



For Immediate Release  
May 22, 2012

Media Contact: Dan Kaman  
Phone: 614.995.0936  
Email: [Dan.Kaman@das.state.oh.us](mailto:Dan.Kaman@das.state.oh.us)

## **Ohio Controlling Board Approves Multi-Agency Radio Communications System Business Plan**

**COLUMBUS** – The Ohio Controlling Board this week approved a business plan by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to upgrade the state’s Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS).

Approval of the business plan was mandated by Ohio House Bill 482, the state capital budget. The bill allows DAS to sell certificates of participation to finance the radio system’s upgrade to Project 25 standards. The upgrade is expected to cost around \$80 million.

Project 25 standards are established for digital radio communications for use by federal, state and local public safety agencies in North America. The standards enable users to communicate seamlessly with other agencies and mutual-aid response teams during emergencies.

Currently, the statewide MARCS system is at capacity with roughly 48,000 radios on the system and is nearing the end of its reliable life. The upgrade will expand capacity to more than 128,000 radios, allowing literally all first responders in Ohio to utilize the system. In addition, a U.S. Federal Communications Commission requirement taking effect Jan. 1, 2013 will require many local government entities to upgrade their current radio systems, making the transition to the new MARCS platform even more attractive.

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 communications 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 currently provides wireless radio service for about 700 county, township, federal and private first-response agencies.

---

Ohio Department of Administrative Services  
John R. Kasich, *Governor*  
Robert Blair, *Director*

Office of Communications  
Suite 4099  
30 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

# News Release

---



MARCS is administered by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

-- 30 --