



National Public Safety Telecommunications Council



Ten Years of Progress | 1997-2007

Improving and Expanding Cross Border Security Communications

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NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

Background and Introduction

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 - The United States Department of Homeland Security and the Mexican Secretariat of Governance jointly formulated an Action Plan in March 2006 to facilitate cross border communications between first responders.
 - The U.S.–Mexico High Level Consultative Commission on Telecommunications (HLCC) and its Security Communications Task Group (SCTG) have identified a proposal for a long-term solution.

Solution

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 - Cross border microwave links interconnecting the communications centers of Federal level security agencies in each country.
 - 10 cross border interconnecting microwave links scheduled for deployment over two phases.

Phases

- **First Phase**
 - Nogales, Arizona – Nogales, Sonora
 - McAllen-Reynosa
 - El Paso (Incl. New Mexico)-Juárez
 - San Luis-San Luis Rio Colorado
 - Laredo-Nuevo Laredo
 - San Diego-Tijuana
- **Second Phase**
 - Del Rio – Acuña
 - Douglas – Agua Prieta
 - Brownsville – Matamoros
 - El Centro - Mexicali

- Cross border links will transport voice, data, and video information. Planned link bandwidth is 40 MHz.
- Cross border links will be licensed by DHS and operate on U.S. Government spectrum under Commerce/NTIA assignments (“licenses”).
- Gateway devices will be present at each cross border link.

Local and State Participation

- Local and State agencies wishing to participate will be responsible for providing their connection to the appropriate cross border CBP Communications Center.
- Mexican public safety organizations in the border states (particularly across from Texas and New Mexico) have expressed serious interest in consulting with their U.S. counterparts under the HLCC/SCTG to coordinate appropriate interconnection and routing of cross border public safety communications.