



Information Item

Date: February 17, 2016

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Jory Wolf, Chief Information Officer
Subject: Purchase of Radio Equipment from Motorola Solutions, Inc.

Introduction

The City of Santa Monica is in the process of implementing an interoperable radio communications system that would ensure a coordinated regional response in the face of a natural disaster or other emergency. To do this, Council authorized the City to become a member of the ICI System Joint Powers Authority, which includes participants from 31 public safety agencies representing 22 cities. As early adopters of the interoperable radio system, Glendale conducted competitive procurement processes in 2001 and again in 2011 for radio infrastructure equipment. Both times, Motorola Solutions, Inc. was selected as the best bidder. The system selected by Glendale and subsequently implemented by other participating agencies includes proprietary features required to maintain interoperability of the system. As a member of the Joint Powers Authority, Santa Monica must therefore procure the compliant components from Motorola Solutions, Inc. to ensure interoperability of radio communications across the region.

Background

In 2001, the City of Glendale, which hosts the ICI System master site, performed a formal competitive process for a trunked radio system. The process resulted in the selection of Motorola Solutions, Inc. to provide the system. At the time, the system utilized proprietary technology developed by Motorola Solutions, Inc., as industry standards had not yet been adopted, but completely fulfilled the requirements published in the Request for Proposal. In 2011, the ICI System Governance Board decided to migrate towards P25 technology

and a new formal competitive process took place, which resulted in the selection of Motorola Solutions, Inc.

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), an international organization and leader in public safety communications, has adopted standards for digital radio communication systems and equipment. The standards have been published as APCO's Project 25 (P25) and are intended to ensure interoperable communications between public safety agencies utilizing equipment designed by different manufacturers that is compatible with one-another. The City is in the process of implementing a P25 compliant system developed by Motorola Solutions, Inc. The City's system will be linked to the ICI System, a regional radio system comprised of more than 30 public safety agencies. The ICI System uses a P25 compliant system developed by Motorola Solutions, Inc. In order to ensure the City's radio system can properly integrate with the ICI System, it is necessary to purchase equipment manufactured by Motorola Solutions, Inc.

Radio system manufacturers that agree to participate in the P25 program are permitted to develop technology that extends beyond P25 standards. Motorola Solutions, Inc. has developed technology as part of their ASTRO 25 system that extends beyond P25 standards and is not available from other radio manufacturers. The systems procured by Glendale and subsequently by other partner agencies relies on these enhanced features as part of the radio communications system. To maintain interoperability among the radio system, therefore, Santa Monica must procure components of its system from Motorola Solutions, Inc.

On June 23, 2015, Council approved executing a Joint Powers Authority agreement with the ICI System after it became clear that the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) would not meet the City's communication needs for public safety and secondary responders due to insufficient coverage and capacity. The ICI System infrastructure is comprised of the Motorola Solutions, Inc. ASTRO 25 system.

Discussion

The ICI System JPA allows participating agencies to have their own local system that would meet their own coverage and capacity needs, and link to the overall ICI system to provide regional coverage throughout most of Los Angeles County. In order to connect the City's system to the ICI System, the City would need to purchase infrastructure equipment from Motorola Solutions, Inc. The proposed system meets all of the City's needs and would be fully capable of integrating with the ICI System.

The ICI System the City is joining utilizes the advanced features developed by Motorola Solutions, Inc. that extend beyond the P25 standards. Mutual aid partners that do not participate in the ICI System, such as the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department either utilize an existing ASTRO 25 system or are in the process of implementing an ASTRO 25 system. Ultimately, the ICI System plans to utilize an Inter-RF Subsystem Interface (ISSI) to link the ICI System with LA-RICS and other independent ASTRO 25 systems utilized throughout region.

The Motorola Solutions, Inc. ASTRO 25 system has additional capabilities beyond P25 standards. These include the ability to provide GPS data from the radio to an agency's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to increase safety for first responders and allows for radios to be reprogrammed over the air, including updating encryption keys. Without the ability to reprogram radios over the air, the process to update a fleet of radios for the City can take a month or more, resulting in significant labor costs.

Prepared By: Eric Uller, Lead Public Safety Systems Analyst.