



Virginia (VA)

PSIC Federal Award: \$25,012,521

(Awarded September 30, 2007)

Summary

PSIC Investment Justification	Federal Funds
Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)	\$2,300,000
Northern Virginia (NoVA) Data Interoperability Project	\$4,985,641
Technology: Connectivity and Sustainability	\$5,614,700
Communications Infrastructure and National Interoperability Channels	\$5,492,479
Tactical Interoperability Solutions: State Agency Gateways	\$3,424,701
Tactical Interoperability Solutions: Local Agency Gateways	\$680,000
Portable and Mobile Devices	\$1,325,000
Management and Administration (M&A)	\$750,000
Statewide Planning	\$440,000
Total PSIC Award	\$25,012,521

Pass Through: The Commonwealth of Virginia fulfilled the PSIC Grant Program requirement by passing through a minimum of 80 percent of the total award amount to local or tribal government bodies or authorized nongovernmental agencies.

Strategic Technology Reserve (STR): Virginia allocated \$2,300,000 to its STR Investment.

Investments

Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)

Federal Amount:	\$ 2,300,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 386,695
Total Project Cost:	\$ 2,686,695



98%* Acquisition & Deployment	2% Training & Exercise	0% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

Virginia has only a few large caches of radios available to respond to a major event, such as a natural disaster or terrorist event. The Virginia Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan indicated a need for five radio caches and one mobile communications vehicle, deployable to any area of the State within two hours to increase the preparedness of the Commonwealth. At this time, Virginia has partially funded three larger radio caches in urban areas and two smaller caches in rural regions. The PSIC STR funding will be applied toward completion of the three strategic radio caches and the acquisition of a mobile communications vehicle. Virginia has committed to utilizing radios that are Project 25 (P25)-compliant, able to communicate on the 700/800 MHz frequencies and programmed for National Interoperability Channels to achieve the greatest interoperability among users and systems. This Investment will advance the State's goal of increasing preparedness and response to major incidents, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. A portion of the funding will be distributed to localities to provide training on the new equipment. This Investment satisfies the PSIC Program requirement to develop and implement an STR that is pre-positioned, deployable, and able to reestablish communications when critical communications equipment is damaged or destroyed.

Northern Virginia (NoVA) Data Interoperability Project

Federal Amount:	\$ 4,985,641
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 1,095,458
Total Project Cost:	\$ 6,081,099



90%* Acquisition & Deployment	4% Training & Exercise	6% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

Currently, the public safety agencies in the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and Fairfax County operate as one department for day-to-day and all hazards response. While recent investments have enhanced voice communications, disparities in mission critical systems have hindered the seamless exchange of data and encumbered information sharing among first responders. The Investment will use Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) technology and standards, such as the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), to create a data exchange hub (DEH) that will transform critical data into an interoperable format for use by public safety agencies. It will enable public safety agencies across the region, in real-time, to share mission-critical information and location of equipment and personnel. Additionally, a portion of the Investment will be used for development of training materials for Northern Virginia jurisdictional help desk personnel on the use and application of the DEH. This Investment will enhance voice and data capabilities for public safety agencies and improve mission critical communication and response.

Technology: Connectivity and Sustainability

Federal Amount:	\$ 5,614,700
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 262,800
Total Project Cost:	\$ 5,877,500



98%* Acquisition & Deployment	1% Training & Exercise	1% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

Across central Virginia, there is a disparity in the technologies employed to achieve interoperability; some agencies rely on gateways for interoperability while the others use shared channels or proprietary-shared systems. This Investment will provide funding to connect several cities and counties in Central Virginia to the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS) – Virginia’s statewide network that provides multi-channel trunked digital voice and data wireless communications. A portion of this Investment also provides for training of employees on the new equipment, developing new standard operating procedures, and implementing routine system testing and maintenance procedures. This Investment will move many localities closer to a standards-based shared system and compatibility across a large area of the Commonwealth.

