



2007 4th Annual IACP-iXP Excellence in Technology Award

Excellence in Law Enforcement Communications and Interoperability Category *Regional/Multi-jurisdictional Agency Winner*

Agency: Danville, VA Police Department

Project: Piedmont Regional Voice over IP Pilot Project

The Piedmont Regional Voice over IP Pilot Project is a public/private partnership venture between Cisco and law enforcement that deployed an open standard IP-based voice and data communications system along the Virginia and North Carolina border to provide interoperability for multiple agencies with disparate radio systems. Prior to system implementation, bordering agencies were forced in emergency situations to relay information between dispatch centers by utilizing landlines and multiple radio frequencies. This often impacted timeliness and accuracy of the information. The objective of the pilot was to validate a flexible and affordable VoIP based interoperability solution that would improve officer safety through direct communication and coordination and not require existing system replacement. The Cisco Systems IP-based solution now deployed enables direct communication between two or more agencies through frequency linkage. The City of Danville, VA is the project host agency with the following agencies participating: Virginia State Police, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Pittsylvania County (VA) Sheriff's Office, and Caswell County (NC) Sheriff's Office. In addition to meeting the original interoperability objectives, the participating agencies have found the technology improvements have been a catalyst for improved governance and has resulted in greater collaboration and coordination by the participating agencies for more effective enforcement along the Virginia - North Carolina border.

