



Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN)

PSERN Operator Interlocal Agreement



PSERN – Background on the Project, System & Operator

- The 12 system owners identified the need to upgrade and expand the current emergency radio system, King County Emergency Radio Communications System (KCERCS).
- This work became a project and its funding was approved by King County voters in April 2015 in the form of an additional regular property tax of \$0.07 per \$1,000 AV for nine years (beginning in 2016).
- Expectations for the **PSERN Project** and the new **PSERN Operator** agency were memorialized in 2015 via:
 - the “Implementation (Period) Interlocal Agreement,” and
 - a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
- The MOA called for a third agreement that would provide more specific expectations of the new PSERN Operator – *the PSERN Operator (Operations Period) Interlocal Agreement*.
- The same 12 entities who own the current system are also parties to the Implementation ILA, the MOA, and the PSERN Operator ILA.
- **PSERN** will serve first responders and other government workers on a daily basis.



What PSERN Will Provide

PSERN Operator

Advanced digital technology and improved capacity, capability, and connectivity.

New 20+-year contract with vendor.

Single billing agency with uniform rates, operational standards, and system performance requirements.

Improved coverage throughout the county to accommodate population growth – including highways 2 and 410, and I-90.

Updates, upgrades, and repairs of both system and dispatch consoles.

New end user radios (over 17,000).

Infrastructure support every day, 24-7.

Key Elements of ILA – Governance

New non-profit governmental agency will take over operations of PSERN.

- Board of Directors will be the governance and policy-making group and is comprised of:
 - 4 voting members (*representing the 12 parties to the Operator ILA*):
 - City of Seattle
 - one vote representing five Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) cities
 - King County
 - One vote representing five Valley Communications Center (ValleyCom) cities
 - 2 non-voting members - representatives from fire and police
- Executive Director will run day-to-day operations and hire staff.

Key Elements of ILA – Other

- Commits to formation of an **Operations Board**.
- **Some** specifications related to **employment terms**.
- **Flexibility in how the Operator is managed**, including contracting for services.
- Outlines **Operator's responsibilities** for system throughout its useful life – maintenance, support, and performance.
- **Protections for parties** to the Operator ILA, including financial.

Key Elements of ILA – Impacts on End Users, cont.

Year 1 estimated monthly fees to be billed by Operator are:

- \$31.13 / public safety radio
- \$24.28 / general government radio
- \$992.81 / dispatch console
- *Year 1 estimated fees for city of Mercer Island: \$41,143 - \$43,998/ year
(depending on the agency staffing model and if Project can offer rate stabilization)*

For comparison, the current:

- monthly radio rates for EPSCA agencies is \$25.25/month. This rate is purposely/artificially reduced because EPSCA is no longer funding capital improvement projects.
- annual amount paid to EPSCA by the city of Mercer Island is \$35,754 for 118 radios plus maintenance fees.

NOTE: No agency pays a console rate today.

Next Steps In Forming the PSERN Operator

1. Approval of PSERN Operator ILA by all 12 parties (fall 2020).
2. File articles of Incorporation.
3. Appoint Board of Directors.
4. Board of Directors organizes and begins search for Executive Director.
5. Executive Director sets up work spaces and hires staff.
6. Operator to be ready to take over the new system by Project completion – currently scheduled for December 2022.

Questions?
