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## **STATE OF MINNESOTA AWARDS FEDERAL ENGINEERING \$1.8 MILLION DESIGN CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY MOBILE RADIO ENHANCEMENTS**

**FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA**, September 24, 2008 — The State of Minnesota has awarded Federal Engineering, Inc. (**FE**) a \$1.8 million contract to provide consulting services to determine the current public safety communications infrastructure in each county and to determine local and regional enhancements to public safety radio communication systems within the state. The Minnesota Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) is the backbone for shared public safety communications within the State. Initially deployed in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, a number of local governments have adopted the ARMER system as their primary public safety and government communication system.

Under this contract, **FE** will coordinate with local and regional governments to develop comprehensive local and regional plans, alternatives, and cost estimates for improving or replacing their public safety communication infrastructures. **FE** will work with 58 counties in five regions of the State to develop enhancements including the integration of existing plans. Collaborating with the State's Regional Radio Boards, Regional Advisory Committees, counties, and other public safety stakeholders, **FE** will assess existing communications needs and infrastructures, develop communication system requirements, perform cost and technical comparisons of alternatives, create public outreach plans, and develop final system designs.

"Federal Engineering recognizes the critical importance the Minnesota statewide network plays in linking local and regional users together. **FE's** recommended enhancements will provide interoperability between public safety organizations within a region at a lower cost than if each agency or jurisdiction deployed their own separate system. As a shared system, certain elements of the ARMER backbone are scalable to address the needs of the various users," said **FE's** President Ronald F. Bosco.

Scott Wiggins, the State's manager of the ARMER Program and Director of the Division of Emergency Communication Networks, added, "We recognize that the success of the ARMER system depends upon maximizing the integration and participation of all public safety users. Our goal is to coordinate the needs of all local governments, non-governmental organizations and tribal governments within a region, ensure all public safety organizations have a seat at the ARMER table, and develop a governance structure and infrastructure that provides a seamless statewide interoperability solution."

**FE** provides a wide range of land mobile radio analysis, design, procurement support, and implementation management services for public safety, public service, transportation, and energy systems. 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.