



**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
FOR PORTABLE RADIOS TO BE USED ON THE
LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA-RICS)
LAND MOBILE RADIO (LMR) SYSTEM**

RFI NO.: LA-RICS 018

APRIL 17, 2023

**LA-RICS AUTHORITY PORTABLE RADIOS
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 BACKGROUND
- 1.2 PURPOSE

2.0 OVERVIEW OF RFI

- 2.1 RFI COMPOSITION
- 2.2 RFI TIMETABLE
- 2.3 AUTHORITY'S RFI POINT OF CONTACT
- 2.4 RESPONDENTS' QUESTIONS
- 2.5 RFI RESPONSE DEADLINE
- 2.6 RFI CONFERENCE

3.0 RFI FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 RESPONSE FORMAT
- 3.2 COVER PAGE
- 3.3 CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- 3.4 EXHIBIT A (PORTABLE RADIO REQUIREMENTS MATRIX)
- 3.5 EXHIBIT B (PORTABLE RADIO TESTING CRITERIA)
- 3.6 PORTABLE RADIOS REQUIRED FOR TESTING
- 3.7 OTHER RESPONDENT INFORMATION
- 3.8 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
- 3.9 AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

On August 15, 2013, the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communication System (LA-RICS) Authority (Authority) and Motorola Solutions, Inc. (Motorola) entered into an Agreement to build an interoperable hybrid Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System that would operate in both UHF T-Band and 700 MHz spectrum in order to provide public safety first responders in the Los Angeles County region with real time mission critical voice and data communications that would support day-to-day, mutual aid, and task force operations. When the build out of the LMR System is completed, the LMR System will provide enhanced two-way wireless communications to users of the LMR System.

The LMR System is an APCO Project 25 (P25) Phase 1 and Phase 2 compliant, digital trunked communications system which is vendor agnostic to allow P25 compliant radios to operate on it. It uses a Motorola Astro 25 multi-zone simulcast infrastructure with a targeted final version number of not less than 7.18. Communication through the LMR System will be carried out by several Subsystems, which includes a Digital Trunked Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS), Analog Conventional Voice Radio Subsystem (ACVRS), Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications Subsystem (LARTCS), and a Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDN). Additionally, these Subsystems will be delivered via fifty-eight (58) LMR Sites dispersed across the Los Angeles County region spanning from Lancaster to San Dimas to Catalina Island.

Many users that will benefit from the LMR System fall under the umbrella of twenty-five (25) Member Agencies within the LA-RICS Authority including, but not limited to, the County of Los Angeles (County), and various cities such as the City of Inglewood, the City of Pasadena, as well as educational entities like the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and the Inglewood Unified School District. With the LMR System, these Member Agencies will be able to communicate with one another during emergencies, disasters, as well as planned events. The technical and operational requirements of the Authority's Member Agencies vary and to balance the telecommunication needs of its Member Agencies with the ability to operate on the LMR System, it is imperative that the Authority test portable radios to ensure compatibility with the LMR System and limit any potential harm to the LMR System.

As the Authority anticipates Final LMR System Acceptance in late 2023, Member Agencies will need to understand what portable radios are compatible for use on the LMR System. This Request for Information (RFI) allows the Authority to become acquainted with the Radios in the current marketplace that are compatible with the LMR System ahead of Final LMR System Acceptance.

1.2 Purpose

The Authority is issuing this RFI to obtain information from qualified and knowledgeable firms (Respondents) to understand the capabilities of the current telecommunications market for handheld Portable Two-Way Radios (Radios), along with their supporting ecosystems, to ensure safe compatibility with the Authority's LMR System.

The goal of this RFI is to obtain responses from multiple responsive, responsible firms and to test Radios **to determine if they are fully compatible and capable of operating on the LMR System infrastructure utilizing features currently installed and used by the Authority**. Submissions and information gathered in response to this RFI will be used by the Authority to test the compatibility of portable radios in the market for use on the LMR System and the Authority will share this information with its Member Agencies via a list of tested and approved Radios for use on the LMR System. This RFI is for informational and planning purposes only, there is no promise of future solicitations and/or business by the Authority and/or its Member Agencies.

