



# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

Post Office Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Rizwan Ahmed  
Chairman  
(225) 342-7105  
(225) 219-4994 fax  
Rizwan.Ahmed@la.gov

Vice Chairman  
Vacant

Approved and Corrected 10/10/07

## STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met on Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at the Alexandria Public Safety Complex, located at 1000 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria, Louisiana. Committee Chair Mr. Rizwan Ahmed called the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m. The roll was called by Sgt. Brock Thibodeaux, Support Staff for the Committee, and a quorum was established.

### Committee Members Present:

Rizwan Ahmed (Chair)  
Major Joey Broussard  
Robert Black  
Lt. Col. Mickey McMorris  
Maj. Benjamin Bourgoyne  
Col. Eric Sivula  
Susan Severance  
Sgt. Michael Murphy  
Eric Deroche  
John Richer  
Sonya Wiley-Gremillion  
Gary Peters  
Thomas Thibeaud  
Richard Gremillion

### Representing Agency:

DOA and Office of Information Technology  
Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries  
LA Fire Chief's Association  
LA State Police  
LA National Guard  
Dept. of Public Safety/Corrections Services  
Attorney General's Office/GOHSEP  
Region 2 East Baton Rouge OHSEP  
Region 3 Assumption/St. James OHSEP  
Region 5 Calcasieu OHSEP  
Region 6 Rapides OHSEP  
Region 8 Ouachita OHSEP  
Region 9 Washington OHSEP  
Regional Parish Homeland Security and  
Emergency Preparedness Directors

**Guest List**  
**See Appendix A**

**Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2007**

*On motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2007 meeting. Three corrections were made as follows: GOHSEP Presentation, page 2 – Mr. Steven “Burke” name was changed to Mr. Steven “Burr”; Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee, page 3 – the statement by Rex McDonald “would assist in getting the SOP written” is changed to “would write the SOP for the 700MHz communications plan”; New Business, page 4 – “The Committee” is deleted.*

**Assessment and Technology Sub-Committee**

Chief Robert Black gave a report on the Technology meeting held on Monday, September 24, 2007 at the David Crockett Fire Department in Gretna, LA. (See Appendix B.)

1. Proposal from Raytheon JPS Communications.
2. Request for funding from Region 5 Interoperability Group.
3. Request for funding from Greater Lafourche Port Committee.

Regarding the discussion with Raytheon JPS Communications about its proposal on gateway devices, the Technology Sub-Committee decided to defer any action on gateway devices until policies and procedures for patching gateway devices are established and approved.

There was discussion regarding grants and funding allocations for Calcasieu Parish and The Greater Lafourche Port. Chief Black reported that the Greater Lafourche Port Committee requested that the SIEC provide the 25% hard cash match (\$394,176) for its project to build a million dollar tower in Port Fourchon. He stated that this tower would be beneficial to the statewide system. Mr. Jeya Selvaratnam agreed that the project would provide great coverage but expressed concerns about the capability of the tower to withstand extreme Gulf winds at this location. Eric Deroche will contact Port Fourchon’s representative to get engineering information on the Lafourche Tower.

Mr. Lloyd Miller with the Lake Charles Fire Department reported that he had discussions with the Sheriffs office and other local agencies on funding the proposed project in Calcasieu Parish. The Calcasieu Sheriff’s Office project would be a three year project which would help Cameron Parish along with the statewide communications. He stated it could be funded locally but not immediately. If the SIEC provided the 25% hard cash match (\$141,972.50) for this

project, control of the tower would be turned over to the SIEC for use as part of the statewide system.

The Committee discussed issues on grants to these projects and the 25% hard cash match. Eric Sivula suggested that the Finance and Funding Sub-committee continually provide the Committee with a spreadsheet to track all SIEC budgetary funding and expenditures, which would help Committee members in their consideration of such projects. There was also discussion about the legality of match funding local grants. Susan Severance stated that she would seek a legal opinion on providing funding for co-ownership of these projects.

