Dedicated Public Safety Communications System Helps Protect 2017 Rose Parade Attendees
The Nation's largest private broadband network for public safety, the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System, used new technology and radio networks to protect 750,000 parade onlookers during festivities and ceremonies of the 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade.

LOS ANGELES – Feb. 8, 2017 – Building on the successes from previous deployments, the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) helped 1,500 public safety officers from the City of Pasadena and the County of Los Angeles patrol and secure the Tournament of Roses Parade route by blending new technologies with trusted radio systems.

LA-RICS covers most of Los Angeles County with a broadband network supporting 74 Long Term Evolution (LTE) communications sites. The Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) provides police, fire and emergency response agencies with secure and rapid data transmission for video, pictures, two-way voice communications, and other software applications which improve situational awareness. The LA-RICS LTE system complements its new Land Mobile Radio (LMR) infrastructure to provide a dynamic network solely for public safety, helping to keep citizens and first responders safe.

"We saw outstanding performance from the LA-RICS system at the Rose Parade this year, helping a broad coalition of public safety responders do their jobs more efficiently," said John Radeleff, Interim Executive Director for the LA-RICS Authority. "The long parade route, large crowds and high-profile event provide a unique challenge for public safety, and this network served as a key asset to help public safety fulfill its mission to keep the 750,000 attendees safe."

The deployment for the 5.5-mile parade route included both fixed and mobile video cameras, which were monitored at mobile command stations and a central operations center. One hundred hand-held broadband-enabled devices were used by officers at the event, to help monitor video feeds, share pictures and text, and see location data for personnel and equipment. The advanced technology enabled a push-to-talk function which allowed responders to talk directly with each other regardless of which voice radio or data device was used.

While the potential of events on a scale as grand as the Tournament of Roses Parade to overwhelm or significantly slow commercial broadband networks existed, they were significantly reduced by the dedication of a broadband network with top speeds at all times, given to public safety officers by the LA-RICS system. It provides a functioning model today for the planned national public safety broadband network, known as FirstNet, which will be built in coming years.

"Public safety personnel at the parade were able to improve their situational awareness and overall communication through LA-RICS," said Sheriff's Lieutenant Judy Anderson, who helped manage LA-RICS' communications efforts during the parade. "We are confident that this network improves the exchange

of information for public safety at these kinds of events and in everyday use to provide data tools that make our jobs easier."

The system moved 359 gigabytes of information during the parade event which began January 1, 2017, and concluded January 2, 2017, an increase from the 2016 parade's 294 gigabytes, which is a 22% increase, in the same time frame.

"We see a variety of uses for fire response with LA-RICS that make us enthusiastic about the system's ability to help us," said Battalion Chief Kirby Neese of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, who participated in the parade deployment. "In many ways public safety is just starting to learn about how to harness the power of broadband data for our first responders, and we are excited about the current and future capabilities of LA-RICS."

Public safety agencies participating in the 2017 parade detail included the Pasadena Police Department, Pasadena Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other public safety entities and utilities.

The LA-RICS vendors who contributed to the success of this deployment were Jacobs Engineering; Motorola Solutions, Inc.; BlackHawk Imaging; Sonim Technology; Intrepid Networks; ESChat by SLA Corporation; Parallel Wireless; Pepro LLC.; Airship; Airwave Communications; and Milestone Video Management Systems.

LA-RICS is a Joint Powers Authority formed and operated by the County of Los Angeles and 23 municipalities in Los Angeles County. It is a network of 74 fixed and mobile transmission towers that allow data such as video, photos, maps and medical data to be shared by first responders, emergency services personnel and hospitals in Los Angeles County. Construction continues on the LMR portion of the system that will include 61 communications sites across Los Angeles County. It will replace an aging system, significantly improving interoperable communication between agencies during large-scale emergencies.

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