NASCIO MD FiRST Recognition Award

The Maryland Department of Information Technology's Maryland First Responder Radio System Team (FiRST) was recently recognized as the first place winner for the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) Information Technology Recognition Award in the category of Information Communications Technology Initiatives. The NASCIO IT Recognition awards showcase the use of information technology to address critical business problems, more easily connect citizens to their government, improve business processes and create new opportunities that improve the lives of citizens.

The Maryland First Responder Radio System Team is a statewide Project 25 Phase II 700 MHz trunked Land Mobile Radio (LMR) system with encryption capabilities for public safety. This system is designed to provide radio communication across the entire State. When completed, a public safety official located at Deep Creek Lake can talk with their counterparts in Ocean City. The system will also provide air to ground channels for public safety flight operations. This comprehensive system, that integrates multiple technologies, is rare as only a small number of states have attempted to develop a statewide interoperable public safety radio system supporting its agencies and local governments as well as allied partners.

"One of the most important aspects of a successful crisis response is communication between our first responders", said Governor Hogan. "Maryland FiRST gives us the ability to stay in communication in some of the toughest situations and we are proud to have Maryland recognized as the innovative and lifesaving project that it has proven to be."

Approximately 70,000 communications devices owned by federal, state, and local agencies, are programmed into the network including air-ground and marine communications. This number represents approximately 74% of all public safety communications devices in Maryland. The network expands into areas of our four bordering states to allow communication when an incident crosses over state borders.

For more information about the NASCIO IT Recognition Awards please click here.