

CRC Infrastructure Sub-Committee

Project Identification Template and Instructions

Mobile County P-25 Compliant

Communication System Upgrade

Project Identification Template

Instructions: Please complete all of the information requested with the best information you have available. Limited attachments are acceptable if necessary to adequately describe the project but the **total length should be limited to 6 pages** one-sided (including attachments). This Identification Template is intended as a preliminary mechanism by which proposals and projects to improve the resiliency of Coastal Alabama are solicited and captured with some consistency of format, scope definition, and project benefits and impact. **This is only a first step: proposals and projects will not be funded based upon this submittal. Further information and details will be solicited at such time as the screening and funding process is more fully defined.**

Responses should be received by November 26, 2010, to be included in the appendix the Coastal Recovery Commission Report to the Governor to be submitted December 15, 2010. Submittals after that date will be accepted for consideration but will not be included in the Project Appendix.

Completed Templates may be submitted:

- Electronically (.pdf preferred) to: crcalabama.templateresponse.com.
- By US mail to: Coastal Recovery Commission.

P.O. Box 881, Mobile, AL 36601-0881

I. What – Project Information/Basic Facts

1. Project Scope Upgrade existing radio communication system to be P25 compliant as encouraged by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC).
2. Project duration or schedule by phase and status of any work in progress _____ A general needs assessment for all County Departments has been conducted and a cost estimate for converting has been prepared.

2.1. Conceptual and Feasibility Planning, Engineering, Construction Upgrading the systems can be completed in a timely fashion depending on the availability of the hardware from vendors.

3. Estimated Cost (plus or minus 30%) \$15,500,000

3.1. Indicate level of confidence in accuracy of these estimates 75%

II. Why - Project Description relative to Impact and Criteria

1. Identify what need, threat or opportunity that this project, study, or recommendation will address Converting existing radio communication systems to be P25 Compliant will allow for improved internal communications for all Public Safety Officials, First Responders, Emergency Workers, Public Works Employees, etc. and allow for interoperability with all other P25 capable systems in the Nation for improved and expanded external communications with other political entities, organizations, etc.

2. How does this project or recommendation address and impact the recommended evaluation criteria:

2.1.1. Coastal Recovery The oil spill affected the entire Gulf Coast from Louisiana to Florida. As such, numerous Federal, State and Local response organizations were activated to support response and recovery operations. From the local municipal and County level up through State and Federal Agencies, communication between organizations proved difficult. Improving communication networks to make different entities/organizations able to speak directly to one another will allow for a more effective and efficient response and recovery.

2.1.2. Resiliency Providing a communication system that is P25 Compliant will make each entity, and in turn, the region more resilient as response to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and man-made disasters will be more efficient and effective.

2.1.3. Transformational A P25 Compliant radio network will transform the current communication system to the next level of compatibility with all radio systems used by Public Safety Officials, First Responders, etc. across the entire region and Nation. The ability to communicate internally within each department/organization can be expanded to external communication between all departments, organizations and entities for significant improvement in response and recovery.

2.1.4. Regionalism The deployment of P25 Compliant systems will allow a high degree of equipment interoperability, compatibility, and economy of scale. The ability to communicate effectively across political boundaries from the local level all the way to the federal level will allow the region to be more unified and efficient under normal conditions and especially in response to emergency situations.

2.1.5. Economic Diversification P25 systems can be maintained and upgraded cost effectively over the systems life cycle, thus meeting user requirements, achieving interoperability and security, promoting committed manufacturers to provide compliant product, fostering competition and achieving cost-effective emergency/safety communication solutions.

3. Project Economics The cost to upgrade the communication system of the Mobile County Commission to be P25 Compliant is estimated to be \$15,500,000.

4. Identify Direct Project benefits to Coastal Alabama, including avoided costs, consequence of “No Build” alternative. P25 Compliant systems are being increasingly adopted and deployed throughout the United States. Compliant systems can communicate in analog mode with legacy radios and in either digital or analog mode with other P25 radios. Achieving a P25 Compliant system by January of 2013 is critical as future federal funding of communication grants for local entities will be dependent on P25 compliance. Not adhering to the P25 compliant deadlines may result in loss of future federal funding.

4.1. Impact on employment, job training and development, both short term and permanent The current technical staff of the Mobile County Commission is capable of making the conversion to the P25 Compliant System. It is not anticipated any new jobs will be created for the installation or operation of the new system.

4.2. Oil spill mitigation outside of claims process P25 Compliant Systems operating throughout the region will allow for more effective communications resulting in more effective and efficient response to future oil spills.

5. Identify Indirect benefits and costs

5.1. Collateral Benefits to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy and Healthy Society (subjective responses allowed) The improved communication system will result in a more effective response to all disasters either natural or man-made. An effective response will result in a quicker recovery allowing people to return to their normal lifestyle promoting a healthy society. A quicker recovery in response to a disaster also allows the economy to recover sooner, making a community and the entire region

more resilient. A more effective response and recovery means the affected environment is restored sooner as well.

- 5.2. Collateral Costs or impacts to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy and Healthy Society (subjective responses allowed) There are no collateral costs for this project, only benefits.
- 5.3. Connectivity and Linkage to other projects or initiatives: Does this project complement or compete with other projects? What other projects would be precluded if this project is funded? P25 Compliant Communication Systems will compliment each other across political and organizational boundaries resulting in better communications for better response and recovery to natural and man-made disasters as well as for day to day activities.

III. Who/How – General Information

1. Name and contact information for Entity, Collaboration or Person submitting project or recommendation nomination. Joe Ruffer, P.E., Mobile County Engineer, Mobile County Public Works, Mobile County Commission, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36644-1600 (251) 574-8595 phone, (251) 574-4722 fax, jruffer@mobilecounty.net
- 1.1. Entities and communities sharing a common threat or need are encouraged to collaborate for a joint/combined project submittal to raise the profile of the issue and solution to be addressed. Also please indicate the level of community support or resistance and hurdles to collaboration. **This project has support from the Mobile County Commission, and all Departments operating under their direction.***
2. Identify Sponsoring Entity for oversight and accountability if different from above.
- 2.1. Existing or to be created? Existing
- 2.1.1. If to be created, what parties or interests must be involved and what level of effort is required to do so? Not Applicable
- 2.2. Describe governance, organizational capacity, availability of skills, experience of sponsoring entity to implement the Project The Mobile County Commission, operating through the Mobile County Public Works Department will be responsible for the maintenance of the project following construction and acceptance. The Mobile County Commission has the financial capability, expertise, and support personnel to maintain the project to function as designed. The facilities will be maintained for continuous use by the Public Safety Officials, First Responders, and the Public Works Department. The

Mobile County Commission will budget the necessary funds to maintain and make repairs as required.

- 2.3. Project complexity: Hurdles and barriers to project implementation, completion and sustainability. Identify regulatory issues. The main hurdle will be converting the current communication system to the P25 Compliant System without an interruption in service. This will be accomplished through careful planning and with the cooperation of all involved.
3. Identify any known or anticipated administrative, regulatory, or legislative action that would be required at either the local, state, or federal governmental level. None
4. Requested funding from Coastal Recovery Fund (CRF) \$15,500,000
5. Identified potential funding sources other than the CRF None exist at this time
- 5.1. Leverage or multiplier on CRF investment: matching funds, public or private None exist at this time
- 5.2. Public Private Opportunities, user fees, Federal funds, private foundation grants, bonding capacity, etc. None exist at this time
6. Forecast of ongoing maintenance or operating costs and source of funding if not self sustaining The Mobile County Commission will provide funding through the annual budget process for the maintenance of the system.