Additionally, the Authority is seeking input from Respondents with experience and skills in developing public safety quality products, and for products and services that have, but are not limited to, the following capabilities:

- **Portable Radios** – A suitable portfolio of device types and characteristics for interoperability with the Authority's LMR System using the core frequencies.
- **Device Management** – The product support for remote management of portable radio application use including configuration, deployment, and program and firmware updates.
- **Policy Management** – Development, control and operations of the Authority's enterprise portable radio access, connectivity, local operational control and security policy.
- **Security Management** – The implementation and enforcement of the Authority's portable radio security, authentication and encryption requirements and policies.

As part of this RFI, Respondents understand and acknowledge the Authority will require sample Radios (inclusive of software, accessories, etc.) be submitted for testing for compatibility pursuant to the requirements and testing criteria set forth in Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix) and Exhibit B (Portable Radio Testing Criteria) to this RFI. **The Authority requires Respondents to provide, at no cost to the Authority, two (2) fully functional and compliant sample Radios (per Radio model) including all required cables, accessories and software necessary to allow programming and testing, with your firm's response to this RFI.** The Authority will return the Radios to the Respondent once

testing has been completed. However, Respondents should be aware that the Radios submitted may be damaged during the testing process. The Authority will not be liable or responsible for reimbursement of any costs for damaged equipment. Please refer to Section 3.6 (Portable Radios Required for Testing) of this RFI for specific Radio submission and Radio return information.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes. It does not constitute a competitive solicitation or a promise to issue a competitive solicitation in the future. However, the Authority reserves the right to use the information gathered in response to the RFI to develop future solicitations, whether competitive or sole-sourced, as appropriate. This RFI does not commit the Authority to contract for any services whatsoever. The Authority hereby accepts no obligation to accept or endorse any of the information provided in response to this RFI. The Authority hereby disclaims any intent, accepts no obligations and makes no commitment to solicit any goods or services related to this RFI. The Authority shall not be liable in any way or have any responsibility for any costs incurred in connection with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any information, including any Radio demonstrations or technical assistance required as part of or in response to this RFI. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in a future solicitation, if one is issued.

Responses to this RFI shall become the exclusive property of the Authority. Respondents should be aware that the information provided will be tested and analyzed and may appear in various reports, lists, and/or requests and may be subject to disclosure, as required or permitted under the California Public Records Act or otherwise by law, with the exception of those parts of each submission which meet the definition of "Trade Secret" and are plainly marked as "Trade Secret" or "Proprietary."

The Authority shall not, in any way, be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record, or any parts thereof, if disclosure is required or permitted under California Public Records Act or otherwise by law. A blanket statement of confidentiality or the marking of each page of the submission as confidential shall not be deemed sufficient notice of exception. Respondents must specifically label only those provisions of the submission, which are "Trade Secrets" or "Proprietary" in nature.

The Authority reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to invite any Respondents to this RFI to provide a non-competitive presentation and/or demonstration. The presentation/demonstration, if requested, is intended for information gathering purposes only as part of this RFI process. In addition, there may be a functionality demonstration and testing component administered by the Authority and its partners (i.e. Authority personnel, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, the Internal Services Department, etc.) through a separate process. The Authority will coordinate such presentations and/or demonstrations with each Respondent separately, should the need exist, and will be based on the number of Radio models submitted.

In order for the Authority to be kept apprised of the current Radio marketplace and test Radios that may be compatible with the LMR System, this RFI will remain open on a continuous basis, until such time as the Authority, in its sole discretion, deems it appropriate to close.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF RFI

2.1 RFI Composition

This RFI is composed of the following parts:

- **Introduction** – Provides information regarding the purpose of this RFI, the desired Radio information, and the relevant background information regarding the Authority's LMR System.
- **Overview of RFI** – Provides key information for Respondents such as RFI timetables, RFI contact information, and the process for submitting questions.
- **RFI Format and Instructions** – Contains instructions to Respondents for preparing and submitting responses to this RFI.
- **Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix)** – Contains the requirements and specifications each Radio must be compliant with.
- **Exhibit B (Portable Radio Testing Criteria)** – Contains the testing criteria and parameters each Radio will be demonstrated, inspected, analyzed, and tested against.

