



DATE: December 13, 2023

TIME: 1:00 – 2:28 pm

LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

Quarterly Public Meeting

▪ Voting Members in Attendance

- Secretary Savage (DoIT)
- Chris Holland (MDOT)
- Dr Ted Delbridge (MIEMSS)
- Bud Frank (GoHS)
- Colonel Roland Butler Jr (MSP)
- Scott Haas (Eastern Shore)
- Clay Stamp (MACo)
- Mayor Craig Moe (NCR)
- Charles Summers (WAGIN)
- Tony Rose (Southern MD)

▪ Board Support Staff

- Norman Farley
- Jennifer Zambito
- Brandon Renehan
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Pat King
- Charles Bryson

Call to Order – 1:00 pm

Secretary Savage opened the meeting with the following remarks: Thank you everyone for joining in today during this busy holiday season. It has been a significant year for MD FiRST, with the completion of the original project and a nearly 58% increase in the number of interoperable users registered on the system. MD FiRST has proven itself, time and again, to be a successful interoperable and statewide public safety communications system. I would like to thank the Board members for their support and leadership in helping to make MD FiRST a reality. In 2024, we look forward to continuing our project work with the T1 to Ethernet conversion project and the Coverage Improvement Program. We are also looking at enhancing our Cyber Security and continuing our innovation efforts to expand capabilities and options for our users. I look forward to partnering with all of you to continue making MD FiRST the “Go To” interoperable radio system for Maryland. Norm and the team, thank you for your follow through regarding redundancy, new business raised in the past meeting, meeting details, etc.

Review Minutes from 9/20/2023– Norman Farley

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the minutes from the September 20, 2023, meeting.

Moved – Charlie Summers

Second – Chris Holland

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

New Business – Norman Farley, Brandon Renehan

Proposed New Limited Primary Users:

US Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS) – Represented by Adam Karsin and Avi Stein

This agency was previously approved as an interop user and are requesting to become a Limited-Primary user. The request is for two (2) talkgroups assigned to four of their units: Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, Office of Inspector General's Protection Operations Branch, Division of Continuity and Special Operations and Response. The 2 talkgroups would utilize ~100 TDMA radios which are used for internal USHHS responses to emergencies in MD and special operations.

MD FIRST Capacity Impact: Minor depending on location and usage.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of US Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS) to become a Communications Limited Primary User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with US Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS).

Motion – Colonel Butler

Second – Chris Holland

The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Yea – 9

Nay – 1

Abstain - 0

US CISA, Emergency Communications Division – Represented by Wes Rogers

This is the Federal Emergency Communications Division that has Emergency Communications Coordinators (ECC's), Public Safety Advisors (PSA's) and Cyber Security Advisors within its group to perform MD Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Vulnerability assessments and provide assistance during emergencies. They have ~20 TDMA radios, an MOU with COG and access to all NCR trunked radio systems. They are requesting one (1) talkgroup for use with their PACE and COOP operations and for team coordination during NSSE's and planned emergent events.

MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of US CISA, Emergency Communications Division, MD to become a Communications Limited Primary User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with US CISA, Emergency Communications Division.

Motion – Clay Stamp
Second – Tony Rose

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain - 0

WSSC Water Police & Homeland Security – Represented by Ken Hawkins and Chief Bergstrom

The WSSC Water Sanitary District protects the waterways of Prince George's, Montgomery and parts of Howard Counties. They are sworn law enforcement officers, encompassing critical infrastructures for 1,000 square miles and over 6,000 acres of reservoir. They are requesting one (1) talkgroup on ~25 TDMA radios for daily operations for officers on patrol.

MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor, usage is relatively low.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of WSSC Water Police & Homeland Security to become a Communications Limited Primary User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with WSSC Water Police & Homeland Security.

