



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

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New Emergency Communications System Aces its First Test: the 2016 Rose Parade

*LA-RICS data network connected Local, State and National
Agencies in safeguarding 750,000 attendees*

LOS ANGELES (January 13, 2016) – The nation’s largest emergency data communications system passed its first key test on its initial day of operation: the 2016 Rose Parade on New Year’s Day in Pasadena.

The Los Angeles Interoperable Regional Communications System, better known as LA-RICS, for the first time enabled local, state and federal emergency –services agencies to share data and communicate directly with each other during the Rose Parade which was attended by an estimated 750,000 people.

The LA-RICS project is one of five national early deployment efforts in support of the Public Safety Broadband Network.

“The system functioned flawlessly,” said Pat Mallon, Executive Director of LA-RICS.

For the 2016 Rose Parade, the LA-RICS system included 15 video cameras, dozens of computer screens at mobile command centers in buildings and vehicles, three fixed cell-phone towers and 90 handheld devices used by emergency personnel, all stationed along the 5-mile parade route.

Video, maps, GPS data and two-way voice traffic was transmitted between the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Dept. and LA County Fire Dept., and the data was streamed through servers controlled by the Dept. of Homeland Security. Other public agencies who safeguarded the event were the Pasadena Police Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

From 4 p.m. on Dec. 31 until noon on New Year’s Day, 294 gigabytes of data – the equivalent of 20,000 YouTube videos – were transmitted among the agencies. And that data moved within seconds on the secure public safety network, compared with the much slower speeds on commercial cellular networks.

“A float would pass by, everybody would take a picture of it and send it to someone, and you could see the processing speeds just slow to a crawl,” said Mallon said, of the commercial cellular networks.

During the parade, the speed at which the LA-RICS systems transmitted and uploaded data was three times faster than Verizon’s commercial network, and five times faster than AT&T’s.

“The ability for only first responders to use this system is one of the chief reasons we built it, and it was very gratifying to see it work quickly and efficiently – just as we designed it to do,” said Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell.

The LA-RICS vendors who contributed to the successful launch were Motorola Solutions, Inc.; BlackHawk Imaging; Sonim Technology; Intrepid Networks; ESChat by SLA Corporation; NVIS Communications; Barrett Communications; Star Solutions International Inc.; Pepero LLC.; Canon Cameras; Airship; Airwave Communications; and Milestone Video Management Systems.

Before the debut of the LA-RICS system, emergency-service agencies would often use commercial cellular networks to transmit critical data, which becomes problematic when those systems become overburdened during large-scale emergencies and disasters.

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 of the second phase of the system, a land-mobile radio network that will be powered by 61 communications sites across Los Angeles County, begins this year. It will replace an aging patchwork of multiple public safety radio systems, which makes voice communication between agencies difficult during large-scale emergencies.

LA-RICS and its partner agencies will be hosting another regional test that will demonstrate the capabilities of the new system. The next test date and media notifications will be available in the upcoming weeks.

For more information or to request a notification for the next test date, please contact:

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