



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MDICE RADIO NETWORK IMPLEMENTATION UNDERWAY

The METCAD Digital Interoperable Communications Environment, MDICE, has been in operation since early July. During the past weeks, most of the law enforcement agencies dispatched by METCAD began using the new radio system in a migration which will be completed soon. Fire agencies will begin to migrate to MDICE beginning in November. In addition to the public safety agencies, MDICE will be used by several public works and other operating departments in the future. The shared communications environment will allow communications between many jurisdictions and disciplines during emergencies.

The new 800 mhz, digital trunking radio system replaces several smaller conventional UHF and VHF systems that made up the METCAD radio network.

The new system operates from five towers strategically located throughout the county and provides greater capacity for voice communications as well as better coverage, particularly in buildings. MDICE was designed and built by Motorola, Inc. using their Digital Astro platform. The new system is compatible with the state-wide STARCOM 21 system used by the Illinois State Police and other state public safety agencies. More technical information about the MDICE system, including scanner information, is available at www.METCAD911.ORG.

The \$6.4 million dollar MDICE project is the largest capital project ever undertaken by METCAD, the consolidated 9-1-1 center serving Champaign County, Illinois. METCAD is funded by 9-1-1 surcharge revenues and fees charged to the agencies for which it provides dispatch services. METCAD answers 9-1-1 calls for all of the public safety agencies in Champaign County except Rantoul, and provides dispatch services to 31 police and fire departments.