

Sustainment Concept Paper

FY2010 HSGP UASI Interoperability Meeting

Work Session 5

12/15/09

Project:	Maintenance of COG RICCSSM Equipment
Project Budget:	\$27,000 (1 year); 28,600 (2year)
Responsible Party:	COG owns the RICCS SM system under the direction of the CAOs
Collaborating R-ESF/RPWG:	Supports all groups including CAOs and SPG
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Project Summary

Local, state, and federal stakeholders in the NCR quickly realized that timely communication between regional officials during the 9/11 crisis was a major problem. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) created the Regional Incident Communications and Coordination SystemSM (RICCSSM) to address this central problem, and the system has become the centerpiece of the Regional Emergency Coordination PlanSM (RECPSM). The RICCSSM serves a variety of stakeholders organized by R-ESF or other specialty group. The system currently has about 1,500 active users in more than 50 groups.

R-ESFs and the CAO/SPG use the RICCSSM to rapidly communicate emergency information to area officials and to convene conference calls or other meetings for decision making. The system currently consists of two securely-hosted computer servers, licensed software, and staff support. The system can send short text alerts to any e-mail account, pager, mobile phone, or other device capable of receiving an e-mailed text message. The software has been tested at a delivery rate of 18,000 text messages per minute. The system will continue to operate even if the mobile voice bandwidth becomes jammed. Stakeholders use the RICCSSM daily as evidenced by the 600 message-per-year traffic rate over the past six years.

The region granted UASI maintenance funds for RICCSSM in FY2008 and FY2009. This request asks for UASI FY2010 funding to pay for secure hosting, software licenses to contractor Cooper Notification, the SSL certificate, and the re-introduction of a third computer server for added redundancy. We have coverage of most items for FY2011 under the existing UASI grants, so we are requesting maintenance funds for FY2012 and the re-introduction of a third server in FY2011 to restore the previous level of redundancy, which we believe is important. The difference between the one-year and two-year request numbers above reflects the difference between introducing the 3rd server in FY2011 vs. FY2012. We would like the UASI process to consider RICCSSM during the funding discussion for UASI FY2010.