2.2 RFI Timetable

The following timetable is tentative for this RFI and is subject to change at the Authority's sole discretion. It should be noted that this RFI will remain open on a continuous basis until such time as the Authority, in its sole discretion, deems it appropriate to close. The timetable for the initial submission of RFI is as follows:

KEY EVENTS	DATE	TIME
Issuance of RFI	April 17, 2023	--
Optional RFI Conference (Section 2.6)	May 17, 2023	10:00 a.m.
Final Day to Submit Written Questions (Section 2.4)	May 22, 2023	5:00 p.m.
Initial RFI Responses Due (Section 2.5)	June 12, 2023	5:00 p.m.

2.3 Authority's RFI Point of Contact

All contacts and communications regarding this RFI or any matter relating thereto must be in writing and mailed or e-mailed to the Authority's point of contact (Authority's RFI Contact) at:

Melissa Saradpon
LA-RICS Project
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 100
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Phone No.: (323) 881-8289
melissa.saradpon@la-rics.org

2.4 Respondents' Questions

Respondents may submit written questions regarding this RFI by email to the Authority's RFI Contact described in Section 2.3 (Authority's RFI Point of Contact). All questions must be received by the date and time set forth in Section 2.2 (RFI Timetable) for the initial RFI submission date. As this RFI will remain open on a continuous basis, Respondents interested in submitting questions beyond the initial submission date, may do so directing questions to the Authority's RFI Contact in the manner prescribed in this Section 2.4.

To submit questions to the Authority, Respondents must include the following:

1. **Subject** – RFI NO. LA-RICS 018;
2. **Company Information** – Company name, contact name and title, business and mailing addresses, phone number and email address; and
3. **Reference** – Reference the section in the RFI that generated the question(s).

All questions, without identifying the submitting company, will be compiled with the appropriate answers and issued as an addendum to the RFI. Any addenda will be posted in the County of Los Angeles Bid Posting Website and will be distributed to those Respondents that participate in the RFI Conference. To ensure receipt of any addenda, Respondents should include a correct email address.

Potential Respondents should register in the County of Los Angeles' WebVen. The WebVen contains the Vendor's business profile and identifies the goods/services the business provides. Registration can be accomplished online via the internet by accessing the County's home page at <https://doingbusiness.lacounty.gov/>.

2.5 RFI Response Deadline

Each Respondent is solely responsible to ensure that the Authority receives its response to this RFI by the initial submission deadline as set forth in Section 2.2 (RFI Timetable) for the initial RFI response. Responses must be submitted to the Authority's RFI Contact set forth in Section 2.3 (Authority's RFI Point of Contact).

Respondents wishing to respond to this RFI and submit their Radios for testing after the initial RFI Response submission deadline may do so as long as this RFI remains open.

Each Respondent shall bear all risks of delays associated with any mode of delivery, including, without limitation, the United States Postal Service or any other delivery services. Responses submitted by facsimile or e-mail shall not be accepted.

Late submissions for the initial RFI response deadline will be considered at the sole discretion of the Authority. The Authority will not have a public opening or reading of RFI responses.

2.6 Optional RFI Conference

A non-mandatory RFI Conference will be conducted for potential Respondents. The RFI Conference is scheduled on the date and time set forth in Section 2.2 (RFI Timetable) at the following location:

**LA-RICS Project
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Large Conference Room**

Additionally, Respondents who are unable to attend the conference in-person can join via teleconference via Microsoft Teams.

Link to access RFI Conference: [Click here to join the Microsoft Teams Meeting.](#)

A sign-in sheet will be provided for Respondents participating the conference in-person and via teleconference.

