

Rep. Steve Dargan
Sen. Joan Hartley
Public Safety Committee

My Name is Doug Curtiss, I am the president of Sonitrol New England in Rocky Hill Ct. We are a central station alarm company serving the Hartford, East Hartford, Newington, Wethersfield Schools to name just a few. In our 40 year history of serving these Connecticut Communities , we have never faced the challenges we now face after Sandy Hook.

I am here to support proposed bill number 299, but to amend it to broaden the focus beyond pure radio communications. In a post 911 world, the Federal Government mandated First Responders to adopt standards to allow their existing radios to communicate between fire, police, and EMS. radios to address the issue in 2001, when firemen climbing the stairs of the World Trade Center could not talk to Police commanders because they were on different radio networks.

12 years later, as the Internet and mobile communications have been widely deployed, First Responders racing to a first person shooter incident in a school need more than radio communications; they need to share radio, telephone, video, audio, and floor plans to effectively respond to a Sandy Hook, or 911 type incident.

We have deployed a technology in partnership with another Connecticut Company Mutualink to address the federal mandates for Interoperability. Mutualink is a secure Internet enabled workstation, located at Police/Fire dispatch, Hospital, School, EMS, alarm company which allow those First Responders to share radio, telephone, video, audio, and floor plans during an incident. Police, fire, State Police can talk to each other across their existing separate radio networks. If a police Commander in the field, needs to view video from inside a school during a shooter response, it is available on his IPAD, iPhone or Android device. An EMS technician responding to a choking incident in a school cafeteria, can patch in the local hospital emergency room in real time so doctors can advise and consult.

This technology is deployed today and can facilitate the State Police, and other First Responders. It is cost effective because it utilizes existing radio, telephone, camera and other infrastructure. It allows all those devices in Schools, Hospital, Police, Fire and EMS dispatch centers to share each other's resources during and incident.

It is proven technology.

Mutualink has been designated the official Interoperability Standard for NATO Special Operations and is widely deployed in Afghanistan. You might imagine the challenge of getting separate radio systems to communicate with each other for English, American, French, Italian troops deployed in a war Zone. Mutualink was the solution.

When Capt Scully put his Airbus down in the Hudson River, Mutualink was the communication Network used by the Port Authority of NJ whose cameras had eyes on the Hudson, to share that video with local hospitals in NJ to anticipate the level of casualties before they arrived at the Emergency Room.

When Hurricane Sandy came ashore in New Jersey, Mutualink was used by First Responders to coordinate the response. Since it based on the Internet, the network survived individual failures in local telephone or radio infrastructure.

And here in Hartford, our Capital City, Mutualink is being deployed as we speak, through the vision of Chief Jim Ravella, at the Hartford Police EOC, ST Francis Hospital, University of Hartford, Trinity College, and here at the State Capital at the Command Center LOB.

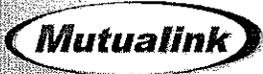
In short, I believe that proposed bill number 299 has too narrow a vision. It specifies a single radio network, the State Police Statewide Network, be used to coordinate response.

Interoperability technology would allow not only the State Police Network to be used, but also all the exiting local Police and Fire Radios to work in concert.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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GREATER HARTFORD IRAPP

Greater Hartford, State of Connecticut Interoperable Response and Preparedness Platform (IRAPP)

Enhancing Joint Situational Awareness and Advancing a Common Operating Picture Framework through a Real-time Communications, Multimedia Information Sharing and Collaboration Platform



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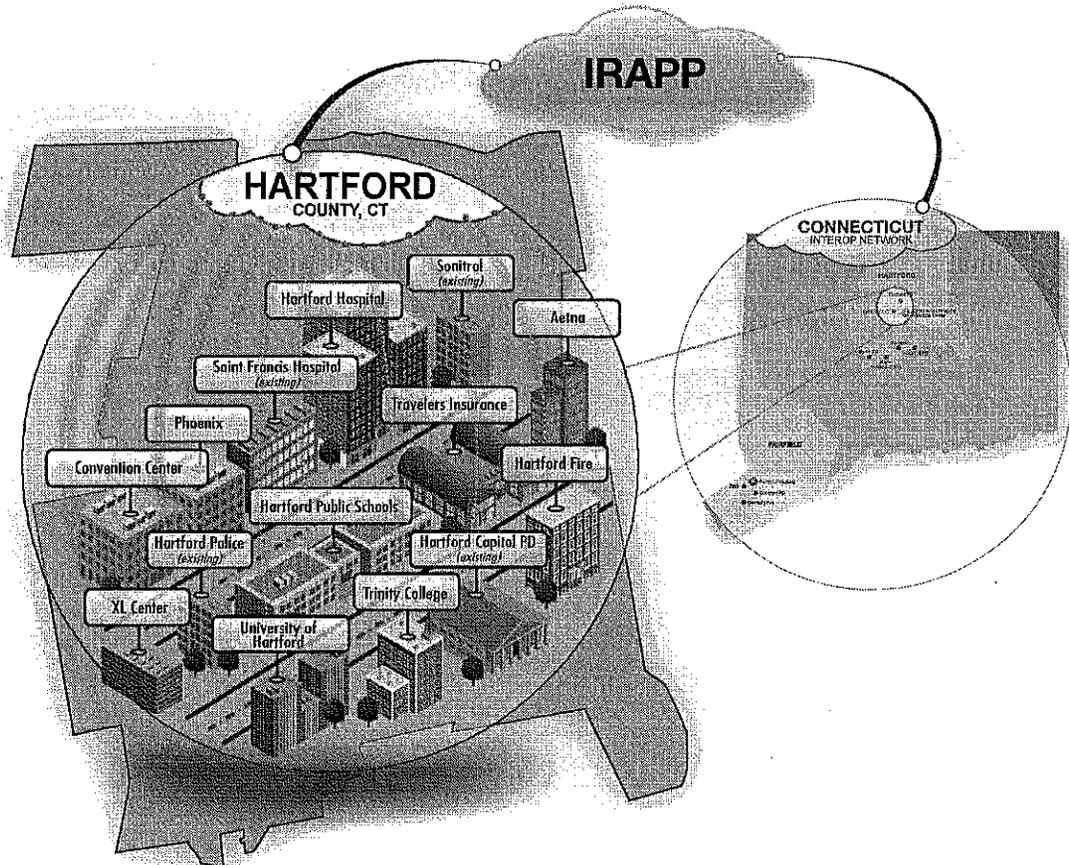
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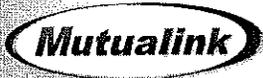
GREATER HARTFORD IRAPP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT VISION: In an effort to lead the creation of an innovative, low cost and scalable “all hazards” interoperable emergency communications and collaboration network, The Greater Hartford IRAPP Network (IRAPP) will enable the ad-hoc, real-time bridging of disparate communications systems as well as sharing of streaming video and data across emergency response agencies and critical community assets. The IRAPP Network will be a dynamic collaboration environment that will provide an agile and scalable emergency preparedness, response and recovery capability. This new capability will facilitate improved multi-agency joint command and control and real-time situational awareness while enlarging the functional interoperable communications sphere to include other key assets and partners.

