

GOVERNMENT MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT (GMCP)

Summary Status - June 25, 2001

General Background:

- Management Board approved the Government Mobile Communications Project (GMCP) in May 1998.
- The GMCP will replace the communications networks currently operated independently by: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; Ministry of Transportation; Ministry of Natural Resources; the Ontario Provincial Police and Correctional Services with a common set of digital-capable mobile communications services based on a shared common infrastructure.
- The current systems have a remaining useful life cycle of about five years. The GMCP will replace the infrastructure of these existing systems, and will implement a new digital-capable communications network to be used by all government mobile users to support existing and future applications.
- In view of the program-specific nature of dispatch centre operations, each user Ministry is responsible ensuring appropriate connection to the new radio/data communications external to the dispatch centres.
- The Project lead ministry is Management Board of Cabinet (MBC). MBC, through its Corporate Chief Information Office has established a Government Mobile Communications Office (GMCO) to manage the project and its contractual obligations.
- Development and maintenance of the new infrastructure system is being lead by Bell Mobility Radio (BMR) which heads a consortium of private sector companies which supply various components of the system. BMR has also assumed the maintenance of the current legacy systems.

Project Status:

- After a lengthy validation period to resolve technical issues and to modify some of the Project's initial assumptions, Phase 2 (Design and Engineering) is now scheduled for completion in July, 2001. This will move the Project into Phase 3 (Implementation).
- The Emergency Health Services Branch has established implementation and transition teams, consisting of dispatchers, paramedics, management and municipal EMS contacts, whose focus is planning for the move from the legacy radio network to the new radio network. Meetings with interested stakeholder groups are on-going.

- Technical review of the required CACC console configuration and interfaces to the new communications infrastructure has begun.
- Implementation of the system, for all participating Ministries, will commence first in the southwest, in Windsor (late, 2001) through to Durham Region, and will then move eastward (mid-2002), north and northwest across the province, for completion by mid-2005. Any delays in entering the implementation phase will impact these forecasts.
- Replacement of mobile radios in ambulances and support vehicles was completed in the Region of Niagara in April. The balance of the southwest zone vehicles, will be done between July and August, 2001. These radios will continue to use the current system until changeover to the new system occurs.
- Planning and implementation of mobile and hospital radio replacements is conducted with the direct involvement of municipal EMS representatives.
- Operational design (Fleetmapping) for ambulance use of the system was completed at the end of May, 2001. Validation of the Fleetmap will take place over the summer, 2001.
- Installation of tower site equipment in the southwest zone is underway and will be completed, along with designated hospital radios, over the summer, 2001.

Project Benefits for MOHLTC and Emergency Medical Systems:

- The MOHLTC ambulance communications legacy infrastructure is nearing the end of its life cycle; the GMCP will replace the legacy system with a new shared communications infrastructure
- Obsolete end user equipment (ie ambulance mobile repeaters) are replaced by new
- Development and maintenance costs of the shared infrastructure are less than those of dedicated systems for each participating ministry
- Improved operational flexibility is achieved through access to more radio “channels” and inter-operability between other users of the system (ie police-ambulance, etc).
- Provides continuance of “seamless” ambulance radio communications throughout the province through common access channels across ambulance dispatching jurisdictions.

Contacts: Rick Smiles; Manager Telecommunications Section, EHS. (416) 327-7882
Roon Kasperavicius; Project Co-ordinator, EHS (705) 726-3541