



**Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission**

P.O. BOX 60660 • 2910 LAFORCE BOULEVARD • MIDLAND, TEXAS 79711-0660 • (432) 563-1061 • FAX (432) 563-1728

TERRI MOORE  
Executive Director

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:  
Barney Welch (432) 563-1061  
Director, Homeland Security,  
Interoperability Project Manager

### Region-Wide P25 Trunking Radio Interoperability a Reality *The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission achieves multi-million dollar public safety regional system build-out*

MIDLAND, TX. – The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC) has achieved the successful region-wide infrastructure build-out of a public safety P25 trunking radio interoperable communications system. The system is “live” across the region’s 17 counties and 29 cities, as well as several neighboring counties, including along the U.S. and Mexico border.

This system provides mostly VHF and some 800 MHz “metro” mobile radio coverage, utilizing interoperability between public safety agencies having P25 capabilities. P25 is a nation-wide standard adopted by federal, as well as state and local public safety governmental entities. Trunking allows the sharing of relatively few radio frequency channels among a large group of users assigned to “talk groups.” The regional P25 system’s ARC 4000 master controller or “switch” is owned and maintained by the City of Odessa, the system administrator.

The Permian Basin is one of the few regions among the 24 councils of governments (COG) planning areas in the state of Texas that has achieved this level of region-wide, radio communications interoperability.

PBRPC officials will formally announce this achievement at a **news conference scheduled for 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 10, 2013 in the agency’s Board Room, 2910 LaForce Boulevard, Midland International Airport Terminal Complex.**

“Attaining this level of public safety radio interoperability is transformative for the Permian Basin’s emergency communications capabilities across our region,” **said Ector County Judge Susan Redford**, Chair of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission’s Board of Directors. “This system provides vital communications capability to our first responders at the local, state, and federal levels, improving their ability to coordinate response efforts in a timelier manner to save lives and protect property.”

The system commonly referred to as the Permian Basin Regional Interoperable Communications System (PBRICS), supports the goals and objectives of the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan, the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP).

The interoperability system's infrastructure build-out was made possible through federal grants from the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Commerce, through the Office of the Governor, funding from the U. S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, through the Texas J Regional Advisory Council (JRAC), and local revenue funding, all totaling approximately \$13 million and accomplished over a period of five years. The build-out involved utilizing existing tower sites or building new ones, including towers and shelters at 15 strategically placed locations across the region, all tied back to a master controller for system network administration, through an agreement with the City of Odessa. In addition, the investment includes nearly 1,000 new radios or radio firmware upgrades were purchased for local jurisdiction public safety fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and emergency management.

Public safety and other governmental or private entity disciplines with over 2600 subscribers using the system include the 17 counties, Midland and Odessa, and many of the Permian Basin's rural cities. Also included are educational institution law enforcement agencies at Odessa College and The University of Texas of The Permian Basin, nearly 18 rural and regional medical facilities, such as the Odessa Regional Medical Center, Medical Center Hospital, and Midland Memorial Hospital, state agencies including the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Transportation, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the State Comptroller's Office, and federal agencies such as the National Weather Service and the U. S. Marshal Service.

“This system provides an important boost to our first responders and emergency management community,” said **Andrews County Judge Richard H. Dolgener**, PBRPC Board member and Chair of the region's Domestic Preparedness Advisory Committee (DPAC). “Through solid planning, outstanding partnerships, adequate funding, leadership and governance, and effective execution, we have achieved what we set out to do. We have been good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. Our citizens across the Permian Basin will truly benefit from this vital investment in public safety interoperable communications.”

The PBRPC utilized state contracts for much of the system build-out, as well as the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, in line with local, state, and federal procurement policies and procedures, ensuring savings, accountability, and transparency. The Board of Directors chose Motorola Solutions as its Prime Vendor, procuring the regional system's field network equipment, services, radios, and upgrades through the HGACBuy (Houston-Galveston Area Council) government procurement service. Tower equipment and services were procured through a Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) contract with Western Towers.

The PBRPC Board of Directors comprised of county and city chief elected officials, state legislators, and a representative of the Sandhills Soil and Water District, serves as the governing body of the PBRPC. In the arena of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Board approves the expenditure of grant funds recommended by the DPAC for regional and local projects that help protect lives and property through enhancing public safety/first responder capabilities and community resilience before, during, and after emergencies and disasters.

## Counties, Cities, and Towns of the PBRPC Planning Area

Andrews County:	Andrews
Borden County:	Gail
Crane County:	Crane
Dawson County:	Lamesa, Ackerly, Los Ybanez, O'Donnell, Welch
Ector County:	Odessa, Goldsmith
Gaines County:	Seagraves and Seminole
Glasscock County:	Garden City
Howard County:	Big Spring, Coahoma, and Forsan
Loving County:	Mentone
Martin County:	Stanton
Midland County:	Midland
Pecos County:	Fort Stockton, Iraan, Sheffield
Reeves County:	Town of Pecos City, Balmorhea, Toyah
Terrell County:	Sanderson
Upton County:	McCamey, Rankin
Ward County:	Monahans, Barstow, Grandfalls, Pyote, Wickett
Winkler County:	Kermit, Wink