*On the motion of Eric Deroche, seconded by Susan Severance, the Committee voted to defer any further discussion on Port Lafourche funding or project until the SIEC receives legal answers. There being no further discussion or opposition, the motion carried.*

*On motion by Eric Deroche, seconded by Eric Silvula, the Committee voted to commit \$141,972.50 in funding to purchase the state interest in the tower location at the western end of Arsene LeBleu Road South of Lake Charles. The motion was carried with one objection from Mike Murphy who believed that the funding would set a precedence of matching funds for local grants.*

Eric Silvula suggested the following criteria be used by the SIEC for consideration of project funding:

- The SIEC must be given prior notice of the project and the project details must be presented to the SIEC.
- The project demonstrates a clear benefit for the region up to the state level. A clear benefit from region up to the state level on site expansion through a tiered process for voice communication then thereafter data communication.
- The project clearly enhances the statewide goals and objectives laid out in the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan.
- The project provides mutual ownership between the local government and the state.

Mr. Richard Gremillion stated that any projects recommended to the SIEC to support, approve or fund be presented to the SIEC in a timely manner so projects can be reviewed.

*On a motion of Richard Gremillion, seconded by Chief Robert Black, the Committee voted that any project or proposal from this point forward be submitted to the Chairman and then assigned to each sub-committee for review and report. Upon a report from each sub-committee, the full Committee will vote on approval or recommendation. There being no further discussion or opposition, the motion carried.*

### **Finance and Funding Sub-Committee**

*On a motion by Eric Sivula, seconded by Susan Severance, the Committee voted on changing the Finance and Funding Sub-Committee name to Budget and Finance Sub-Committee. Additionally, the Assessment and Technology Committee is changed to the Technology Sub-Committee. There being no further discussion or opposition, the motion carried.*

Christina Dayries stated that she needed the Technology Sub-committee's recommendation for the SIEC's PSIC priorities with cost on a per region basis in order to complete the final phase of the PSIC application. She asked that the report be provided by November 1, 2007 to allow enough time for GOHSEP to prepare the required investment justification documents. Additionally, she requested that the Technology Sub-committee provide a recommendation for further infrastructure, subscriber units, and any other equipment to the SIEC for their FY08/09 budget request, which is due to the Division of Administration by November 1, 2007.

### **Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee**

Susan Severance informed the Committee that she will draft a policy regarding future requests for funding from local agencies. The Committee further discussed ideas and suggestions in detail. The Committee also discussed issues on console patches for the ACU 1000 to be written within a communication plan to develop the SOP.

### **Planning Committee Sub-Committee**

Chairman Richard Gremillion asked the Committee to consider a replacement for him as Chair of the Planning Committee Sub-Committee. The Committee discussed the issue and

introduced the idea of having a Co-Chair of the Sub-Committee to assist in duties. Eric Deroche was chosen as Co-chairman of the Planning Sub-committee to assist Richard Gremillion.

### **Statewide Communications Interoperable Plan (SCIP)**

The SIEC Support Staff reported that the Statewide Communications Interoperable Plan (SCIP) will be submitted to DHS by GOHSEP on October 1, 2007 and that the SCIP will be available for review once it is posted in the secure library of the SIEC website. All SIEC members are eligible to receive a username and password to access the secure library.

### **Old Business**

Chief Robert Black reported that Motorola will offer discount pricing to flash upgrade P25 compatible radios (Smart Zone and SmartNet). Mr. Rick Carter with Motorola stated that this pricing is available through the end of December. However, consideration will be given to extend the pricing discount to the end of January due to local budgetary cycles.

### **New Business**

Lt. Col. Mickey McMorris reported that Louisiana State Police (LSP) deployed communications equipment in support of a major media event in Jena, LA on September 20, 2007. There were communications issues; however, Motorola and LSP worked together to resolve those problems. Overall the event was successful. LSP will submit an After Action Report to the Committee. Motorola will address solutions to counter future problems that might occur at such high profile events.

### **Public Comment**

David Benada with the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office stated that he was pleased with the efforts of the SIEC and fully supported the build out of the statewide system for use not only during emergency but day to day operations.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Richard Gremillion, seconded by Sonya Wiley-Gremillion, and there being no further business to discuss, the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:47 p.m.

