

LA RICS Update

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The Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA RICS) procurement is, without a doubt, 2010's largest public safety technology project and continues to garner headlines even after the request for proposals (RFP) process closed on August 4, 2010. This week, the LA RICS Authority was awarded \$154,640,000 in federal grant funding for the LA-SafetyNet project. This grant provides the LA RICS project with the necessary funding to utilize its FCC waiver for the 700MHZ spectrum for broad banding. The 700MHZ spectrum will serve as the backbone for a variety of LA RICS applications, including:

- Improved computer-aided dispatch systems
- Real-time streaming video
- Rapid searches of law enforcement records
- Patient tracking applications

In terms of the procurement process, proposal evaluation is currently in high gear. Proposals are being reviewed by a seven-member evaluation team. With an estimated \$600 million contract at stake, the procurement "cone of silence" is in full effect. The members of the team are anonymous and working at an undisclosed location. The evaluation process is expected to be complete by December 2010, with contract negotiations lasting until August 2011. This period falls in line with the annual Association of Public Safety Communications Officials' (APCO) national conference. Since APCO gathers all of the key players in the public safety communications industry, it will be interesting to observe attendee reactions should an award be announced during the conference (or at least observing the reps of submitting companies furiously checking their BlackBerrys).

The vendor who wins this contract will have plenty to celebrate in terms of new business, along with a tremendous amount of work ahead of them. I will continue to follow this project closely, so expect to see more LA RICS coverage on GovWin's blog in the coming months.