JOINT OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 • 1:30 p.m.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office
Dayton Calhoun, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Adam Martinez, County of Los Angeles Department of Children Services
OPERATIONS ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert J. Weber, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
OPERATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities
Aaron Fate, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Luke, County of Los Angeles, Chief Executive Office
Scott England, Vice-Chair, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Lipin Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Ted Pao, Chair, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department
TECHNICAL ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert J. Weber, County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Ric Walczak, At-Large Seat #8
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT:
Vincent Capelle, Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association
Joshua Nelson, California Contract Cities Association
Jeff LaGreek, At-Large Seat #9
Vacant, At-Large Seat #10

OFFICERS PRESENT:
Scott Edson, LA-RICS Executive Director
Beatriz Cojulun, LA-RICS Committee Secretary

AGENDA ITEM B

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

I.   CALL TO ORDER

Operations Committee Chair Lieutenant Robert Weber called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

II.   ANNOUNCE QUORUM – ROLL CALL

Committee Secretary Beatriz Cojulun stated there was quorum present for the Technical Committee, but quorum was not present for the Operations Committee, therefore, no actions were carried and the July 18, 2023, Minutes were moved to the next Joint Operations and Technical Committee meeting scheduled for September 19, 2023.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (A)

A.   July 18, 2023 Minutes was moved to next meeting, since there was no quorum present.

IV.   PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

There was no public comment.

V.   CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

There were no Consent Calendar items.

VI.   REPORTS (B – D)

B.   Land Mobile Radio System Update – Brian Smyth

Program Director Brian Smyth presented the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System Update Agenda Item B.

Program Director Smyth provided milestone dates for the Integrated Master Schedule (IMS). Program Director Smyth said the cutover date for the Digital Trunk Voice Radio Subsystem (DTVRS) was completed on May 1, 2023. Program Director Smyth stated that during the last month, the Motorola Solutions, Incorporated (MSI) team and the Jacobs team worked together on the schedule and revised the finish date from December 20, 2023, to November 17, 2023.

Executive Director Scott Edson asked Program Director Smyth to clarify which systems were up and running. Program Director Smyth said the cutover start for the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS) start date

AGENDA ITEM B

was updated from September 22, 2023, to October 9, 2023. Program Director Smyth went on to say the Analog Voice Radio System (ACVRS) start date for the cutover is October 9, 2023, and the Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDN2) cutover start date was updated to November 3, 2023, from December 7, 2023.

Executive Director Edson mentioned the DTVRS system was in full digital operation, which he referred to as the heart of the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), to which the County of Los Angeles (County) Sheriff's Department (LASD) is committed to the DTVRS system, except for the dispatch channels at this time. Executive Director Edson continued by saying the LARTCS system was for the Federal and State and Local Interoperable channels. Executive Director Edson further added the ACVRS is generally for County Fire Department (LACoFD) operations. Executive Director Edson also mentioned the Narrowband Mobile Data Network (NMDN) has NMDN 1, as well a second part of the voice radio network, NMDN2. Executive Director Edson said where there has been voice radio coverage and narrowband radio coverage since last year, which LACoFD has been fully deployed on the narrowband network. Executive Director Edson expressed that a couple of the systems are currently fully operational and a couple more will be in the future.

July Progress

Program Director Smyth said Audio Capture (ACAP) grading was ongoing and would run through mid-September, 2023. Program Director Smyth also said there are three (3) teams participating five (5) days a week.

Program Director Smyth shared that a Notice to Proceed (NTP) has been issued for the commercial power at the Green Mountain (GRM) site, as the Authority works with State Parks for environmental approval and efforts are being made to obtain a Right of Entry (ROE).

Program Director Smyth mentioned that migration coordination is in progress with the County Internal Services Department (ISD) for Mount Lukens 2 (MTL2) and Frost Peak (FRP).

Program Director Smyth said the Authority was reviewing the warranties for NMDN1 and that additional reporting for DTVRS would be received in the next week.

August Focus

Program Director Smyth reported the Authority was finalizing warranty plans for the remaining subsystems, ACVRS, LARTCS, and NMDN2.

