



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2013

Media contact: Molly O'Reilly
Phone: 614.644.0194
Email: Molly.O'Reilly@das.state.oh.us

MARCS upgrade topic of March 14 steering committee meeting

The Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Steering Committee will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14 at the Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, 77 S. High St., Columbus, in Room 1932.

Agenda items include an update on the statewide system upgrade to Project 25 standards. Project 25 standards are standards for digital radio communication for use by federal, state and local public safety agencies in North America to enable them to communicate with other agencies and mutual-aid response teams during emergencies.

Currently, the MARCS system is at capacity with roughly 48,000 radios on the system and is reaching the end of its reliable life. The upgrade will expand capacity to more than 100,000 radios.

The goal of the State of Ohio is to encourage local government entities to become customers of the upgraded MARCS system. The upgrade will provide customers with a long-term solution while allowing the state as a whole to leverage assets and deliver one comprehensive radio system.

MARCS is the State of Ohio's comprehensive wireless communication system for police, fire, emergency medical services and other public safety forces. MARCS provides wireless voice and mobile data for state agencies, including the Ohio departments of Natural Resources, Public Safety, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Transportation. MARCS also provides wireless radio service for about 700 county, township, federal and private first-responders.

MARCS is administered by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.