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Narrowbanding Mandate Prompts Hospital to Upgrade Radios



“Like other people in this industry, we were faced with the dilemma of rebanding our old wideband analog system,” says Baptist Health Systems Director of Security W.S. “Bill” Turcotte. Truer words could not be said as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) end-of-year narrowband deadline approaches quickly. For those who do not migrate to at least 12.5kHz channel bandwidth by January 1, 2013, the FCC promises harsh penalties including admonishment, hefty fines, difficulty in obtaining future licenses, and even loss of communication.

When Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Miss. was ready to upgrade its aging radio system, Authorized Icom Dealer Ozborn Communications assisted the award-winning hospital with an ultra-narrowband system that could meet current and future FCC mandates. “The hospital didn’t want to be faced with buying something now and having to purchase again later,” says Ozborn Communications Owner Mike Ozborn. “We immediately thought of Icom’s IDAS™ 6.25 kHz digital solution and haven’t been disappointed.”

Baptist Medical Center’s main campus is in downtown Jackson, covering approximately 900,000 square feet. The Center comprises a main 6-story building, 2 parking structures, 3 medical offices, a healthplex, and surface parking. Additionally, Baptist Health System clinics and office buildings are spread throughout the metropolitan area. Roughly 3,000 campus employees help the hospital admit approximately 21,000 patients annually.

The hospital configured a two-channel UHF IDAS™ single-site trunking, with the FR6000 repeater, nearly 60 F4101D portables, and two F6101D mobile base stations for the dispatch center. Although the radios are used primarily for security, the system works across multiple departments such as maintenance and

“We are impressed that IDAS™ can accommodate more talkgroups and additional units as our needs arise.”

– **Bill Turcotte**, Baptist Health Systems Director of Security

Narrowbanding Mandate Prompts Hospital to Upgrade Radios (cont'd)



housekeeping. Administrators are also equipped with radios to supervise operations. Prior to the radio upgrade, security staff had to use hospital telephones to call for assistance or backup from other departments. “Having the radios has made such a difference with communicating with various support staff,” says Turcotte.

Additionally, a handful of portables made their way into the hospital’s surgical suites—a department that occupies almost an entire floor of the building. Communicating via two-way radios gave the staff the ability to work more efficiently. “The installation was a great opportunity to provide that department with radios, earpieces, and microphones,” concedes Turcotte.

The installation also proved successful during Hurricane Isaac, which hit southeastern region of the United States in August 2012. “The system was put into use during the recent hurricane that made landfall just to our southwest,” relays Turcotte. “Administrators were impressed with the system’s capabilities and utilized them during the 3-day event.”

According to Ozborn, the equipment works as expected and he hasn’t heard of any complaints. “We’re pleased with Ozborn Communication’s service and support,” says Turcotte. “You can depend on Mike [Ozborn]. He has taken ‘ownership’ of the project, making certain the equipment is working properly and assisting with any user problems.” Of the Icom radios, Turcotte says the hospital is satisfied with the value and cost of system. “We are impressed that IDAS™ can accommodate more talkgroups and additional units as our needs arise.”



Page 1: Baptist Medical Center
Above: Baptist Health Systems facility

Baptist Health Systems in Jackson, Miss. is the parent company of Baptist Medical Center. To learn more about Baptist Health Systems, visit <http://www.mbhs.org>.

University Gets Ready for Game Day and Narrowbanding



The F4001 Series and other Icom radios are rigorously tested under strict environmental standards.



For universities and colleges across the country, the fall season signals a new academic school year. For Florida State University (FSU), this time of year also means the start of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 programs—most notably, Seminoles football. While Florida State’s 41,000 students and 2,300 faculty members gear up for the 2012-2013 year, the school’s Athletics department has its own deadline to meet: narrowbanding.

Authorized Icom Dealer Tallahassee 2-Way Radio Systems is well acquainted with FSU, earning the University’s business by meeting competitive bid requirements and often by word-of-mouth recommendations. Tallahassee 2-Way’s Icom installations are currently utilized throughout the 450-acre campus, in various departments such as Grounds and Maintenance. Earlier this year, Tallahassee 2-Way Radio Owner Mike O’Brien installed an IDAS™ solution for the University’s new health center and Icom radios for the Coaches Video department.