AGENDA ITEM B

Program Director Smyth stated that a NTP was issued for Fire Suppression at the Universal (UNIV) and CityWalk (CITYWALK) sites. Program Director Smyth further stated that work would be done upon completion of the adjustments to the fire alarm system and to the room that would contain it.

Program Director Smyth mentioned the team was reviewing solutions for two (2) sites with damaged access roads, Whitaker Middle Peak (WMP) and East Sunset Ridge (ESR). Program Director Smyth also said that Magic Mountain Link (MML) site was closed due to the Agua Fire near the Town of Agua Dulce.

Program Director Smyth talked about some issues with Southern California Edison (SCE) and their Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS), which occurred and resulted with generators having to run longer than anticipated. Program Director Smyth expressed this caused a challenge with respect to generator minutes running times for the Air Quality Management District (AQMD), which the Authority is working to resolve the this issue.

Program Director Smyth mentioned that in preparation for the fire season, pricing for Weed Abatement was being pursued from both ISD (for a long-term solution) and Metrocell Construction, Inc. (for immediate needs).

Program Director Smyth concluded by saying there is a need to pre-purchase long lead items, such as a generator and Automatic Telecommunication System (ATS), while the contract for installation is out for the competitive bidding process.

Program Director Smyth concluded his report.

C.   **Regional Interoperability Update** – Technical Lead Ted Pao and Operations Lead Lt. Robert Weber

Operations Lead Lt. Weber said that LASD has been working steadily on Interoperability with all regional partners. Operations Lead Lt. Weber stated that he has been in contact with the City of Los Angeles (City) Police Department (LAPD), the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD), Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), the Port Authority, and Interagency Communications Interoperability (ICI), which they continue to work out the Interoperability plans for the Region. Operations Lead Lt. Weber went on to say that from all of the lengthy discussions with these entities, there is a strong desire to have "feet on the ground" Interoperability.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber gave an example of, in the case of ICI where Identification (radio I.D.) sharing is being planned for and currently with ICI there is already an Inter Subsystem connection which has been tested and used for events which is working well. Operations Lead Lt. Weber added LASD has made progress

AGENDA ITEM B

by bringing all of the entities together for the day-to-day interoperability needed and for emergency large scale events such as the World Cup in 2026 and the Summer Olympics Games in 2028.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber concluded his report on Regional Interoperability. There were no questions.

D.   **LMR Network Operation Status and Issues–** Technical Lead Ted Pao

Technical Lead Pao presented his reported by reiterating what Executive Director Edson and Project Director Smyth previously stated, the LASD transition to tactical communications for their patrol stations and other units, such as Detective and Aero Bureau onto the LA-RICS P25 trunked radio system.

Technical Lead Pao reported that in June, 2023, the LASD's Custody Division also transitioned its jail operation radio communications onto LA-RICS. Technical Lead Pao went on to report that July 2023 was the first month that LA-RICS has fully on boarded the LASD and that the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) data collection for July represents the LASD's voice traffic volume for a typical month.

Technical Lead Pao referred to slide to explain the top ten (10) Talkgroups in terms of minutes for July 2023 excluding the LACoFD's patched Talkgroup.

Technical Lead Pao said the LASD Men's Central Jail came in on the top with LASD's Aero Bureau behind. Technical Lead Pao further added Santa Clarita local tactical (L-TAC) and East Los Angeles were the top two (2) busiest patrol stations. The three (3) North county stations, Santa Clarita, Palmdale and Lancaster, were all in the top ten (10) Talkgroups for minutes. Technical Lead Pao added the custody facilities were very busy.

Technical Lead Pao reported the top fifteen (15) sites used in terms of minutes as simulcast cells, including the Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA) cell, South cell, and East cell which were the busiest in the system for July 2023. Technical Lead Pao further reported the San Gabriel Cell was the busiest in terms of minutes.

Technical Lead Pao shared that in terms of agency utilization in minutes for Agency's Talkgroups for July, 2023, LASD had almost four-hundred and five thousand (405,000) minutes while the next Agency was just over eighty-one thousand, three hundred (81,300) minutes.

