decision for Tech/Ops to make based on the projected users of that cell.

LMR System Manager Page stated with our dual-band trunked system, each with capacity designed to meet first responders' needs in the region; we are comfortable our members' needs will be met. Even with the capability LA-RICS has, management of the talk groups and roaming capability remains critical and is a high priority in system management as the team starts to operate.

In conclusion, are there any questions or follow-up items that your Joint Committee would like to see from our group?

There was no further discussion.

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (G)**

### **G. INGLEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCESS TO THE LA-RICS NETWORK**

LMR System Manager Steve Page presented the Inglewood Police Department Access to the LA-RICS Network and recommended that your Committee:

1. Review and approve allowing the Inglewood Police Department to access the LA-RICS network and cores.

Operations Chair Crongeyer asked if there were any questions or comments from the Committee.

Joint Committee Member John Geiger asked for verification before we take a vote that the motion is to recommend this to the Board of Directors or does this



Committee have authority to authorize the use. LMR System Manager Steve Page stated this is to recommend approval by the Board.

Technical Committee Vice-Chair Scott England asked to clarify that it's for their equipment and their channels, Operations Chair Crongeyer responded, stating yes it's just for Inglewood Police Department.

Technical Committee Vice-Chair Steve Cabrera motioned first, seconded by Joint Committee Member John Geiger.

Ayes 9: Cabrera, Crongeyer, England, Geiger, LaGreek, Pao, Povero, Tan, and Vairo.

**MOTION APPROVED**

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**

**X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE**

**XI. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

The Operations and Technical Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m., and the next Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., via Teleconference/WebEx.