



Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group

Interagency Radio Alliance (IRA)

Interoperable Radio System Study (IRSS)

Project Charter

1. Project Purpose

Radios are an essential component of the communications systems that aid public land management. They mitigate safety risks to employees and the public and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of field operations. Federal land management agencies often share radio and other communication systems operated by other Federal agencies, and state and local cooperators. While this is a standard operating procedure in many offices, communication can be on an ad-hoc basis and lead to limited operability. Typically, primary agencies provide radios to partner agency participants and these partner agencies add additional radios to establish a combined communications network. Due to the differing systems used by these cooperating agencies, continued cooperation and collaboration is needed to achieve a combined system that is useful across a diverse set of situations. The functional needs of each system vary widely based on the specific situations being addressed (e.g. drug enforcement, firefighting, resource management operations, and/or aviation operations). Issues arise when these combined networks cannot provide the functionality that is required. This demonstrates the need to work collaboratively to establish a cohesive set of user requirements that address both individual agency requirements and collective operational needs. Once established these requirements will be used to better orchestrate development of an interactive radio system that will enhance safe operations and meet the needs of users in a cost effective and efficient manner.

2. Project Objective / Scope

The goal of the project is to identify the opportunities to develop interoperability among land management agencies in multiple bands and modes of radio systems; ultimately providing a comprehensive set of options that can be applied to meet the business needs of the radio community in diverse situations.

This requires full radio interconnectivity and interoperability between all devices in field-to-field, field-to-dispatch center and all dispatch center communications at the Federal, State, local and Tribal levels. This includes air-to-air and air-to-ground radio communications.

- This deliverable will result in a standing set of user requirements for radio based on a wide degree of functionality.
- The project will develop evaluation criteria and performance measures for the proposed solutions from a program management perspective (training, maintenance, service, etc.),
- Project deliverables shall include an “as-is” statement, “to-be” statement and gap analysis.
- A deliverable will be creation of a standardized methodology for proactive outreach to industry for obtaining appropriate vendor support.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Project Sponsor(s): *Vaughn Stokes, CIO-USDAFS, Sanjeev Bhagowalia, CIO-DOI*

Project Champion(s): *Kim Thorsen, LEI-DOI, Michael Williams, LEI- USDAFS, Rick Prausa, F&AM USDAFS, Kirk Rowdabaugh, F&AM DOI*

Project Manager: *Andy Jones*

Customer: *Interagency Land Management field going personnel, Interagency Wildland Fire Community, Interagency Law Enforcement Community*

Project Team: IIOG members listed below will work to ensure that the project team is provided field knowledgeable representatives as team members.

Name	Agency
Russ Sveda	DOI
Jimmie Porter	USDA FS
Carl Gossard – BLM & FS – Project Advisor	BLM
Kim Thorsen - DOI LEI	DOI
Michael Williams – FS LEI	
Rick Prausa – FS F&AM	
Kirk Rowdabaugh	
Matt Cnudde	FS / NIFC

4. Project Approach

The project will be conducted in at least 2 phases. Phase 1 will address, define and propose the standing set of user requirements. The tasks which are part of Phase 2 will use these requirements to identify potential benchmark candidate technology in the development of options and a potential set of interagency enterprise solutions which support a wide array of needs.

5. Project Deliverables - Any potential solutions need to be validated with the user community.

- A standing set of user requirements developed through outreach to users throughout all affected agencies.
- Description of the current situation (as-is), potential solutions (to-be) and a gap analysis and road map to the future.
- Standard methodology for proactive outreach to industry for obtaining appropriate vendor support in the development of solutions.
- Standard set of enterprise technical solutions to address interoperability gaps and potential solutions for the future.
- Titles of deliverables and appropriate target dates
- Description of any resources needed to complete this project that are not currently available in the existing IRA membership.
- A marketing strategy and communication plan are essential to the success of this project.

6. Constraints and Assumptions - Members of the IRA do not have the technical expertise and resources to conduct the needs analysis, which are key components of obtaining the standing set of user requirements.

- The IRA will rely on the assistance of representatives of several lines of business throughout the respective agencies to develop these requirements.
- Contract support may be necessary for requirements gathering and content analysis.
- Contract support may be needed for final documentation development.

7. References

- *Meeting notes and conference calls*
- *Existing literature or previous efforts/studies*

8. Project Facilities and Resources

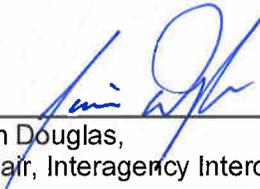
To the extent possible, work of the IRA and sub-teams will be funded through assignments to already fully funded personnel for salary, travel and expenses. Funding needs for unplanned activities such as contract actions will be presented to the IIOG leadership for consideration and action.

9. Performance Measures

Task	Due	Status
Draft Charter for IIOG consideration / feedback	6/10/09	complete
Revise Charter based on feedback 7/30/09 from IIOG	8/10/09	complete
Finalize Charter for IIOG approval/signature	8/12/09	complete 8/7/09
Project Plan with roadmap	12/31/09	

10. Approval

This Charter for the Interagency Radio Systems Study (IRSS) is approved by the Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group (IIOG) as written.



Jim Douglas,
Chair, Interagency Interoperability Oversight Group

Aug. 7, 2009
Date