Technical Lead Pao concluded by saying the system has performed very well during the transitional period, other than some minor adjustments to Talkgroup provisioning and radio programming, this dual-band P25 system has had very few

AGENDA ITEM B

operational issues. Technical Lead Pao said it was encouraging to see a system this size and this new, perform functionally as well as it has from its infancy.

Executive Director Edson asked how much capacity was left, to which Technical Lead Pao responded by saying the system was designed for the entire region and all of the agencies and there should be quite a bit of capacity left. Technical Lead Pao further added that usage currently was roughly around twenty (20%) percent.

Technical Lead Pao concluded his report. There were no more questions.

VII.   **DISCUSSION ITEMS – (E – F)**

E.   **ESChat Demonstration** – Technical Lead Ted Pao and ESChat President Josh Lober.

Technical Lead Pao prefaced the Enterprise Security Chat (ESChat) presentation by saying the LMR radio system is moving towards integration with smart devices and broadband network. Technical Lead Pao expressed that ESChat is another way of providing communications for first responders through a smart device. It might not replace a real portable radio for patrol duties, but in many situations, a smart phone would be convenient by giving personnel situation awareness of radio traffic around them. Technical Lead Pao introduced Mr. Josh Lober, President of ESChat.

Mr. Lober provided some background saying that he started in Telecommunications in 1982 and Push-To-Talk (PTT) has been his passion all of his life. Mr. Lober then said ESChat was a broadband PTT solution that was not intended to replace a radio network, the intention was to augment radio or operate as a stand-alone alternative.

Mr. Lober stated the product had three (3) core features, Encrypted PTT Voice Advanced Encryption Standard (AES-256), Secure Group Multimedia Messaging, and Live Location Tracking/Mapping for live and historical breadcrumb tracking and mapping. Mr. Lober went on to mention that these items were part of the basic package and standard pricing was $4.57, per device/per month.   Mr. Lober said included in the price was the Native Intra-System Interoperability which gave the ability to communicate between agencies without extra cost and required a mutual approval from the Administrators on each system. Mr. Lober talked about the Inter-System Interoperability, which takes the broadband, cellular phones or Internet of Things (IoT) devices and merges them with the LMR network.

Mr. Lober mentioned that in 2015 ESChat worked with LA-RICS in preparation for the 2016 Pasadena Rose Parade by tying some LMR channels with Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) configurations. Mr. Lober explained the new P25 system

AGENDA ITEM B

also supports Inter Subsystem Interface (ISSI) which gives LA-RICS the ability to have users on phones.

Mr. Lober further mentioned the most important feature was the Inter-Carrier Interoperability which allows the user communication on their carrier and across any carrier as carrier without gateways or extra expense. Mr. Lober said the system was First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) certified and the one (1) program that does have certification and approved for military operations.

Mr. Lober mentioned ESChat does not serve the consumer markets, the product was for Public Safety and Enterprise business. Mr. Lober went on to say the technology exists in at least twenty-five (25) brands and are sold in big box stores. Mr. Lober continued by saying that ESChat worked with nine (9) of the fifteen (15) departments in the Federal Government including State and Local Agencies across the country. Mr. Lober also said that ESChat worked with transportation, hospitality, education, utilities and logistic Emergency Response Services (ERS) markets as well.

Mr. Lober continued his presentation by saying that common strategies included extended coverage beyond the LMR footprint, filling dead spots or challenged areas, redundant communication path for reliability, cost management and extending an LMR communication to a commercial wireless device.

Mr. Lober added some common use cases are Mutual Aid, cross agency operations, non-uniformed operations, and tactical operations, operations away from home coverage areas including secure and private communications. Mr. Lober went on to add that every Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has ESChat.

Mr. Lober referenced the android phone which indicates different tabs on the phone for use, such as a contacts, groups, channels, maps and messages tabs which are configurable by the user and includes a hierarchical structure. Mr. Lober said LASD Deputy Shawn Moreno was involved in the design when he was on the LA-RICS project.

