



The Honourable D.F (Yogi) Huyghebaert, Minister of Corrections, Public Safety & Policing, recently released information on the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN) to the public. The new system will replace Fleetnet and will provide a secure, reliable and affordable link between public safety providers in Saskatchewan. CPSP has been working on the planning and development phase of this project for several years, in partnership with SaskPower and the RCMP.

The implementation phase will begin in several weeks—in mid-December—when CPSP will start to accept applications for those agencies wishing to participate on the system. The first radios should be available in spring 2010, with full implementation of the system by December of that year.

**Here are a few highlights, as announced by the Minister:**

- The operating fee for users of the PPSTN will be \$40 per month per radio. The actual cost is \$90 per month with the difference being funded by a 24-cent increase in the Sask 911 charge on consumer phone bills.
- Once the system is up and running, Government will have invested \$130 million in developing, building and work toward maintaining the required infrastructure. To make the system more cost effective, it is being built and maintained in partnership with the RCMP and SaskPower.
- As well, \$4.5 million has been allocated for providing radios to participating agencies this year.
- Radios will be issued to participating public safety agencies according to their basic operational needs.

The system will provide an important telecommunications link between public safety responders in the province. Good communications help ensure the safety of the responders and better service to the public.

CPSP thanks SUMA, SARM, the Saskatchewan Fire Chiefs Association, the health regions, and the other public safety response organizations, agencies and individuals who helped us with their comments and suggestions. We are all committed to the safety, security and health of the residents of Saskatchewan.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by phoning 1-888-953-3693 or e-mailing us at [PPSTN@gov.sk.ca](mailto:PPSTN@gov.sk.ca)**

**Please look over the enclosed comprehensive information package. Watch the PPSTN website at [www.cpsp.gov.sk.ca/ppstn](http://www.cpsp.gov.sk.ca/ppstn) for further information on the project and how to apply for radios and service.**



## **Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN)**

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### **Radio System**

**Q. What is a Public Safety radio system?**

- A. A Public Safety radio system is one that is specifically designed and operated for the public safety community. Such systems are constructed to address the demanding requirements of public safety communications such as coverage, interoperability, capacity availability and reliability.

**Q. Who are the users of a Public Safety Radio System?**

- A. Some of the users of Saskatchewan's new public safety radio communications system will include municipal fire and police, emergency medical services, volunteer search and rescue chapters, Environment, Corrections, Highways and other government agencies.

These organizations represent a total of around 4,700 users from public safety agencies and government organizations.

**Q. Why do we need a Provincial Public Safety Radio System?**

- A. SaskTel's FleetNet system will be discontinued in December 2010. Government needs to invest in a province-wide, public safety radio system that provides agencies responding to emergencies with a reliable means to communicate with the Sask911 Public Safety Answering Points, dispatch services and other responding agencies.

**Q. What does the System offer its users?**

- A. The System is based on a public safety grade Project 25 (P25) network that is specifically designed and operated to service the public safety community in the Province. Such public safety systems are inherently costly to construct and to operate; however, they provide reliable emergency communications that address requirements such as interoperability, coverage, capacity and availability to more effectively respond to emergencies in an efficient and coordinated manner.



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**Q. How much will Saskatchewan's public safety radio system cost?**

A. The overall investment in the system will be approximately \$130 million.

**Q. Will this new system operate everywhere responders will need it?**

A. The system will provide coverage for emergency responses involving 99 per cent of Saskatchewan residents.

### **Governance of the PPSTN**

**Q. Why isn't a Crown agency like SaskTel responsible for operating and maintaining the network?**

A. The PPSTN is a public safety network; not a commercial network. The PPSTN provides negligible profit-generating potential for commercial Crown Corporations because of the expense of operating it.

Crown Investments Corporation supports the proposed governance structure.

**Q. What is SaskTel's role in the new network?**

A. During the PPSTN planning stages, CPSP committed to co-location of facilities with SaskTel, as well using their services and other facilities.

In the future, a significant portion of PPSTN operating costs will be co-location and telecommunications services purchased from SaskTel.

**Q. Will the users have any say in the ongoing operation of the network?**

A. Yes. The Ministry has established a public safety user committee to consult on issues of affordability and system serviceability.