Motion – Tony Rose
Second – Charlie Summers

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain - 0

NCRCIG – Represented by Chief Mike Baltrosky and Capt. Matthew Houck

National Capital Region Communications Interoperability Group (NCRCIG) maintains the national radio cache which includes ~1,200 radios, tactical BDAs, repeaters, deployable trunk systems and other interoperable emergency systems that are deployed when any region in the state has an emergency situation or planned event. NCRCIG technical group is responsible for deploying and coordinating the cache and are requesting one (1) talkgroup utilized by ~100 TDMA radios. This talkgroup will be used for communication when managing critical events, and coordinating the radio cache/deployable assets.

MD FiRST Capacity Impact: Minor

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of NCRCIG to become a Communications Limited Primary User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairwoman to conclude the appropriate MOU with NCRCIG.

Discussion - Charlie Summers: Charlie spoke positively on behalf of the MD Incident Management team and stated that he's been involved when their services were utilized on many occasions.

Motion – Charles Summers
Second – Chris Holland

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – All
Nay – 0
Abstain - 0

SOP 12 – Use of Third-Party Communications Interconnection Technologies – Brandon Renehan

SOP 12 establishes the process for user agencies to request and gain approval for the use of third-party communications interconnection technologies connecting to the MD FiRST statewide radio public safety network. It defines a review process users can use to apply for the approval for the usage of third-party communications technologies. All applications will be reviewed by the MD FiRST staff, the System Mangers Committee and final approval by the Radio Control Board.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves SOP12, Third Party Communications Interconnection Technologies with Maryland FiRST; authorizes the Chairwoman to record and publish the SOP, and authorizes the Chairwoman to properly enforce compliance with the SOP.

Motion – Scott Haas
Second – Clay Stamp

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – All
Nay – 0
Abstain - 0

Innovation Efforts – Brandon Renehan

Manager of Managers (MOM) – Maryland FiRST has many different feeds and systems that generate reports. It has been cumbersome and time consuming to track and manage all of these various systems and feeds. MOM consolidates all of them into one system with a dashboard that manages all of the feeds coming in from the various systems. This will help manage and correlate all the data received, reducing the time and effort to manage the data. It is almost complete, and the MD FiRST team has gone through the training. MOM also provides the capability to create customized Dashboards which could be used to create “views” that could be shared with MD FiRST Partner agencies to allow increased situational awareness of shared sites throughout the State. MD FiRST will work with agencies to develop these dashboards where applicable.

RFP Status – Curt Andrich

The current Motorola RFP expires in November 2025. MD FiRST is developing a new RFP that will go out to bid in separated functional areas; system monitoring, system repair, preventative maintenance, upgrades, and cyber security. This allows multiple vendors to bid on all or some of the functional sections and provides the best value and service to the state. The new RFP is currently being developed. We plan to release it in the spring 2024 and have a new contract in place prior to November 2025. We plan to discuss this RFP in greater detail to this board at the March 2024 meeting.

System Performance Report – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented an update on System Performance. Clay Stamp asked, where the connection takes place between MD EMS comms and MD FIRST – there are several console sites throughout the system that are dedicated to directing this connection from EMS, MIEMSS, and hospital communications.

Project Status, Coverage Improvement – Jennifer Zambito

Jen presented an update on the project status and the coverage improvement program.

Operations Status Update – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented an update on the Operations Status.

Cell tower interference: Bud Frank asked if there is any possibility the radiation detection systems at the gate could be creating interference - using directional antennas, and the FCC test vehicle there is no evidence that the radiation detection systems are causing interference.

Tony Rose asked if any cellular agencies offered to change their frequencies to help identify the issue – we are working with the FCC to use their data and regulatory authority to work with the cellular agencies.

System Managers Committee Status and System Users Committee Updates – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented an update on the System Managers/Users Committees, there were no action items based on his brief.

Old Business/Open Discussion - Norman Farley

Clay Stamp: Thank you to the team that makes this complex system work and maintains it. This is an amazing example of coordination, communication, and partnership.

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on March 20, 2024.

Moved – Chris Holland

Second – Scott Hass

Yes – All

Nay – 0

Abstain - 0

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Director of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Norman J. Farley 4/9/2024

Chairwoman of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Katie Savage

10/04/24