

Interoperability Bulletin
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DHS Awards \$1.8 Million for Emergency Response Security and Video Quality Research

The Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) recently announced a cooperative agreement award of \$1.8 million to Noblis, a nonprofit science, technology, and strategy organization. Noblis will conduct research and development on two technical areas of the two-volume Public Safety Statement of Requirements (PS SoR). (Volumes I and II were published in 2004 and 2006, respectively.) With its Federal partners, OIC identified a need to further define requirements for emergency response communications in two specific areas: security and video quality. Developed with practitioner input, the PS SoR defines operational, functional, and technical requirements for a wide range of emergency scenarios.

**Practitioner Action Teams Advance on
Nationwide Plan for Interoperable Communications**

Practitioners nationwide continue to move forward on the Agreements on a Nationwide Plan for Interoperable Communications, identified at the June 2007 Emergency Response Council (ERC) meeting. Practitioner Action Teams recently have worked on the following efforts in support of interoperability progress:

- Developed requirements for an interoperability portal with best practices and tools for practitioners
- Developed best practices for statewide coordination
- Defined the “system of systems” approach for emergency response and public service, and developed a brochure to support this definition
- Provided input for an OIC Plain Language Tool
- Participated in efforts to accelerate the deployment of the Communications Unit Leader training manual
- Participated in the standards development process

Several organizations have endorsed the ERC’s Agreements on a Nationwide Plan for Interoperable Communications. These include: California State Interoperability Executive Committee; Hampton Roads, Virginia Communications District; Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police; National League of Cities; and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials. Additionally, the Office for Emergency Communications (OEC) has agreed to work with ERC members to assess what portions of the ERC Guiding Principles that OEC can include in the National Emergency Communications Plan. OEC is required by law to produce such a plan.

Annual IACP Conference Draws Law Enforcement Officials From Across the World

More than 14,000 law enforcement officials gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the 114th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference, held October 13-17. The event provided OIC with a valuable opportunity to showcase new tools and resources for the emergency response community.

OASIS Announces Second Public Review Period for HAVE Standard

The Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) recently announced a second public review period for the data messaging standard known as the Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL)-Hospital AVailability Exchange (HAVE). This public review period began on October 19 and will close on December 18, 2007. The EDXL-HAVE standard will improve

emergency response by enabling responders to exchange information about a hospital's capacity and bed availability with medical and health organizations.

As part of the standard development process, OASIS holds open public comment periods on all committee drafts. OASIS is accepting comments on EDXL-HAVE at <http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/emergency/200710/msg00044.html> and http://docs.oasis-open.org/emergency/edxl-have/pr03/emergency_edxl_have-1.0-spec-pr03.doc. If public comments require substantive modifications to the committee draft, the draft reenters a 60-day public review. The comment periods are designed to solicit feedback from OASIS and non-OASIS members, including emergency responders.

Save the Dates

- The Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Defense will host the 9th Annual Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference and Exposition on November 6-8, in San Francisco, California. This event will highlight technologies and training tools, including interoperable communications, available to emergency responders, and will engage stakeholders to identify requirements for tools under development. For the full conference agenda, or to register, visit www.ctc.org.
- The International Association of Emergency Managers Annual Conference & EMEX 2007 will be held November 11-14, in Reno, Nevada. The Association's annual conference will provide a forum to discuss best practices, trends, and strategies for emergency management, and the latest tools and technologies available to emergency responders, homeland security officials, and industry professionals. Additional information is available at www.iaem.com.
- The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) will host the International Security National Resilience Exhibition and Conference 2007 on December 3-5, in London, England, with direct participation by the National Defense Industrial Association. The conference will mark the first European security event to have direct collaboration with S&T. It will enable attendees from all sectors across the globe to interact with DHS S&T representatives. For additional information, visit <http://www.isnrlondon.com/>.

The Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) is working with the emergency response community and Federal partners to improve local, tribal, state, and Federal emergency preparedness and response. Managed by the Science and Technology Directorate, OIC is committed to developing technologies and tools—methodologies, templates, models, and educational materials—that effectively meet the critical needs of emergency responders in the field.

The Interoperability Bulletin provides updates about OIC-related initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities. This Bulletin is distributed to stakeholders monthly.

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