Communications Infrastructure and National Interoperability Channels

Federal Amount:	\$ 5,492,479
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 398,500
Total Project Cost:	\$ 5,890,979



93%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	7% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

A high percentage of the interoperable equipment in Southwestern Virginia is outdated. To maximize existing infrastructure, this Investment will leverage western Virginia’s large number of VHF legacy systems, expanding the VHF coverage area to support interoperability in the southwest region with the help of additional repeaters. In addition, the southwest region will program radios to operate on the national VHF interoperability channels (VTAC) which will facilitate interoperability and mutual aid. This Investment will increase communications across disparate systems, will be compatible with the Virginia Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) and Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS) and will increase communications among first responders across a wide region.

Tactical Interoperability Solutions: State Agency Gateways

Federal Amount:	\$ 3,424,701
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 684,940
Total Project Cost:	\$ 4,109,641



95%* Acquisition & Deployment	<3% Training & Exercise	<3% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

Three State agencies (Health, Transportation, and State Police) have a need to improve their interoperable communications. There are no gateways installed at transportation facilities and only a limited number of gateways are installed in localities along the Central Virginia secondary evacuation routes. These agencies have worked together to identify locations for installing gateways that will allow all first responders, including those from State agencies, to interoperate across multiple frequency bands. This Investment supports the purchase and installation of additional gateways along the secondary evacuation routes in the State. This system of gateways will reduce the risk of inoperable communications for the localities along the route, the EMS/911 responders moving along the evacuation route, as well as for transportation officials and transit authorities.

Tactical Interoperability Solutions: Local Agency Gateways

Federal Amount:	\$ 680,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 1,151,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 1,831,000



96%* Acquisition & Deployment	3% Training & Exercise	2% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

Two areas of Virginia (Stafford County and the Hampton Roads areas) have identified that tactical audio switches and equipment upgrades are needed in their incident command vehicles in order to be compliant with P25 and to leverage satellite systems. Similarly, Henry County (serving 5 localities) needs to install gateways that will allow for communications between disparate systems. Virginia will use PSIC funds in this Investment to address these local communication needs. In-house training will be provided to end-users and technical support personnel on all equipment and operating procedures. A total of 30 localities will benefit from this solution which will allow communication across existing systems and connections for users of various frequency bands (VHF, UHF, and 700/800 MHz).

Portable and Mobile Devices

Federal Amount:	\$ 1,325,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 3,677,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 5,002,000



99%* Acquisition & Deployment	1% Training & Exercise	0% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

The localities in Homeland Security Region IV (Hampton Roads), Stafford County, Henry County, and Nottoway County operate on older analog and portable radios. This Investment provides funding to upgrade older analog mobile and portable radios used in these regions and acquire advanced technology (gateways equipment) that provides narrowbanding capabilities. The technology, equipment and subscriber software will provide an opportunity to move these localities towards Project 25 (P25) compliance and enable them to purchase newer equipment without replacing all subscriber radios. This Investment reflects a joint effort by law enforcement, fire, emergency management services, government and nongovernmental agencies to increase interoperability and improve response. In-house training and exercises will be provided to all end-users and technical support personnel will be fully trained on equipment and procedures, including equipment operation during a major emergency or disaster.

PSIC Administration and Statewide Planning Costs

Management and Administration (M&A)

Federal Amount:	\$ 750,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 150,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 900,000

The State was allowed to retain up to three percent of the total PSIC award for costs associated with the administration of the State's PSIC Investments. The M&A costs could include hiring full-time or part-time staff or contractors for grant management services related to reporting, monitoring and audit compliance, and associated travel and meeting expenses.

Statewide Planning

Federal Amount	\$ 440,000
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The State was allowed to retain up to five percent of the total PSIC award for Statewide Planning costs associated with the incorporation of the PSIC criteria into the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The Statewide Planning period of performance was April 1, 2007–December 3, 2007, with the submission of the SCIP.