

LMIT replacing Hanford Site radio systems

Lockheed Martin Information Technology is leading a Hanford Site initiative to implement new radio systems. Known officially as L-347, the Narrowband Radio Migration Project responds to a mandate issued by the National Telecommunication Information Agency, which has authority over all federal communication systems. The NTIA issued a mandate to federal agencies requiring transition to narrowband radio systems using newly assigned frequencies, with specific dates set for compliance.

In the past 10 years, radio congestion across the U.S. has increased significantly as a result of the accelerated growth of cellular-phone and other wireless communications. Coinciding with the Internet boom, the nation's frequency spectrum experienced rapid expansion resulting in heavy congestion. Commercial wireless developers, businesses and citizens lobbied the federal government to release the frequency spectrum previously allocated to federal agencies. This pressure resulted in a series of laws and a federal mandate, which made a portion of the federal spectrum allocation available to the public and effected the federal agencies' transition to narrowband radio systems.

The Hanford Site's L-347 project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 deploys a new narrowband, Department of Energy-owned, very high frequency trunked radio system for Hanford's safeguards and emergency service groups. Phase 2 will establish enhanced commercial radio communication services for general operation and maintenance groups, and will manage the transition to new services.

When the project is complete, Hanford's radio communication systems will comply with the NTIA federal mandate and will provide improved radio-communication capabilities. The new DOE system will make it easier for safeguards and emergency service personnel to communicate because of improved transmission quality, increased radio coverage across the site and enhanced compatibility with local public safety agencies. General users will experience improved radio coverage free from airway congestion, compared to current radio communication capabilities. LMIT is implementing Project L-347 at a significantly lower cost than similar installations at other DOE sites.

As the project progresses, further updates will be provided on a Hanford Intranet Web page. For more information or answers to your questions, contact David Havens, LMIT Engineering and Construction manager. ■



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Hanford Firefighter Mark Johnson uses the improved Hanford radio communication system for Hanford's safeguards and emergency service groups.