THE NEED: Despite intensive efforts to implement interoperable communications among partner agencies within the region, comprehensive and flexible interoperable communications and information sharing capabilities remain challenged, especially when considering critical infrastructure and key resources assets (CIKR). Furthermore, while agencies have achieved greater collaboration and information sharing capabilities, this has not yet created a common operating picture capability or agile collaboration environment within an all hazards context. The reasons for this are multi-fold including: (i) the fact that there are numerous disparate communications and video systems in place; (ii) the cost to move every agency onto a





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single communications platform is expensive; (iii) agencies wish to maintain jurisdictional and sovereign control over their communications, video and data assets. These challenges increase when other governmental agencies and private sector entities are considered in the mix. Yet, the most significant step towards improving community-wide resiliency lies in effective emergency planning and active coordinated response within a shared awareness framework. Providing a means for real-time collaboration and communications across all key entities is essential to achieving an improved state of readiness and resiliency. This project sets the foundational steps to implement a comprehensive multi-regional interoperable communications and collaboration capability using an innovative, low cost solution that overcomes the traditional challenges to interoperability.

POLICY PRIORITY: As stated in the State of Connecticut's Enhanced Public Safety Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP), and aligned with the Nation's strategic homeland security goals, this project is based on a scalable "all hazards, all disciplines" approach that includes CIKR. The proposed project directly advances these goals by providing a scalable, low cost and effective platform for real-time interoperable communications, information sharing and collaboration across agencies and community CIKR assets on a dynamic ad-hoc basis.

SOLUTION OVERVIEW: The IRAPP Network employs Mutualink technology. This technology is unique in that it overcomes the major hurdles to implementing a pervasive interoperable communications capability, because: (i) it is cost effective by utilizing existing communications assets; (ii) it utilizes a highly secure IP standards based internet networking infrastructure, eliminating additional network costs; (iii) it is scalable and modular allowing parties to join as and when funding permits rather than requiring a monolithic build-out, (iv) participants retain sovereign control over their communications systems because controlling intelligence is distributed to the edge and no central server or administrative control point exists, (v) it is very easy to use, meaning a broader spectrum of participants can use it, and (vi) it is a "bridging" technology that can handle both legacy and new radio protocols allowing an effective pathway to next generation radio systems which various jurisdictions may pursue in the future.

The solution consists of intelligent end-point devices that can interface with existing communications and multimedia systems, as such radio systems, video distribution systems, telephone systems, mobile phones, and intercom system or other IP based systems. Once connected into IRAPP via a secure broadband internet connection, these assets can then communicate, as well as share video and other data in real-time with other IRAPP network participants who have been invited into the same secure incident session. Participation in the incident session is controlled solely by each participant through an interoperable work station (IWS) which allows for communications with invited participants and for the participant to dynamically add or remove their various communications assets to or from an incident as the circumstance dictates and as the communications asset owner desires. Other members on the network can be seen and can be invited to join an incident at any time. This provides a dynamic ad-hoc capability that allows the right parties to be joined as the circumstances of an emergency require. Only participants who are in a secure incident session can hear or monitor communications. All other members on the network do not know an incident is occurring until they are invited to join.



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NETWORK PARTICIPATION:

The following agencies in the region are currently on the IRAPP network:

- Hartford Police Department
- City of Hartford Capitol Police Department
- St. Francis Hospital

It is the goal of this project to ultimately have every major agency and critical community asset within the State of Connecticut participating on the IRAPP Network. Each participant will be able to join the network as and when they desire and when their funding permits. Through advanced auto-detection capabilities, as new participants join the network, existing member directories will automatically be updated without any cost or intervention. Due to the system's unique peer based virtual and distributed network architecture, as additional agencies join IRAPP, the new agency bears their hardware and network related costs. Finally, because the technology uses and adapts to any type of broadband internet capability, participants have the flexibility to utilize any type of connection which best serves them.