While attendance to the RFI Conference is optional, it is highly encouraged and recommended that Respondents participate. This Conference will provide valuable information on the Authority's purpose and intent for issuing this RFI.

The Authority reserves the right to reschedule the RFI Conference to a different meeting platform, location, day, and/or time. If the RFI Conference is rescheduled, the Authority will issue an Addendum to this RFI indicating the revised meeting platform, location, day, and/or time.

3.0 RFI FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Response Format

In order to facilitate the analysis of responses to this RFI and to appropriately test Radios submitted, Respondents shall prepare submissions in accordance with the instructions outlined below. Responses shall be prepared as simply as possible and provide a straightforward, concise description of the Respondent's ability to submit information regarding Radios.

The content and sequence of information must be as follows and identified accordingly in your RFI response:

- Cover Page
- Corporate Overview / Executive Summary
- Exhibits:
 - ✓ Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix)
 - ✓ Exhibit B (Portable Radio Testing Criteria)
- Additional Information

3.2 Cover Page

The cover page should provide, at a minimum, the following information:

- Company Name
- RFI Title: Response for Portable Radios
- RFI No.: RFI No. LA-RICS 018
- Prepared for: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System
- Due Date and Time as set forth in Section 2.2 (RFI Timetable)
- Contacts: Executive Contacts
- Firm / Company Address
- Contact Email Address
- Contact Phone Number

3.3 Corporate Overview and Executive Summary

Provide a brief (no more than two pages) overview of the company history, its core markets, client base, and an overview of the Company's RFI response.

3.4 Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix)

The Portable Radio Requirements Matrix is requesting information that is generally applicable to all portable radio types. Respondents are instructed to respond to each line item for each Radio, including the corresponding cost, offered by the Respondent and submitted in response to this RFI. Respondents need to submit a separate Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix) for **EACH PORTABLE RADIO MODEL** it is submitting in response to this RFI.

Where the Respondent believes that the requirement or question does not apply to a particular Radio offered by the Respondent, "Not/Applicable" should be placed in the "Response" field. Two (2) columns are provided for Respondent feedback and other information.

The "Comply" column has two purposes. First, the Authority identified certain requirements as "Mandatory" in red text to indicate that the line item is a mandatory minimum requirement for a Radio for use on the LMR System. If "Mandatory" is NOT indicated in a particular line item, that functionality and/or feature is NOT Mandatory. In addition, for all the questions, Respondents shall provide a "yes" or "no" response in that "Comply" column regarding the question posed for that row in the matrix.

The "Response" column shall expand the "yes" or "no" response in the "Comply" column providing clear yet concise background information. Additional specific instructions are provided in the Exhibit that will aid Respondents in describing how their Radios meet the requirements.

Each Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix) response shall be provided in a separate electronic file (one each in PDF and Word versions). Each file shall include the following elements in its title:

- LA-RICS Portable Radio RFI Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix) Response
- The Respondent's organization name
- The Radio name and model number

3.5 Exhibit B (Portable Radio Testing Criteria)

Exhibit B (Portable Radio Testing Criteria) sets forth criteria and methodology the Authority will use to test the Radio(s) Respondents submit in response to this RFI. This Exhibit informs the Respondent on the criteria and manner in which the Radio(s) being submitted will be tested to determine if the Respondent's product(s) products are compliant for use on the LMR System. The methods the Authority will use to conduct its testing is as follows:

- Compliance Certificate Inspection
- Demonstration
- Demonstration Analysis
- Inspection
- Testing / Analysis
- Respondent Declaration
- Information Only

3.6 Portable Radios Required for Testing

Respondents shall provide, at no cost to the Authority, two (2) fully functional and compliant samples **per Radio model** including all required cables, accessories,

and software necessary to allow programming and testing, **with your RFI response**. For example, if a Respondent is submitting two (2) different Radio models (Model A and Model B) for testing on the Authority's LMR System, then the Respondent should be submitting a total of four (4) sample Radios, two (2) of Radio Model A and two (2) of Model B.

