



PacketHop Deploys First Multi-Agency, Mission-Critical, Mobile Broadband Communications Network for Homeland Security

PacketHop Teams with the Golden Gate Safety Network to Demonstrate Survivable, Interoperable Multimedia Communications for Federal, State & Local Bay Area Public Safety Agencies

BELMONT, Calif. – February 25, 2004 – PacketHop™, Inc. today announced that the company has completed its first successful, multi-agency, interoperable communications exercise led by the Golden Gate Safety Network (GGSN) – a coalition of federal, state and local Bay Area public safety agencies. In concert with the GGSN and under the leadership of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, the PacketHop™ solution enabled instantaneous mobile broadband connectivity, complemented by first-of-its-kind situational awareness applications, across diverse devices, difficult terrain and disjointed networks.

“As demonstrated in a live field exercise, PacketHop was able to achieve mobile broadband connectivity across tough terrain – on land and water – and over mobile, infrastructure-less networks for more than ten multi-jurisdiction agencies,” said Michael Griffin, assistant chief, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. “This exercise was unquestionably an important milestone in driving the Golden Gate Safety Network closer to its vision to develop and implement a regional communications system that supports a multi-agency response from local, state and federal first responders for day-to-day operations and incident management.”

The GGSN began formally collaborating with PacketHop more than a year ago – exploring the first commercially viable and cost-effective solution for enabling multimedia situational awareness and command/control communications. The field exercise connected first responders from a variety of different agencies positioned on and off the coastline of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area to an Incident Command Center, as well as to the California Governor’s Emergency Operations Center in Sacramento.

A wide variety of command and operations vehicles from the U.S. Park Police, San Francisco, Marin County, the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and the National Guard, along with marine units from the San Francisco Police Department and the U.S. Coast Guard were deployed. The first responders – made up of fire, police, sheriff, park police, search and rescue, and others – were outfitted with ruggedized laptops, tablets and PDAs, and connected to one another across diverse terrain and networks via PacketHop’s broadband mobile mesh solution.

To showcase compatibility with off-the-shelf devices and broadband equipment, PacketHop teamed with a host of premiere manufacturers, including: 3eTI, Itronix, Intermec, Panasonic, Proxim, Symbol, TDS and Xybernaut. Collectively, these strategic partners provided ruggedized PDAs, laptops, tablets and wearable computers, as well as wide area backhaul and access point equipment.

“The coordinated demonstration with GGSN was a significant technological achievement that showed how mobile mesh networking can solve the communication barriers that exist between first responder agencies today,” said PacketHop CEO Michael Howse. “The ability to create survivable, packet switched, mobile broadband networks on-the-fly will change the face of interoperable communications for public safety, and in doing so, will help save lives.”

The three-hour exercise tested the ability of multiple agencies to communicate, coordinate and respond using PacketHop’s broadband mobile mesh networking technology and situational awareness applications. Highlights of the deployment included intuitive, enhanced command and control. This was made possible by broadband mesh connectivity that enabled multi-jurisdictional first responders to share and view broadband data applications, such as resource tracking on base maps, multicast video, secure multimedia messaging, and white boarding, among others.

Consisting of a network controller, network management system, network client software, and modular application components tuned for mobile mesh – PacketHop showcased the first survivable, interoperable, cost-effective communications solution enabling the following capabilities:

Survivable, mission-critical communications

- Instant provisioning of survivable network
- No dependence on fixed infrastructure
- Network extension to uncovered areas
- Data delivery and security assurance on any IP network

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Real-time, interoperable broadband communications

- Roaming and mobility across all networks (fixed or infrastructure-less)
- Seamless integration with all networks (fixed-to-mobile or mobile-to-mobile)
- Mobile broadband in the field with real-time, secure situational awareness

Cost-effective, commercially viable solution

- Compatible with commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) equipment
- Operates with existing devices (laptops, tablets, PDAs)
- Uses standards-based solutions for software and hardware
- Leverages Wi-Fi/802.11 and multi-mode broadband radios

PacketHop expects to provide additional information regarding product details and its first customers later this year.

About GGSN

The Golden Gate Safety Network is composed of the following public safety agencies: the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Highway Patrol, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Marin County Office of Emergency Services, the Marin County Sheriffs Department, the National Park Service, the Presidio Fire Department, San Francisco Emergency Communications Division, the San Francisco Fire and Police Departments, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Park Police. The mission of the GGSN is to develop a regional public safety communications plan and explore new communications systems that will enable multi-agency, interoperable communications to support day-to-day incidents as well as large-scale emergencies.

About PacketHop

PacketHop, Inc. develops mobile mesh networking software which enables instant wireless group communication for commercial enterprises, government organizations and consumer markets. PacketHop Communication System software enables 802.11 standards-based devices to create extended Wi-Fi hot-zones on the fly – known as autonomous mobile mesh networks – which can securely operate with or without wireless access points. By making infrastructure completely optional, PacketHop delivers coverage whenever and wherever instant wireless broadband communication is needed – with greater resiliency, reliability and robustness than any other comparable technology. Along with the company's device agnostic mobile mesh networking solution that facilitates rapid and cost-effective deployments, PacketHop offers the Aware™ for Public Safety multimedia application with capabilities such as real-time multicast video, resource tracking, instant messaging and whiteboarding. Founded in 2003 and based in Silicon Valley, Calif., PacketHop is funded by venture firms U.S. Venture Partners, Mayfield, ComVentures and GF Private Equity Group, as well as SRI International. For more information on PacketHop, please visit www.packethop.com.

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