



Mid Rio Grande Communications

Technology Assistance Project Summary

The vast Rio Grande region of Texas presents a number of public safety challenges. Dispersed resources and diverse constituencies make effective and timely communication between public safety and law enforcement agencies difficult. The Southwest Public Safety Technology Center at the Sheriffs' Association of Texas is developing a regional public safety radio communications system that will ultimately provide improved coverage for and interoperability between participating public safety service providers across the entire nine county region of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council. The system proposed by the SWTC Technology Assistance Division will provide improved radio communications for local, tribal, state and federal public safety providers across the region. To date, 24 regional agencies are actively contributing to the plan. The system design phase has been completed, the infrastructure vendor has been selected and a detailed design review and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensing are currently underway. The first phase of infrastructure deployment is scheduled for the end of 2005. Contingent on further successful spectrum acquisition and licensing, and continued funding, it is anticipated the project will be completed in early 2008.

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