Mr. Lober presented the Android PTT phone and said the ESChat android phones and Apple Inc. iPhones are very popular now and provided samples for the Committee Members test. Mr. Lober also showed an Apple Inc. PTT framework that was released this year, 2023, which allows iPhone usage. Mr. Lober also said that ESChat does application integrations for Agency specific applications.

Mr. Lober went on to say there is a new area developed called IoT Radio and he brought some samples. Mr. Lober said the radios have been recently certified for U.S. carriers. Mr. Lober further said that a radio has a Subscriber Identity Module

AGENDA ITEM B

(SIM) card installed and does not go over the LMR Network but over a carrier network and can communicate with smart phones and radio systems. Mr. Lober shared that radios can be offered to Agencies that do not need radios or want to add capacity at a lower cost. Mr. Lober presented a new radio which is public safety grade from Tait Communications for Committee Members to look at. Mr. Lober mentioned that ESChat may be used on a laptop or Personal Computer and showed some accessories available as well.

Mr. Lober demonstrated the radios for the Committee Members using a Mobile Data Computer (MDC) system for signaling. Mr. Lober further demonstrated the ISSI connected system which has no limitation on the channels and is a much simpler installation.

Mr. Lober said that if the LA-RICS system with ISSI availability is connected with the ESChat core, the Authority would receive all the channel connectivity available on smart phone devices and with the Legacy channels, ESChat can connect with the RoIP interfaces and can provide operability to broadband devices.

Mr. Lober continued his presentation by saying that devices can be on Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi), commercial carrier networks, private Long-Term Evolution (LTE) or satellite for android, iPhone Operating Systems (iOS), IoT and Personal Computer based products which ESChat can connect to.

Mr. Lober showed an example from an interface for Wildland Fire Operations connectivity across the state of Washington and said all the repeaters across are tied into ESChat and First Responders can listen to any repeater when travelling to get to the site.

Operations Vice-Chair Chief Dayton Calhoun asked if there was a connection between ISSI and a system or ISSI between ESChat and other systems. Mr. Lober answered it is an ISSI connection between the ESChat network and the new P25 system. Mr. Lober further added when the ESChat system connects to the LA-RICS system, all the calls are controlled by the LA-RICS radio system on the ESChat phones, once a call is brought up and connected over ISSI, the LA-RICS system thinks the phones are P25 radios with IDs and a priority, and the LA-RICS system manages the pre-emption and call control. Mr. Lober continued due to both systems being encrypted, ESChat connects to a different encryption scheme and connecting to LA-RICS Protected Key Management Facility (KMF) so when keys are changed, ESChat receives the update.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun asked if LA-RICS is the client and there is another client on another system would LA-RICS be able to talk on their system. Mr. Lober said with approval from the Administrator on each side, absolutely. Mr. Lober went on to say as part of the ESChat architecture it is provided for free. Mr. Lober

AGENDA ITEM B

provided the DEA as an example and said the DEA are always embedded into a State or Local Agency and when they work with an Agency, if they have ESChat, the DEA will put the Local Agency into their Talkgroup. Mr. Lober further added if the Local Agency does not have ESChat, the DEA will provide it to them.

Operations Vice-Chair Calhoun further asked if on an iPhone are location services passive or active and if it is the same for taped radio portion. Mr. Lober answered between the ESChat devices and not on a call, the devices the update is every ten (10) minutes, then when joining a call, it starts to update every two (2) seconds and with fifty (50) or more service slows down. Mr. Lober further added if using a program like Intrepid Response Platform or A-TAC for that, it is built for location and they will work a bit better than ESChat, PTT voice piece is ESChat's focus, location and messaging are secondary and tertiary. Mr. Lober said that in regard to the Tait Radio, it is possible to see the location of the talker one at a time, not all talkers at once.

Alternate Technical Lead Scott England asked if LA-RICS could obtain the ESChat Global Positioning System (GPS) information and place onto LA-RICS' GPS systems using ESChat. Mr. Lober said it would be possible to pull the locations of all of the users using a set of web service Application Programming Interfaces (API).

