

Solving the Interoperability Communications Challenge

CURRENT COMMUNICATIONS LANDSCAPE. Nearly nine years after 9-11, our nation still lacks a unified communications architecture that is reliable, secure and interoperable. Billions of dollars have been devoted to interoperable communications over the past decade—including \$1.0 billion for Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grants—yet first responders are often unable to communicate across multiple jurisdictions when disaster strikes. More often than not, and despite significant upgrades in communications equipment, agencies have developed stove-piped “solutions” that prevent secure communications between local, state, federal, and military first responders. Additionally, during a major crisis, public communication systems are vulnerable to failure, outages, and congestion.

TECHNOLOGY TO SOLVE THE INTEROPERABILITY CHALLENGE. All too often, the failure to achieve true interoperability is described as a failure of “policy.” In truth, interoperability can be achieved absent strict policies, requirements and mandates. The failure to achieve true interoperability is not the absence of policy and protocols; rather it is a reliance on stove-piped solutions. True interoperability—one that has no technological or geographic boundaries—can be achieved by providing a bridge between the myriad of stove-pipes. One such bridge is a diversified hybrid network consisting of satellite, wireless, and terrestrial technologies.

KNIGHT SKY: INNOVATIVE SATELLITE-BASED SOLUTIONS. The Knight Sky solution, SKYMAX-FED Network, provides a shared satellite wide area network (WAN) capable of delivering interoperable broadband IP connectivity to all federal agencies and across all 50 States and U.S. Territories. Using a single WAN point of entry to act as a “Neutral-Zone,” interoperability is achieved across legacy and next generation technologies and between isolated enclaves; it operates independent of terrestrial infrastructure. SKYMAX-FED provides multiple applications within one network:

- Emergency Responder Services—high speed communications at incident sites.
- Restoration and Continuity of Operations—Internet access to incident sites until conventional communications are restored.
- Remote Business Communications—provides an always on Internet access for daily communications to outlying facilities.
- Audio and Video Broadcast—provides broadcast quality video and audio broadcasting to all 50 states and territories.



- Digital Signage—provides emergency broadcasts to schools, malls, highways, and other public locations.
- Individual Communications Kits—provides connectivity to expeditionary users.
- Remote Data Collection—SCADA.

PROVEN PERFORMANCE. Commercial, government, and military organizations have entrusted Knight Sky to provide successful satellite solutions on time and within budget:

- Department of Homeland Security (HQ)
- Defense Information Systems Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- White House Communications Agency
- US Army PEO EIS, APM CSS SATCOM
- National Guard Bureau
- NOAA Satellite Operations Center
- Joint SATCOM Engineering Center
- BroadcastUrban.com—University Sports Broadcasting
- World Bank—African Virtual University



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