

Presenters: Mr. Jeffrey Ochester (Interoperability Technology Manager, Beaver Creek Township, OH) and Robin Grier (President of Catalyst Communications Technologies, Inc.)

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Session Title: Intelligent Interoperability Case Study, Southwest, OH

Interoperability solutions provide a variety of methods for dissimilar radio systems to communicate and are being implemented nationally by local, state and federal agencies. As these systems are utilized for daily operations, the need for intelligent interoperability management becomes clear. First Responders in Southwest Ohio face a difficult communications challenge with three distinct types of radio systems using multiple proprietary protocols and thirty two conventional systems (including a P25 digital voice) in three different bands. Beaver Creek Township installed an intelligent interoperability approach in 2004 to address these challenges and provide for scalability to handle adjacent counties and federal agencies. This solution is used almost daily for everything from routine events to Amber Alerts to tornado responses. This session will explain how Beaver Creek provides a flexible response to evolving interoperability needs across these many types of radio platforms, allowing first responders to link any of 500 talk groups and multiple conventional channels for federal, state, local, and volunteer groups in virtually any combination, instantly. Management issues including operational plans and post-event evaluations will also be discussed.

Target Audience: Public safety decision makers and technical implementers from federal, state and local governments as well as decision makers and technical implementers from land management agencies, utilities, and commercial organizations should attend. Audience members should have a basic to intermediate understanding of land mobile radio issues. The specific technologies employed will be explained in enough detail that beginners will be able to understand the applications, advantages, and disadvantages of each.

Mr. Jeffrey Ochester is the Network Operations Manager of Beaver Creek Township's Information Technology Department and the System Administrator of Beaver Creek Fire Department's Information Technology Division. His responsibilities include managing Beaver Creek Fire Department's Interoperability System (IOS) and Beaver Creek Township's computer network and telephony infrastructure for seven facilities. Since 1996, Jeff has been a Level II Firefighter and EMT-B, and has managed the Information Technology Department of Beaver Creek Township since 2002. His technical certifications and training include Microsoft, Cisco, CompTIA, Macromedia, M/A-Com, & JPS. In 2003, Jeff was part of a team that designed, implemented, and configured a complex four-node, seven-county interoperability system for use by Beaver Creek Fire Department and its neighboring agencies. Jeff provides network consulting and security auditing for private and public sector corporations throughout the area. He has been involved in wireless, telephony, and communications systems since 1995.

Robin Grier is the President of Catalyst Communications Technologies, Inc. Catalyst is a Voice over IP developer, providing interoperability and dispatch solutions for municipalities, federal agencies, utilities, and other organizations. Prior to founding Catalyst, Mr. Grier spent seven years with Ericsson's Private Radio Systems division in its product management and systems engineering departments. While at Ericsson, Mr. Grier implemented the first CNI Interoperability system linking Motorola, Ericsson, and EF Johnson trunked radio systems. He also spent five years designing communications satellites for TRW's Space Communications Division. Mr. Grier earned his BSEE from the University of Virginia, his MSEE from the University of Southern California, and his MBA from Lynchburg College. Robin presents frequently to industry associations, including recent seminars at the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International Conferences, the International Wireless Communications Expo, the UTC Telecom, major universities, and other utility, public safety, and federal government wireless communications meetings. He has authored articles for Radio Resource Magazine, Mobile Radio Technology, Private Wireless, and Communications Magazine.

Session Type: Two speakers, one hour

Primary Track: Interoperability Solutions