



January 2, 2015

**To: ALL MARCS 3.5 Radio customers**

**RE: Migration of Current MARCS Platform to MARCS/IP**

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**The Turn-off of the current MARCS platform will occur in late March 2015!!**

**This means your current radios will quit working unless you take steps to migrate to MARCS/IP.**

As you probably know, our current MARCS 800 MHz trunked, digital radio platform (which we refer to as MARCS 3.5) is migrating to the new, P-25 700/800 MHz platform, MARCS/IP.

The benefits of MARCS/IP are many: 1). The new platform is P-25 Phase 1 compliant; 2). It is also, P-25 Phase 2 compatible; 3). IP-based; 4). It has significantly increased coverage and capacity; 5). It has a 25 year life cycle; and 6) It provides the freedom for you as an end-user to select from several vendors and price-points for radios.

These are some of the most obvious improvements.

From a strategic standpoint, the state-wide upgrade, scheduled to be completed by early in the calendar year 2015, allows us as a state to forward the #1 goal of our Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (Ohio's SCIP). MARCS/IP provides the statewide backbone allowing for a true system of systems for our public safety forces. MARCS/IP will allow any and all first responders to share an integrated 21<sup>st</sup> century mission critical radio system, which will save taxpayers' dollars by reducing duplicative systems, maximizing interoperability, and ultimately, saving lives.

For you as a current MARCS 3.5 customer, you will need to be involved in the transition to MARCS/IP.

Our MARCS staff is totally dedicated to ensuring a smooth transition of your radios to MARCS/IP. You may contact us at any time to request assistance in your transition.

## Here is a list of items need to considering immediately:

- 1.) Some of your radios may not work on MARCSIP. If you have **Motorola XTS-3000 handheld** radios, or **Motorola Astro Spectra in-vehicle** (mobile or desktop) radios, they will need to be replaced with new or newer radios. Fortunately, you have many options in getting these radios replaced. You can contact your local vendor, and/or contact us to find replacement sources.
- 2.) Some of your radios may need "flash upgrades" to work on MARCSIP. Again, you may contact us or your local radio vendor to determine if a flash upgrade is needed.
- 3.) **All** of your radios will need to be programmed on the MARCSIP platform if you have not already completed this task. Again, programming may be performed by your local radio vendor or by our MARCS programming staff.

We have established the e-mail account [DAS-MARCS.admin@das.ohio.gov](mailto:DAS-MARCS.admin@das.ohio.gov) for you to utilize to make inquiries concerning the migration. Feel free to use this contact point!

As of today, we have the MARCSIP upgrade completed at almost all of our 240+ tower sites statewide. This may allow you to transition to MARCSIP as soon as you see fit! We encourage you to do so due to the additional coverage and capacity.

As a point of clarity, the MARCSIP upgrade and migration is a totally separate initiative and un-related to the current "800 MHz rebanding" project.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to utilize the e-mail account noted above, or call or e-mail me at the contact points provided below.

Best Regards,



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