To modernize its radio system and cut down on repair cost for older radios, the FSU Athletics department submitted a bid opportunity for a communications upgrade. Tallahassee 2-Way was awarded the contract and installation

occurred in mid-Summer 2012—just in time for the fall sports season.

Approximately 20 F4001 series portables and 3 FR5000 series repeaters were added to the Athletics department’s existing fleet of Icom radios. The narrowband-compliant radios are utilized on a day-to-day basis, but find maximum use during home games at Campbell Stadium (a venue that accommodates up to 83,000 fans). With personnel carrying an abundance of equipment during events, the F4001 handheld’s convenient size and durability are great benefits to its users. Additionally, the new repeaters have also expanded coverage.

The Athletics department has been satisfied with Tallahassee 2-Way’s service and the recent installation. “Mike [O’Brien] is sensitive to our budget and easy to communicate with,” says Stuart Pearce, FSU Assistant Director of Event Management. Pearce adds that the department has had “very good success with the handhelds and two new repeaters.”

Above: Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA. (Photo source: Michele Edmunds)

Your Radio Solutions Partner

Featured Product

IDAS™ F3261D Handheld



Released in September 2012, the F3261D Series waterproof handheld joins Icom's narrowband compliant IDAS™ product line. Select versions have built-in GPS and a "man down" function that automatically sends an emergency signal when the radio is left in a horizontal position for a preset period. Other features include:

- 800mW loud audio
- IP67 rating
- "Lone Worker" function
- Built-in voice scrambler
- 14-pin accessory connector
- Large full dot-matrix LCD
- 10.5-12.5 hours of avg. battery life
- 512 memory channels, 128 zones

http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/landmobile/portables/f3261_series/default.aspx

College Communications Enhanced with IDAS™

The Ohio Union at Ohio State University (OSU) is a student-focused building that "exists to enhance collegiate experience," according to the school's website. Occupying approximately 318,000 square feet and spanning 4 levels of multi-purpose space, the Ohio Union is a venue that students, university departments, corporate clients and the Columbus community frequent on a daily basis.

When confronted with the impending narrowband deadline and aging 15-year-old Motorola equipment, OSU turned to Authorized Icom Dealer BearCom for the Ohio Union's system update. BearCom Account Executive Ed Rauck has worked with OSU for over 20 years, installing radio equipment for various campus departments such as facilities and athletics. After performing a demonstration of Icom radios alongside other manufacturer's equipment, OSU selected Icom "for the radio's comfortable size, clear digital voice and sound quality, and competitive pricing," says Rauck. "The Icom digital radios fit the bill."

The IDAS™ installation took place in Summer 2012 and included radio programming and engraving for approximately 80 F4101D portable radios. BearCom also supplied 3 F6121D base stations, microphones, chargers and other accessories. "The system is used by people in maintenance, housekeeping, catering and event management," says Rauck. "Many employees were previous two-way radio users, so little training was required."

Now that the Autumn 2012 semester is in full swing, the Ohio Union experiences constant activity throughout its communal areas, 34 meeting rooms, 4 food service establishments, retail store and 2 parking garages. As for



Above: The Ohio Union at The Ohio State University (Photo source: Robert Chriss)

the complex's communications, Rauck reports that OSU's system "is up and running" and "everything is working as promised."



Your Radio Solutions Partner

Looking for P25 Information?



Learn more about P25 (Project 25) including its advantages, the phases of development, and Icom's commitment to providing interoperable radios that meet the needs of P25 industry users.

<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/landmobile/p25/p25/default.aspx>



Less Than 100 Days Left to Narrowband



The Time Is Now!

Starting January 1, 2013, all public safety and business radio land mobile radio (LMR) users are required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to convert their existing 25kHz sideband systems to at least 12.5kHz efficiency technology. LMR users who do not comply with the FCC mandate are subject to expensive fines and even loss of communication capabilities.

Icom offers narrowband solutions for business/industry users and the P25 market. With IDAS™, surpass current FCC requirements and future-proof your communications system at 6.25kHz digital efficiency. System benefits include seamless migration, IP connectivity, multi-site trunking, and mixed mode operation.

Icom P25 products are full-featured and military-tested, meeting the interoperable and physically demanding requirements for the public safety sector and other markets. Icom's CAP-compliant F9011 Series portable and F9511 Series mobile are ideal radios for entities that receive federal grant funding.

<http://www.icomamerica.com/idas625>

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