Appendix A  
September 26, 2007

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 26, 2007 - 10:30 a.m.  
Alexandria Public Safety Complex  
1000 Bolton Avenue  
Alexandria, LA

**(Guest List)**

Name (Print)	Name (Signature)	Representing Agency	E-Mail/Phone
Christina Byrnes	<i>Christina Byrnes</i>	LA State Police	
Blane Nuss	<i>Blane Nuss</i>	Auto-comm Eng	bnuss@auto-comm.com
Lloyd Miller	<i>Lloyd Miller</i>	Lake Charles Fire	lmiller@cityoflc.us
Avery Esterson	<i>Avery Esterson</i>	Metaton St. Tammany Interop Comm	A.Esterson - Metaton@cor.net skinnerfire5@acellsonline.net
Eric Skinner	<i>Eric Skinner</i>		
Adam Skilling	<i>Adam Skilling</i>	St. Tam. Fire	adam.skilling@la.gov
Toby Sandifer	<i>Toby Sandifer</i>	St. Tam. Fire	toby.sandifer@sttam.la.com
Bill Rains	<i>Bill Rains</i>	EF Johnson	BRAINS@EEJOHNSON.COM
Deborah Warden	<i>Deborah Warden</i>	GOHSEP	dwarden@ohsep.louisiana.gov
Bryan Winzberry	<i>Bryan Winzberry</i>	Metaton	bwinzberry@metaton.com
Richard Schreiber	<i>Richard Schreiber</i>	DEP	rschreiber@dep.louisiana.gov
Rick Carter	<i>Rick Carter</i>	Metaton	r.t.carter@metatola.com
Rory Vincent	<i>Rory Vincent</i>	Metaton	rvincent@metatola.com

Appendix B  
September 26, 2007

The Technology Sub-Committee of the SIEC met on Monday September 24, 2007 at the David Crockett Fire Department in Gretna.

The following items, copies attached, were on the agenda for review by the committee;

1. Proposal from Raytheon JPS Communications.
2. Request for funding from Region 5 Interoperability Group.
3. Request for funding from Greater Lafourche Port Commission.

1. An unsolicited proposal from Raytheon JPS Communications for placement of an ACU-1000 device and related equipment in Emergency Operations Centers or Combined Dispatch Centers for each parish in the state was reviewed and discussed.

Committee members expressed concerns of system "lock up" if too many systems are patched together into the statewide communications system. Further discussion followed and it was recommended by the committee that whether or not an ACU-1000 device or any device such as consoles, gateways, etc. are used for patching purposes, policy and procedures must be established. These policy and procedures should be outlined in a communications plan to specifically address this issue. Additionally, the communications plan should address policy and procedures for "frequency patching" while outlining the differences between a local event, regional event and statewide event.

It is the recommendation of the committee to defer any action on gateway devices until policy, procedures and requirements are established and approved.

2. A request from Region 5 Interoperability Group was reviewed and discussed. The Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office has received a grant from the Port Security Grant Program to locate a nine repeater site at the western end of Arsene LeBleu Road south of Lake Charles.

The budgetary quote for this site is \$567,890.10 that includes all radio equipment, elevated platform, enclosure, generator, labor, and other services for an operable site. The group is asking the SIEC to consider funding a twenty-five per cent cash match in the amount of \$141,972.50.

3. A request from the Greater Lafourche Port Commission was reviewed and discussed. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission has been awarded a federal grant under the Port Security Grant Program to build a 400' self-supporting tower and install a communication shelter in Fourchon to house related communications equipment. Existing high capacity microwave links between Port Fourchon and Galliano will be relocated to the new proposed facility once construction is complete.

The total cost for the proposed project is \$1,182,527.00 and the Greater Lafourche Port Commission is asking the SIEC to consider funding the required twenty-five percent cash match in the amount of \$394,176.00.

The committee addressed the technical merits of the two requests and is of the opinion that the proposals would enhance the statewide communication system coverage as long as first responders and other public safety agencies are allowed to utilize the proposed tower sites and related equipment.

The committee expressed concerns over the funding aspects of the two requests that may lead to future funding request from across the state. It was decided that the funding for these requests and any future requests should be addressed by the full SIEC.

Bobby Black  
Chair, Technology Committee