



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee  
<http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/interop.htm>

PAT SANTOS  
CHAIRMAN  
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July 2, 2012

Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Governor of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

On behalf of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), it is my pleasure to report that at the beginning of this year, the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) was completed as it was originally designed. As of January 2012 all 118 sites are operational and are providing coverage to over 67,000 users. A full update on the status of LWIN follows:

**LWIN Status**

- Current Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) statewide coverage is 95% portable, on-street coverage
- Current composition of LWIN sites:
  - 118 active tower sites
  - 5 mobile trailer-sites
  - 1 backhaul trailer
  - Total of 118 fixed towers and 5 mobile trailer-sites
- Subscriber Radios
  - From January 1, 2012 – June 15, 2012, LWIN has seen an increase from 62,661 subscriber units to 67,612 subscriber units which represents a 7% increase over the last six months.
  - LWIN is now the largest Statewide Radio System in the county and the only one to exceed 60,000 subscriber units.
  - The monthly average of Push-to-Talk (PTT) transmissions has increased from 9,708,068 to 10,207,299 (5.15% increase)

**FY 2011/2012 Appropriated Funding for Major Projects**

- Monies appropriated for interoperability related projects from the Louisiana Communications Interoperability Fund.
  - \$402,591 – LWIN Statewide System Management and Administration, including (4) TO positions
  - \$9,306,911 – LWIN System Maintenance, including (6) TO positions
  - \$3,412,406 – Fourth LWIN Master Site - To enhance system level redundancy and effectively provide a secondary communication path between the tower sites and an alternate Master Site. This capability is vital to the safety of Louisiana residents and the emergency service personnel responding to critical events.

### **State Funded System Maintenance**

The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability receives and manages the annual maintenance budget for LWIN. This State funding of LWIN allows the radio system to function without charging any subscriber fees – a leading reason for local agency adoption of LWIN. The LWIN System maintenance costs is expected to increase up to 20% annually as more sites are no longer covered by the original warranty when they were purchased.

### **SIEC Accomplishments**

#### **Meetings and Events**

During the time from January 1 – June 30, 2012, the SIEC held 1 meeting. Major topics covered included:

- The completion of LWIN's 118 site build out.
- Overview of grant funding and the State's path forward on the administration of homeland security grants.
- A discussion of the FCC broadband waiver.
- An overview of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 which will ultimately provide \$7 billion in funding to build a new nationwide dedicated public safety broadband network called FirstNET.
- A demonstration of GOHSEP's LWIN and Louisiana Tactical Interoperability Field Guild (TICFOG) apps which are now available for Apple's iOS in iTunes.

#### **Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012**

In February 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 was signed into law. Inside this legislation was a provision that authorizes the FCC to sell spectrum to raise over \$7 billion to build a nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety officials. This network, officially called FirstNET, will ultimately provide a seamless interoperability data network that will allow first responders to communicate with each other anywhere in the country. GOHSEP, in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety and the Chief Information

Officer's office participated in an information gathering conference hosted by the National Governor's Association in late June 2012. The conference provided an overview of what to expect in regards to the build out of the network and focused on areas that will need immediate planning considerations by the States. It is anticipated that the SIEC will play a major role in the buildout of the network within Louisiana.

### **Capacity Expansion**

Louisiana was awarded a \$17,099,040 Million HUD CDBG grant for capacity expansion and redundant backhaul. The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability compiled a list of sites targeted for capacity upgrade based on an analysis of the current usage and projected growth of LWIN. \$13,686,634 Million has been spent on site upgrades and \$3,412,406 on the fourth Master Site. The expansion project was completed in the last quarter of the 2011 calendar year and the 4<sup>th</sup> Master Site installation is expected to be completed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 2012 calendar year. The GOHSEP Office is in talks with several parishes regarding expansion capacity on their own to include: Saint Tammany, Pointe Coupee, East Baton Rouge, and Bossier.

### **SIEC Outreach Programs**

- **IECGP Training and Exercise**

Using Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) funding, the Office of Interoperability is conducting regional training and exercise programs in each of our Homeland Security Regions. These training events provide state and local first responders with free hands-on training. To date we have held events in the following regions to include Region 2 which was completed in March 2012:

- Region 1
- Region 5
- Region 7
- Region 8
- Region 9

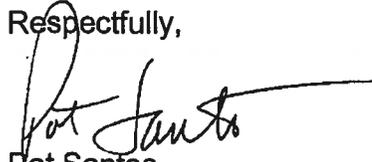
### **FCC Petitions**

The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability has submitted two petitions to the FCC:

- Petition for Rulemaking – 700 MHz Narrow banding Deadline
- Petition for Waiver – 700 MHz Broadband Waiver
- In February 2012, a team consisting of representatives from East Baton Rouge, Orleans Parish and GOHSEP met with members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to seek support in drafting a letter to encourage the FCC to approve the State's Petition for Waiver of the 700 MHz broadband spectrum. The delegation was very enthusiastic to support the State's efforts and submitted a letter to the FCC on behalf of the State.
- The state will continue to work with the Congressional Delegation to seek assistance in either delaying the 700 MHz narrowbanding rules or in

granting the State a waiver. If the 700 MHz narrowbanding rule proceeds it has the potential to cost the state in excess of \$250 million dollars to make LWIN compliant with the rule.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Santos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pat Santos

Cc: SIEC Members