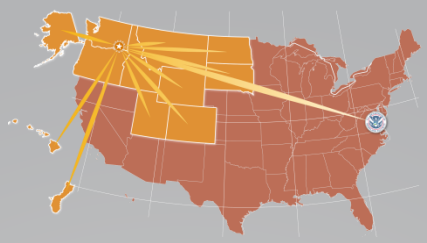

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 14-17, 2017 – National Professional Development Summit, Emmitsburg, MD
- June 25-28, 2017 – Smart Cities Connect Conference & Expo, Austin, TX
- July 11-13, 2017 – 2017 Cyber Security R&D Showcase and Technical Workshop, Washington DC
- July 23-27 – PNWER Annual Summit, Portland, OR

CONTACT

- Want to know more? Visit us on the web at http://nwrtc.pnnl.gov
- Contact the NWRTC with questions and comments at nwrtc@pnnl.gov.

AROUND THE REGION IN HOMELAND SECURITY

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, resiliency, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest.

SYSTEM TO ENABLE HANDS-FREE RESPONDER COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION

Responder
Technology
Alliance
Communications
System

To better address first responders' need to communicate easily and clearly during critical incidents, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) First Responders Group (FRG) partnered with PNNL and ADI Technologies to develop the Responder Technology Alliance Communications System (RTACS). The RTACS concept aimed to develop a wearable, hands-free communications system to enable collaboration among multiple on-scene agencies and various incident command and control personnel.

Example capabilities include hands-free intercom-style communications, noise-filtering digital speaker/microphone, the ability to communicate in diverse environmental conditions, streaming video, translation capability, and more. FRG purchased four Golden-I mobile, wireless, voice- and motion-operated wearable headsets and modified them, and thus the RTACS—a combination of 10 performer capabilities in a single prototype—was born.

Following the initial development, FRG also provided important responder input that was beneficial to an entrepreneur who ultimately further developed the technology. RealWear (formerly Wear Next) took the RTACS proof of concept forward. After three revisions of the prototype, RealWear developed HMT-1, which has been commercialized, with distribution in volume (some 15,000 orders) set for July 2017. FRG and RealWear recently reconnected and made plans to discuss potential first responder applications of this technology.

To learn more about the evolution of RTACS, read the recent issue of *The Siren*, the FRG newsletter.

FIRSTNET PARTNERS WITH AT&T ON FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK

The Department of Commerce and First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet, recently announced the selection of AT&T to build the first nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to America's first responders.

The public-private partnership is intended to advance the public safety communications infrastructure to enhance day-to-day operations, disaster response and recovery, and event security.

The $45-billion, 24-year agreement is reported to include:

- FirstNet will provide 20 MHz of high-value, telecommunications spectrum.
- AT&T will build, deploy, operate, and maintain the network, with a focus on ensuring robust coverage for public safety.
- AT&T will connect FirstNet users to the company's telecommunications network assets.

Read the press release to learn more.

RESOURCE GUIDE LEADS SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The Federal Smart Cities and Communities Task Force recently published the "Federal Smart Cities and Communities Programs Resource Guide" to facilitate collaboration and coordination between Smart Cities and Communities Task Force member agencies, academia, industry, local cities and communities, and other government entities. The guide describes federally funded research and development programs in smart cities and communities that seek to connect infrastructure and other physical technology with sensors, communications, and information technology.

The Smart Cities and Communities Task Force is a body under the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program Cyber-Physical Systems Interagency Working Group chartered to coordinate federal action and partnerships with academia, industry, local cities and communities, and other government entities to enable cities and communities of all types in accessing networking and information technologies and services.

TOOL SUPPORTS MUTUAL AID RESOURCE PLANNING

The DHS S&T FRG developed a prototype application designed to help jurisdictions develop and resource their own capability-based plans. The Mutual Aid Resource Planner (MARP) is based on ArcGIS online, a cloud-based platform that helps to streamline information sharing between partners.

MARP is intended to be managed by a community or emergency management agency. Through MARP, planners can add existing geospatial hazards and risk assessments to create resource plans, identify partners who can provide mutual aid to fill resource gaps, and ultimately help resource planners create more effective and resilient systems.

MARP is hosted by the National Information Sharing Consortium. Read the press release to learn more.

For more information, contact NWRTC Director Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov or (206) 528-3223, or Deputy Directors Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov or 509-372-6622, and Rob Jasper at robert.jasper@pnnl.gov or (509) 371-6430 or visit us online at http://nwrtc.pnnl.gov.
PNNL-SA-126096