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### **A Single Monthly Provincial Rate**

**Q. How did the Province arrive at the \$40/radio/month to operate on the PPSTN?**

- A. A monthly charge of \$40 per radio was established for the following reasons:
- SaskTel's FleetNet "protective services" subsidized user fees ranged from \$28 to \$35 per month;
  - Government has indicated that a new telecommunication network will not cost appreciably more than what users were paying on FleetNet; and therefore, subscribers will pay \$40/radio/month.

**Q. What are SaskPower and RCMP paying for user fees?**

- A. Each party is responsible for its own funding sources and for any expenses of their users.

### **Radio Purchase Plan**

**Q. What do you mean by "based on basic operational needs"?**

- A. "Basic operational needs" refers to a sufficient radio communications capacity to meet the basic requirements for primary frontline emergency response units to provide:
- communication capacity with dispatch services;
  - communication capacity with other primary frontline emergency response units; and,
  - basic on-scene tactical command and control capacity.

**Q. What if I need more radios than are provided?**

- A. Each agency can purchase additional radios, at their cost, using their normal procurement practices or the established standing offers. These standing offers were established to provide the opportunity for bulk purchase pricing and are available to any of the user agencies.



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**Q. Do Government ministries qualify to receive radios under this plan?**

A. No. Government radios will not qualify under this purchase plan. Each Ministry will go through the normal Government budget process to purchase their radios.

**Q. When will radios be available and how will we get the best price?**

A. It is anticipated that agencies will be able to order their radio equipment by the end of December, 2009.

Standing offers are being negotiated with those vendors whose radio equipment has been successfully tested on the PPSTN. It is expected that these standing offers will provide agencies the 'best price' on approved radio equipment.

**Q. My municipality contracts policing services from the RCMP, will I need to pay additional costs for policing services (radios)?**

A. No. The RCMP will continue to manage the radios for those municipalities that contract policing services with them.

### **General Questions**

**Why is it important for Government to provide financial support to the public safety users in fire and emergency response?**

A. It is important because:

- the success of the PPSTN depends on broad-based user participation;
- public safety grade radio systems are costly to build and operate as they must meet higher performance and reliability standards; and,
- municipalities and fire departments in rural Saskatchewan have advised Government that the cost of signing onto the network must be affordable in order for them to participate.



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**Q. When can we get onto the system?**

- A. The primary migration period for existing FleetNet users is expected to be between April 1, 2010 and November 30, 2010.

Migration priority will be given to those users currently operating on the FleetNet system in order to mitigate any risks to their communication services in the event of major system failure to FleetNet.

**Q. Is it mandatory that our municipality participate on the PPSTN?**

- A. No. Participation is voluntary, however participation is encouraged. Broad participation provides for the highest levels of interoperability resulting in better public safety communications and response.

**Q. Will commercial users be allowed on the PPSTN?**

- A. No. The network is designed solely for public safety and public service agencies.

**Q. How do I enquire about applying to get onto the system?**

- A. Contact the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network office at 1-888-953-3693 or email us at [PPSTN@gov.sk.ca](mailto:PPSTN@gov.sk.ca)

**Q. How do we order the radios?**

- A. You must apply as a qualifying agency through your jurisdictional authority to order radio equipment supplied as part of this program. Please contact us to learn more about ordering additional radios.

**Q. Who pays for shipping of equipment to my agency?**

- A. The program will cover the costs of shipping the initial order of radios to your agency. All subsequent shipping costs for maintenance and repair will be the responsibility of the agency

**Q. Do I have to buy radio accessories?**

- A. Program allocated mobile radios come with basic mounting apparatus. Portable radios come with antenna, battery and one charger per agency. All additional accessories such as vehicle antennas, cabling, microphones, etc. are the responsibility of the agency.



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**Q. Who pays for mobile installation?**

A. The user agency is responsible for all installation, maintenance and repair costs.

**Q. Will there be an installation guide for radios?**

A. A video and written installation guide will be provided with the radios.

**Q. Does installation have to be done by specific dealers?**

A. No, but it is recommended that experienced installers be utilized to ensure proper equipment operation—installation is the responsibility of the agency

**Q. Who do I call for help with the application process and later with the radios?**

A. Contact PPSTN at 1-888-953-3693 or e-mail [PPSTN@gov.sk.ca](mailto:PPSTN@gov.sk.ca)

**Q. When will I get my radios?**

A. After your agency has successfully completed the application process, you will be allocated radios on a first-come, first-served basis. It is anticipated that the first radios will be issued in spring 2010.