Operations Lead Lt. Weber asked for clarification on multiple ISSI connected into the system, is it correct to say, with one (1) ISSI for ESChat, it is possible to connect to all those other systems. Mr. Lober responded by saying no, that when ESChat is connected to the LA-RICS system and as owner of the P25 system, as well as having Agencies within the County of Los Angeles, they can be offered access to those radio systems through ESChat. Mr. Lober further said that if ESChat has connectivity into multiple Agencies, they can be cross-connected through ESChat with the proper agreement using ISSI to the LA-RICS system.

Technical Lead England added LA-RICS would be using their configuration and used the example of a regional ISSI channel. Technical Lead England shared LA-RICS could use access to one of the channels and give access to ISSI for ESChat which has access to ICI and whoever would use the channel would have access to ESChat for the specific Talkgroup. Technical Lead England added the Talkgroups are built for however and whomever wants it. Technical Lead England further added it was possible to go through the backend and the cross-connections are there.

Executive Director Chief Edson asked Mr. Lober to speak on Stand Alone Alternatives which are basically two (2) walkie talkies and presumed a radio network was not needed. Mr. Lober concurred with Executive Director Chief Edson by saying that it was like a walkie talkie but there was no footprint, and added as long as there is Wi-Fi coverage or carrier coverage there is communications. Mr. Lober

AGENDA ITEM B

expressed that if connected to the radio system, the users on the channel could come up and it is possible to switch from broadband only to the radio connected system.

Executive Director Edson asked what would be the cost of a radio, to which Mr. Lober said the radio cost would be $395.00.

Technical Lead Pao asked if there was an emergency trigger function on the phone devices and how does it work as far as clearing.

Mr. Lober demonstrated on the newer phones which he brought and are built for PTT with an emergency button on them. Mr. Lober activated another phone which had a siren on it and he was able to clear the siren on the phone. Mr. Lober said they would be able to install a dedicated emergency bar on the top of the phone which would show up if you had an emergency channel configured. Mr. Lober added most phones do not have a dedicated emergency for PTT or emergency.

Mr. Lober concluded his presentation and there were no further questions or comments.

F. **Regional Interoperability** – Operations Lead Lt. Weber and Operations Vice-Chair Chief Dayton Calhoun

Operations Lead Lt. Weber mentioned Agenda Item F was similar to Agenda Item C Regional Interoperability Update which was being worked on and was still a work in progress. Operations Lead Lt. Weber added that people with "feet on the ground" are very excited about having communications in the future, but it was different for the LACoFD, since they are using different parameters and different systems.

Executive Director Edson shared the LA-RICS project was funded by Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) the City's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Executive Director Edson added the Authority talked about building a system under one (1) umbrella and making it available to other agencies so all would be under one radio system. Executive Director Edson further said as time moved on and delays happened and politics played into it, the region ended up with a System of Systems approach, which UASI fully funded, included the Long Beach radio system, the City radio system (the LAPD radio system),LA-RICS and ICI. A System to System model, plug and play or hub in spoke model. Executive Director Edson went on to add the System of Systems regional interoperability is not completed yet and Operations Lead Lt. Weber has been working with the UASI Committee which meets monthly to discuss regional interoperability items and many things discussed in the Joint Operations and Technical meeting. These items are discussed along with business needs, between the two (2) meetings, and finally, will work with MSI to create the

AGENDA ITEM B

gap analysis. Executive Director Edson went on to say the group focuses on how to fill needs for regional interoperability based on the System of Systems model that was funded to these Agencies. Executive Director Edson added the UASI meeting is Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and invited Committee Members and others to join if able.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – NONE

IX. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

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

XI. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Operations Lead Lt. Weber called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Joint Committee Meeting, to which Alternate Technical Lead Scott England motioned to adjourn.

Operations Lead Lt. Weber adjourned the Regular Joint Operations and Technical Committee Meeting at 2:34 p.m. and stated the next Joint Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., at the LA-RICS Headquarters, 2525 Corporate Place, Suite 200, Large Conference Room, Monterey Park, California, 91754.

AGENDA ITEM B