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FEDERAL ENGINEERING SELECTED TO CONDUCT DESIGN FOR IOWA STATEWIDE WIRELESS SYSTEM

State to Conduct Outreach to Local Governments as System is Developed

DES MOINES, IA, February 2, 2009 — The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) announced that Federal Engineering Inc. has been selected to develop a detailed interoperable communications system design and implementation plan for public safety agencies in Iowa. The system, to include voice, data, video, and enhanced 911 communications, will involve all public safety entities within each of the 99 counties of the State, as well as state agencies such as the Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation, and Department of Public Defense - Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

The contract with Federal Engineering (**FE**), based in Fairfax, Virginia, results from an initiative by Governor Culver in 2007 to oversee the policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level. To provide this oversight, the ISICSB was established and a plan was envisioned to develop the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS). Under the contract, **FE** is to develop the ISICS design and master plan that will be used to competitively procure and implement the system.

"Based on our experience with other states, Federal Engineering recognizes the critical importance of a shared system infrastructure for Iowa derived from local and state communications needs. Our design will include a statewide backbone to provide coverage for state agencies; we will provide details as to how that backbone will satisfy the coverage needs of localities within Iowa; and we will allow for interoperability, expandability, and on-scene radio-to-radio communications," said **FE's** President Ronald F. Bosco.

Federal Engineering's work will include an Outreach Plan to raise awareness and communicate the benefits of ISICS to stakeholders throughout Iowa. **FE** will perform an assessment of user needs, analysis of the existing systems, and survey of all public safety entities within each of the 99 counties including 126 public safety answering points and 911 centers. The results from this survey and the radio coverage analyses will be documented in a system master plan and design specifications. Based upon these results, **FE** will prepare a competitive procurement package including a functional design specification and implementation plan. **FE** will also prepare migration plans for up to 100 public safety entities within the State, describing alternative approaches to join or interface with the new statewide network.

Captain Todd Misel of the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the ISICSB Chairperson added: "The State of Iowa Communications Task Force identified the need for interoperable communications as a necessary tool for public safety response agencies within the State. The rapid changes in technology development have created a challenging environment for convergent communications and we are pleased to have Federal Engineering lead us in this effort."

Assisting Federal Engineering in the project are Civitium, LLC based in Alpharetta, Georgia and iXP Corporation of Cranbury, New Jersey. Civitium is providing expertise in the development of a wireless broadband solution for the system, and iXP is developing a next generation 911 solution for the system.

FE provides comprehensive land mobile radio analysis, design, procurement support, and implementation management services for public safety, public service, transportation, and energy organizations. The firm also provides security analyses, disaster recovery planning, strategic assessments, product analyses, market research, and business planning services in telecommunications and related fields.

As a nationwide communications systems planning and design firm, Federal Engineering develops voice, data, and video networks for a wide range of end users, including organizations in the aerospace, energy, finance, education, publishing, and computer services fields. In addition to its private sector work, **FE** has completed hundreds of communications projects for 30 state governments, as well as numerous local and federal government clients. **FE's** certified independence ensures that clients receive objective, unbiased consulting services that are not influenced by any particular technology, product, vendor, or approach.