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STATE OF MINNESOTA AWARDS FEDERAL ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY FREQUENCY PLANNING

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA, January 7, 2009 — The state of Minnesota has awarded Federal Engineering, Inc. (**FE**) a contract to develop a VHF and UHF public safety interoperable frequency plan. This project will seek to develop a core group of VHF and/or UHF frequencies that can be used for public safety interoperability throughout the state (including between federal, state, tribal and local governments), between bordering states and along the Canadian border. This resource is in addition to Minnesota’s Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) network. The ARMER system 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. The ARMER system is a 700/800 megahertz (MHz) trunked communication system which is being built to accommodate the integration of existing very high frequency (VHF) and ultra high frequency (UHF) public safety communication systems.

Under this contract, **FE** will provide a comprehensive overview of VHF and UHF frequency planning issues for public safety agencies within Minnesota. In addition, **FE** will determine the impact of industry organizations and federal agency activities and mandates on the Minnesota frequency landscape, to include activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, Federal Partnership on Interoperable Communications, Federal Communications Commission, and National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

“Federal Engineering recognizes the critical importance of frequency planning for the Minnesota statewide network in providing an effective interoperable system. **FE’s** frequency planning activities will allow Minnesota to maximize its investment in the ARMER system by ensuring it can most effectively use the limited frequency spectrum available. In addition, we will assist in planning frequencies that are most compatible for interoperability with local jurisdictions, other states, and the federal and Canadian governments,” 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, “In addition to radio towers and radio equipment, frequency planning for interoperability with legacy systems and strategic deployable resources is a critical and necessary part of the ARMER system of systems approach. Our goal is to ensure this piece of the infrastructure is well planned and enhances interoperability of the ARMER system for all of our public safety partners.”

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.