



PIMA COUNTY WIRELESS INTEGRATED NETWORK

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PIMA COUNTY WIRELESS INTEGRATED NETWORK ON TRACK

Agencies participating in Pima County's first integrated public safety communications system are selecting the radios, dispatch consoles and other equipment their personnel will use to talk directly to each other in emergencies and other coordinated efforts.

The Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN) will provide communications services for 29 police and fire agencies in Pima County and put 7,000 new radios into service. It is scheduled to activate in December 2013.

Much has been done and still needs to be done to go live on that date, but PCWIN is on schedule, according to Capt. Paul Wilson of the Pima County Sheriff's Department, who is the Project Sponsor, and Motorola Solutions Inc., which is providing the equipment.

More than 200 representatives of participating public safety agencies attended a PCWIN Radio System Expo on Wednesday, Aug. 1, where they got a chance to see end user equipment demonstrated and hear an update on the status of network implementation.

Radio towers are being updated or built on more than 27 sites. The network equipment for the main facilities has passed factory tests and been shipped to Tucson.

"It's time to actually start installing equipment," Wilson said.

The handheld radios; mobile radios for cars, trucks and motorcycles; and dispatch consoles for the participating agencies will be ordered this fall. After that equipment arrives and is installed, Motorola will provide training.

Pima County voters approved bond funds in 2004 for PCWIN. Wilson said the bond funds will provide up to \$18 million for "base level" equipment for participating agencies. The agencies are responsible for the costs of any upgrades or accessories they choose.

The PCWIN Executive Management Committee, which includes the heads of several area public safety agencies, will consider a recommendation to transfer ownership – and responsibility for maintenance – of the agency equipment from Pima County to the agencies to control PCWIN membership costs.

The Pima Emergency Communications & Operations Center, a new 9-1-1 dispatch facility at 3434 E. 22nd St., is under construction and expected to be occupied early in 2013, Wilson said. The County Emergency Operations Center will relocate to the new facility later this year.

The City of Tucson will be renovating its 9-1-1 dispatch facility at the Thomas O. Price Service Center at 4004 S. Park Ave. The two dispatch centers will operate as backups for each other providing a level of 9-1-1 and public safety dispatch service not currently available.