**Q. What kind, type and quantity of radios will be supplied to my agency?**

A. CPSP has completed a tender for radios and will be utilizing a bulk purchase system to order the radios. There are currently four approved vendors. Radios will be allocated in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of the Fire Commissioner – contact us for details.

**Q. Can I purchase additional radios and if so what type and make?**

A. You may purchase additional radios at your own cost through CPSP's standing offer process. Any equipment purchased must be on the approved manufacture list and programmed by the PPSTN.

**Q. Will different makes of radios on this system “talk” to each other?**

A. Users will be able to communicate with each other utilizing PPSTN approved radio equipment.



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**Q. When will we switch over to the new system?**

A. Transition or migration is dependent:

- network readiness in your area;
- dispatch center readiness for your agency; and
- successful application and readiness process by your agency.

It is anticipated that the first migration of users will occur in April 2010.

**Q. If I am not a Fleetnet user, can I come onto the new system?**

A. Immediate priority for transition or migration will be for current Fleetnet user agencies, however, once that priority has been satisfied – qualifying agencies may participate.

**Q. What do I have to do to get ready?**

A. Contact CPSP for more information.

**Q. Who owns the radio equipment allocated under this program?**

A. The Government of Saskatchewan retains ownership, however, the user agency is responsible for all damage, maintenance and repair costs.

**Q. Is there a deadline for applications?**

A. In applying, please adhere to the following application guidelines:

- Current Fleetnet users should apply by January 30, 2010.
- If you are a current Fleetnet user and do not wish to participate in the PPSTN program, you must provide written documentation of the decision your Council or other decision-making body by January 30, 2010.
- If you do not presently use Fleetnet and wish to move to the PPSTN program, you should apply no later than December 31, 2010.



## Basic Operational Needs Guidelines

**Scope:** The terms and definitions of “Basic Operational Need(s)” refers to the provision of radio communications equipment to qualifying frontline emergency response agencies participating in the PPSTN.

1. Qualifying frontline agencies for this program include:
  - a) Municipal fire and rescue services,
  - b) Municipal police
  - c) EMS services
  - d) Provincial ministries and agencies
  - e) Volunteer search and rescue chapters
2. Basic Operational Need(s) refers to radio communications capacity to meet the basic requirements for frontline emergency response units:
  - a) To provide communication capacity with dispatch services.
  - b) To provide communication capacity with other frontline emergency response units.
  - c) To provide basic on-scene tactical command and control capacity.
3. Radio communication equipment to address the “Basic Operational Needs” will be allocated as follows:
  - a) Mobile radio including basic dash or trunk mounting hardware.
  - b) Portable radios including portable antenna, single battery and single charger.
  - c) Associated costs to be borne by the user agency include:
    - i. Accessories such as antennas, cabling, harnesses, microphones, portable carrying cases.
    - ii. Installation costs of any kind.
    - iii. Delivery/Freight costs of equipment.
    - iv. All maintenance and repair costs.
    - v. All additional VHF frequency licensing costs.
4. Frontline emergency response agencies will be allocated equipment as follows per agency:
  - a) Municipal fire and rescue: one (1) mobile or portable radio for each front line ULC approved response apparatus; one (1) mobile or portable for regional rescue response apparatus; one (1) additional portable for command and control purposes per agency.
  - b) Municipal police: Two point Two-Five (2.25) radios per front line patrol response vehicles in any combination of mobile or portable radios.
  - c) EMS services: Equipment will be allocated following guidelines established by the Ministry of Health to address their basic operational needs.



- d) Provincial ministries and agencies: Equipment will be allocated following guidelines established by the respective Ministries and agencies.
  - e) Volunteer search and rescue chapters: Two (2) portable radios per chapter
  - f) Additional or alternative allocations will be at the discretion of the Office of the Fire Commissioner.
  - g) Agencies may purchase additional radios at their cost for deployment along with those radios allocated through this program.
5. The Government of Saskatchewan will retain ownership of all equipment it has purchased and distributed through the program and allocated to User Agencies.