

# NEWS

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## **FEDERAL ENGINEERING SELECTED TO REVIEW STATEWIDE WIRELESS NETWORK PROJECT Independent Verification and Validation Firm to Assure Quality and Contract Compliance**

Albany, NY (May 14, 2008) -- The New York State Office for Technology announced Federal Engineering Inc. has been selected to conduct an independent verification and validation of the Statewide Wireless Network. This additional layer of due diligence the state has chosen to pursue is necessary given the project's complexity, importance to the state's first responders, and investments. The firm was selected through a competitive process.

A rigorous operational test was conducted during April 2008 by more than 40 radio engineers and first responders in the primary build out areas of Erie and Chautauqua Counties. The state has taken the additional and necessary step of hiring an independent consultant to conduct a comprehensive verification and validation analysis of the preliminary testing results and the network construction.

Federal Engineering Inc. will review the construction of the emergency radio network in Erie and Chautauqua Counties checking for quality control, technical compliance, risk management, and construction compliance. Also, Federal Engineering will review and evaluate M/A-COM's quality assurance program and recommend improvements if necessary. The independent firm is responsible for assessing M/A-COM's adherence to the state contract's technical requirements such as the functional, operational and standards compliance, performance, coverage and interoperability contractual requirements. The firm will conduct a risk analysis to identify any obstacles that may impact the project schedule. Lastly, Federal Engineering will inspect all Statewide Wireless Network construction sites to evaluate construction procedures and ensure industry best practices were strictly followed.

"New York's first responders are too important to settle for anything less than a world class radio communications system which is reliable for day-to-day use, large-scale emergencies and other interoperable uses," said Dr. Jonathan Spanos, SWN Program Director.

This is part of a comprehensive and multi-tiered testing and verification due diligence process. M/A-COM's test results for on-road coverage were calculated by Syracuse Research as 98.38% in Chautauqua County and 98.39% in Erie County, which exceeds the minimum contract requirements. These preliminary results were tested in April by the SWN technical staff and first responder groups. All test data must be independently verified by Federal Engineering as the independent verification and validation (IV & V) contractor. In addition, another verification test will be conducted in June when trees have full foliage to ensure coverage still meets state specifications.

"No system has ever been tested in such detail. More than 110,000 test points in two rounds of testing in Erie and Chautauqua Counties were analyzed. We are insisting on this level of testing to erase any doubt as to exactly what the state will get if it accepts the system for full deployment," Dr. Spanos said.