

ianews, your connection to Icom America's Land Mobile Division! Keep up with the latest products, news and technical information in this newsletter.

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Fire Districts Join Forces on Countywide P25 System

Firefighters in Mason County, Wash., desperately needed a new radio communications system. Hilly terrain and a complex maze of rivers, canals, lakes, and inlets hindered seamless coverage across the county. An outdated communications system, including some radios more than 20 years old, certainly didn't help.

In September, 13 fire districts in Mason County traded their out-of-date communications equipment for new, cutting-edge digital P25 radios from Icom America. The new radios provide interoperability with state and federal responders already using P25 radios. Initially the radios will be used in conventional analog mode, but over time the districts plan to transition to digital P25 mode.

National Interop, a privately held Northwest-based company specializing in public safety communications, designed the new system.

"It was definitely time [for a new system]," says Assistant Chief Tim McKern of Mason County District 5, who authored the grant application that funded the radio project. "We looked at a lot of products and Icom was the answer."

National Interop worked closely with the Mason County fire districts to choose radios that could withstand the region's rural and wilderness environment and design a system with full coverage across the region, says National Interop CEO David Billstrom.



F70D



F1721D

The system includes more than 180 Icom F70D portables and 80 Icom F1721D mobiles. Icom's F70 portable offers rugged, IPX7 waterproof protection. Large capacity Li-Ion battery packs provide all-day power, and the radio's two-line display allows firefighters to easily view both the zone and channel. For the mobiles, National Interop designed a product that allows the radios to be set up as dual-head units.

A majority of the cost of the new radios was financed by FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which provides support to meet the emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations.

Lying on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula at the southern tip of Puget Sound, Mason County presents a unique set of topographical and geographical challenges for emergency responders. Achieving reliable radio coverage is tricky, but it's only a piece of the puzzle, Billstrom says. The fire districts also needed an interoperability plan anticipating future joint responses.

Fire districts in the county average 7,000 calls per year and frequently collaborate on joint responses. It is also common for the agencies to work with

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Washington State Patrol, the Department of Natural Resources, Coast Guard, and the Navy.

A test of the new system unexpectedly took place just days after implementation. In a rescue involving a Navy helicopter, fire districts tuned to a pre-designated channel for direct, interoperable communications with the

aircraft. The resulting communications was the result of comprehensive training and the flexibility of the Icom F70D, Billstrom says.

Assistant Chief Tim McKern says the fire districts are very satisfied with the performance of the new radios. "So far, everything's great!"

CY-F121S Series Repeater
More than just two mobiles in a box.

CY-F121S Series Repeater

POWERFUL AND VALUE RICH

- **Compact size**
- **50 Watts (45 UHF)**
- **Affordable price**

Features

- Built-in power supply: 13.8 VDC in or 110 VAC in or 220 VAC in
- Built-in battery back up and battery charging capabilities
- Built-in heavy duty A/C EMI filtering
- Built-in duplexer (optional)
- Built-in RF pre-selector (optional)
- 3 RU tall, built-in rack handles
- 19" Standard rack or cabinet mounting
- Built-in, automatic, heavy duty cooling fan (CPU controlled)
- Powder-coated steel chassis
- Built-in repeater controller
- Utilizes N style bulkhead connectors
- Built-in grounding stud
- Designed for max air cross-flow: 120 CFM for excellent ventilation
- Each unit is thoroughly tuned-tested and staged prior to shipment
- DB-25 rear connector for interfacing external equipment
- DC terminal strip for easy BBU connection

Building a repeater system using standard mobile radios as the transmitter and receiver components can be a challenging project for the systems builder when considering cost vs. spec. How best to matchup necessary performance requirements to a defined budget and then available radios? And if time is also a factor, you should know that this type of repeater system is already available.

The CY-F121S (VHF) and CY-F221S (UHF) repeaters built by Icom America Systems stand to offer the best choice in land mobile for getting function, power and performance tied to a great value.



CY-F121S Series Repeater.

The CY repeater chooses the basic F121S or F221S mobile units as the building blocks for a powerful repeater system that ends up at a "modest budget" price. This allows systems builders

to place the affordable CY in more locations usually taken by higher cost base stations and repeaters.

So, what's in it? What's its application?

The CY series repeater has enough power in all three operating bands (25 Watts VHF, 50 Watts Federal Government/ Line A or C US/ and 45 Watts UHF and UHF-T Band) to provide in-building, single campus or citywide coverage of an operating area.

Because of the higher susceptibility to noise and intermodulation interference, mobile units cannot be used in high RF level environments. What works well on the street does not work well on towers or building tops that have many other radio channels in close physical and frequency proximity. The F121S/ F221S mobiles in the CY repeater have the same specifications as most base stations and can perform well in these high RF noise environments.

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For People Who Make Smart Choices

Continued from page 2 **CY-F121S Series Repeater**

NEW! MONTHLY HAIKU

**Public safety FIPS
Good guys have the advantage
Bad guys stay away**

Submit your own haiku to icom@icomamerica.com.
If we use it you'll receive a nice Icom world clock for your desk.



A haiku is a form of Japanese poetry.

Almost every radio on the market today has good sensitivity specifications. On the F121S/F221S series, the selectivity matches most of the base stations in use today. Besides having the RF specifications, the built-in power supply, battery charger and battery back-up capabilities, it also has Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) filtering, built in repeater controller and optional space for both a built-in duplexer and receiver pre-selector.

Internal components on the CY are expertly placed for high performance and heat reduction, which is managed by a heavy duty cooling fan. Enclosure dimensions are 19" standard rack or cabinet mounting (including 3 RU tall rack handles) or desktop. The repeater, weighing 18 lbs., has an extended frequency and temperature range.

The CY repeater is controlled by function display LED indicator and programmable buttons and is PC programmable. With 8 channels, CTCSS/DTCS codes, 2-tone, 5-tone, DB-25 accessory connector and more, the CY repeater is an industrial, heavy-purpose repeater. Jeffrey Mitchell of Mitchell Communications in Akron, Ohio says the CY repeater is a great match for his customer, Lodi Community Hospital.

Contact Icom America Systems (IAS) for more information.

ias@icomamerica.com and
(425) 586-6363



CY-F121S Series Repeater, inside top.

Icom America Misc.

Icom America Dealer Training

Please be sure to check your IA Focus for the Land Mobile Dealer Training Calendar for dates and times on the following courses.

For New Dealers: *Which to Choose*

For New Dealers: *Intro to Programming & Accessory Boards*

Platform: *Intro to P25*

New at Icom: *F50V Radio*

Programming: *Scan Training*

Programming: *MDC 1200 & 2/5 Tone*

Sign up now! Contact Andrea Brunson, Icom Technical Trainer, for more information.

Icom America Knowledge Base (KB)

Please logon to Icom America B2B to download these new programming and product guides:

P25 Programming Guide for Digital Features for the F70/F80/F1721/F1821 series radios (use keywords "P25 programming guide" or enter KB item number 7CIE234389)

F50V Vibrate and Record Programming Guide (use keyword F50V or enter KB item number 81EC 112596)

Icom America Inc.
2380 116th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004
Phone: (425) 454-8155
Fax: (425) 454-1509
Customer Service: (425) 454-7619

Icom America Systems
Phone: (425) 586-6363
Fax: (425) 586-6321
ias@icomamerica.com

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