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SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO SYSTEM “EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2-25-13

OVERVIEW: The South East Texas Regional Radio System (SETRRS) is a 7X/Smart X 800 MHz Radio System located in Jefferson, Hardin, and Orange Counties. The System recently merged all three counties and services most public safety departments in the region. The City of Beaumont monitors and maintains the main site of the SETRRS and is currently completing a new elevated and hardened main site building for the System. A Stakeholders Committee, representing entities in all three Counties of the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission region, has oversight of the System’s progress and issues related to the SETRRS. The System is made up of four (21 repeater) simulcast tower sites located in Jefferson County, two (5 repeater) IR tower sites located in Hardin County, and one (7 repeater) IR tower site located in the City of Orange. Stakeholders are in the process of upgrading repeaters at the simulcast tower sites to reach a full SmartZone 7X (P25) system.

PREPARING: In preparation of cut over to the full P25 System, Stakeholders need to add at least two additional IR tower sites (one 5 repeater & one 7 repeater) to fill in coverage gaps created in Orange County and Jefferson County by the transition to the full P25 System. Stakeholders being fiscally prudent want to upgrade existing quantar repeaters that are pulled from the simulcast tower sites when replaced with P25 repeaters and upgrade the quantar-s to P25 compliant for the new and existing “IR tower sites”. This can only be achieved if upgrade cards remain available for the quantar repeaters when the new tower sites are constructed and if the simulcast repeaters can be replaced soon. This also means that the 2 new towers have to be constructed or leased when property is located for coverage quickly.

CONCEPT: Because of the State recommendation, regional Public Safety proceeds to pursue P25 compliance by 2015. The Region has now attained Level 5 in four of the five categories - Governance, Training & Exercise, Standard Operating Procedures, and Usage. All that is left is Technology. The SETRRS plans to include Public Safety (Fire, Police, EMS) and Private Sector Safety (Industry) on the System. The SETRRS includes plans to tie into other regional systems in the State when funds are available and to monitor progress and when fiscally prudent to join LTE systems within the State.

FUNDING: How does the SETRRS plan to fund these future projects? While in the past, the Homeland Security Grant Program, Port Security Grants, and other Communication grants have been the primary funding source for the regional interoperability expansion. Federal and State budgets are now tightening up and grant program resources continue to get smaller and smaller. It is the hope of Stakeholders for the SETRRS that dedicating \$30,700,000 annually to the 2011 Texas Enacted House Bill 442 for public safety communications is a priority and approved. This will make Texas safer for all our citizens and the First Responders responsible for protecting them. There is a lot of work left to do!