As mentioned previously in this RFI, the Authority reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to invite any Respondents to provide a non-competitive presentation and/or demonstrations. Respondents may also be asked to participate in a functionality demonstration and testing component administered by the Authority and its partners (i.e. Authority personnel, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, the Internal Services Department, etc.) through a separate process. The Authority will coordinate such presentations and/or demonstrations with each Respondent separately and will be based on the number of Radio models submitted. The Authority will not be liable or responsible for reimbursement of any costs associated with Respondents participating in presentations, demonstrations, and functionality demonstrations to test the Radios. Such costs shall be borne by the Respondents.

The Authority will return the Radios to the Respondent once testing has been completed. The Authority will contact each Respondent once testing has been completed to coordinate the return of the Radio(s) submitted in response to this RFI. Respondents shall provide a shipping tag with the Radios for the Authority to utilize when returning the Radios back to Respondents. Respondents should be aware that the Radios submitted for testing may be damaged during the testing process. The Authority will not be liable or responsible for reimbursement of any costs for damaged equipment.

3.7 Other Respondent Information

In addition to the specific information sought in the Exhibits, such as model information, features, functionality, cost, etc., Respondents are encouraged to provide additional information that will assist the Authority in providing an avenue for public safety agencies to secure the appropriate Radios that meet their specific needs, while minimizing operational challenges, cost and complexity to the Authority. Should the Respondent have suggestions or recommendations for the Authority regarding these objectives, the Respondent is welcome to provide this additional information.

It is important to note that the end user agency's portable radio requirements may be more or less restrictive requirements than the Authority's requirements. These agencies may require specific features and functions that are unique to their agency. It is the Authority's intent to let its end users purchase their own Radios for use on the LMR System, however, the Authority requires minimum Radio requirements such that:

1. Will not harm the LMR System and ensure that the device will not harm the network.
2. Will meet the minimum performance requirements set forth in Exhibit A (Portable Radio Requirements Matrix) such that the operational performance of the LMR System is maintained.
3. Will be secure and will not present a security risk that could undermine the integrity of the LMR System.
4. Are otherwise compatible with the LMR System and the Authority-defined policies and procedures for commissioning Radios on the LMR System.

As a result, should the Respondent have any additional feedback with regards to these overarching objectives, such feedback shall be provided in this section of the RFI response.

3.8 Submission Instructions

This Section contains instructions to Respondents regarding how to prepare and submit its response. It is the sole responsibility of the Respondent to ensure that its response is complete. When responding, Respondents shall make sure that they have responded to all elements of the RFI. The RFI should be read carefully, giving consideration to all the requirements.

All responses, documents, and sample Radios submitted to the Authority in response to this RFI shall be clearly written in the English language. Inadequate, incomplete or otherwise non-responsive responses, as determined in the Authority's sole judgment, may not be reviewed.

The Respondent must submit their response to the Authority by no later than the date and time set forth in Section 2.2 (RFI Timetable) for the initial RFI response submission deadline.

Responses, including one (1) original, and one (1) printed copy, and one (1) electronic version in both Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF formats on a Universal Serial Bus (USB) drive should be delivered to the following:

**LA-RICS Project
2525 Corporate Place, Suite 100
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Attention: Melissa Saradpon
RFI No. LA-RICS 018**

Pursuant to Section 3.6 (Portable Radios Required for Testing), Respondents shall provide, at no cost to the Authority, **two (2)** fully functional and compliant samples **per Radio model** including all required cables, accessories, and software necessary to allow programming and testing, **with your RFI response.**

3.9 Authority Responsibility

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. It is issued solely for information and planning purposes. It does not constitute a solicitation or a promise to issue a solicitation in the future. This RFI does not commit the Authority to contract for any supply or services whatsoever. The Authority will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in the response to this RFI, including but not limited to, preparing its response, Respondents participating in presentations, demonstrations, and functionality demonstrations to test the Radios.

The Authority will return the Radios to the Respondent once testing has been completed. The Authority will contact each Respondent once testing has been completed to coordinate the return of the Radio(s) submitted in response to this RFI.