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Newport News Awards Federal Engineering Consulting Contract for Public Safety Mobile Radio Alternatives Analysis

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA, May 9, 2011 —The City of Newport News, Virginia has awarded Federal Engineering, Inc. (**FE**) a contract to evaluate the City's public safety radio system and recommend upgrade alternatives.

Mr. Andy Stein, the Information Technology Director, described the project: "Newport News currently has an aging 800 MHz trunked radio system serving approximately 3,600 public safety and non-public safety subscribers. The system is reaching the end of its useful life and City technical staff will soon find it difficult to support. Federal Engineering will conduct a needs assessment including user interviews to determine current and future requirements. **FE** will visit and survey the City's transmitter sites to assess the condition, age, utility, and reliability of repeaters, base stations, control equipment, microwave backbone, and dispatch radio equipment systems. **FE** will also assess whether the existing physical infrastructure at each site is adequate to accommodate new/upgraded equipment based upon the needs assessment results."

Mr Stein continued: "**FE** will develop a *Newport News Communications System Design and Recommendations Report* based upon the data collected in previous tasks. This report will include a description of each solution, a description of the alternatives analysis and selection process, **FE's** evaluation approach, high level designs of the selected solution(s), estimated implementation schedules, cost analysis, and next steps. The Wireless Communications Management team consisting of Mr. Patrick Biron, Ms. Linda Boring and Mr. Ed Guerrero, are tasked to assist **FE** and review the analysis."

Mr. Ronald F. Bosco, **FE's** President, indicated: "Federal Engineering has completed numerous projects in the Hampton Roads Region for the ORION consortium including the participating cities of Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Chesapeake, Newport News, and Norfolk. The firm has a broad understanding of Newport News' unique needs as well as the options available in the area. With **FE's** assistance, the City will be in a better position to leverage previous investments, maximize the use of the current infrastructure, and review the benefits of potentially sharing resources with adjacent municipalities and/or the ORION system thereby lowering costs to the City. In addition, **FE's** six plus years designing public safety radio networks in the Hampton Roads Region will ensure interoperability with other municipalities. **FE** is very excited about this project with its potential for cross boundary collaboration and the prospects of leveraging the investments of two or more jurisdictions to deliver higher value at lower cost to all."

FE provides a wide range of land mobile radio analysis, design, procurement support, and implementation management services for public safety, public service, transportation, and energy systems. The firm also provides security analyses, disaster recovery planning, strategic assessments, product analyses, market research, and business planning services in telecommunications and related fields.