



REDEFINING INTEROPERABILITY  
Controllable Intuitive Affordable

## Memorandum

Date: July 15, 2013  
To: CT School Safety Infrastructure Council  
From: Colin McWay, President, Mutualink  
Doug Curtiss, CEO, Sonitrol  
Subject: School Safety Infrastructure Council Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Colin McWay. I am the President of Mutualink, Inc. based in Wallingford, CT. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you this afternoon regarding the important issue of school security, specifically emergency communication systems architecture. Mutualink has developed a communication resource sharing platform that is in use across homeland security and defense markets both domestically and abroad. Our clients include: State, Local and Federal law enforcements agencies, fire departments, schools and universities, hospitals, members of the critical infrastructure community (such as utilities) and US and international Special Forces.

The capability we will be discussing today is in compliance with, and in fact helpful to, enacting *Public Act No. 13-221* signed into law on June 25<sup>th</sup> of this year.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG THE STATE POLICE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTING INCIDENTS AND CERTAIN OTHER INCIDENTS.**

Furthermore, the capability is in keeping with emergency communication and response doctrine advocated by the United States Department of Homeland Security and Policy Directives advanced by the White House, all of which came about after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Law enforcement officials inform us that the likelihood of a successful response is increased if a perpetrator's entry to a facility can be delayed and if there are good communications on scene. We can meaningfully help with the latter.

We need to contemplate several key factors when architecting emergency communications in the school environment. The communications must be simple to use and easily exercised because cumbersome technology will become more so in a crisis. The communication technology must be within the budgetary reach of all schools. The technology must not infringe on the privacy of the students, and the technology must be shareable with first responders when necessary.

Allow me to discuss, for a few moments, some of the attributes of emergency communication systems.



Historically, communication systems have had only two primary components: media and transport. Communications media is content; video, radio, telephone and data are all forms of communication media. Transport is the pipe used to move media within and, potentially, among organizations; there exist all manner of terrestrial, wireless and satellite transport mechanisms. The communication resource sharing platform is a new and crucial aspect of communication system architecture that addresses an age-old issue, intra-agency communication. It is the communication resource sharing platform that places these various forms of communication media onto the various transport mechanisms and enables it to be moved among organizations for the purpose of planning for, participating in, and recovery from events that require cross organizational coordination and response. The communication resource sharing platform is a simple and efficient means to gain this capability. The efficiency comes from the fact that the very nature of the platform leverages both the existing media and the existing transport.

The process of moving communications media from one organization to another is not, in and of itself, necessarily difficult from a strictly technical perspective. However, we are not dealing with a strictly technical problem. We are really addressing a human issue of how we become willing to work together. It is the focus on creating this willingness through system architecture that is paramount.

Let's look at the system attributes that must be present if people are to be willing to share their critical internal communication resources. The first answer can be found in the term SHARING itself. Sharing implies an "ask". Absent the "ask" you have a "take", and no one likes a "take". Therefore, the sovereignty of the owner of the communication media must be respected; the system must not be able to "take" the communication media from its owner. The other aspect of the architecture that we need to be concerned with is security. Even an organization that doesn't have secured internal communications media will become concerned about security when they are asked to share that media outside of their organization. In a school environment, these concerns are heightened as they also are perceived as privacy issues.

So what's the problem? The short answer is Privacy. The slightly less short answer is that historically, when architecting horizontal (inter-agency) communication systems the approach had been to use re-worked vertical (intra-agency) technologies which are centralized in construction, featuring a "big, smart switch" in the middle. From a strictly technical perspective this is not a problem; the problem is that someone will own that "big, smart switch" and if that isn't your organization then the sovereignty (privacy) of your communications will be compromised and you will no longer be willing to participate.

In architecting a sovereign and secure communication resource sharing platform it necessarily must be a distributed (non-centralized) architecture. This is a novel approach that has allowed Mutualink to attract an extremely diverse range of customers, all willing to share their communication media with one another on a secure, virtual network because the privacy of all participants is wholly respected.

Furthermore, this level of sovereignty has yielded another benefit, one that touches on the governance issue. Our distributed architecture and invitation/acceptance model (that you'll see in the video in a moment) has made the traditional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) completely unnecessary, saving time and energy.





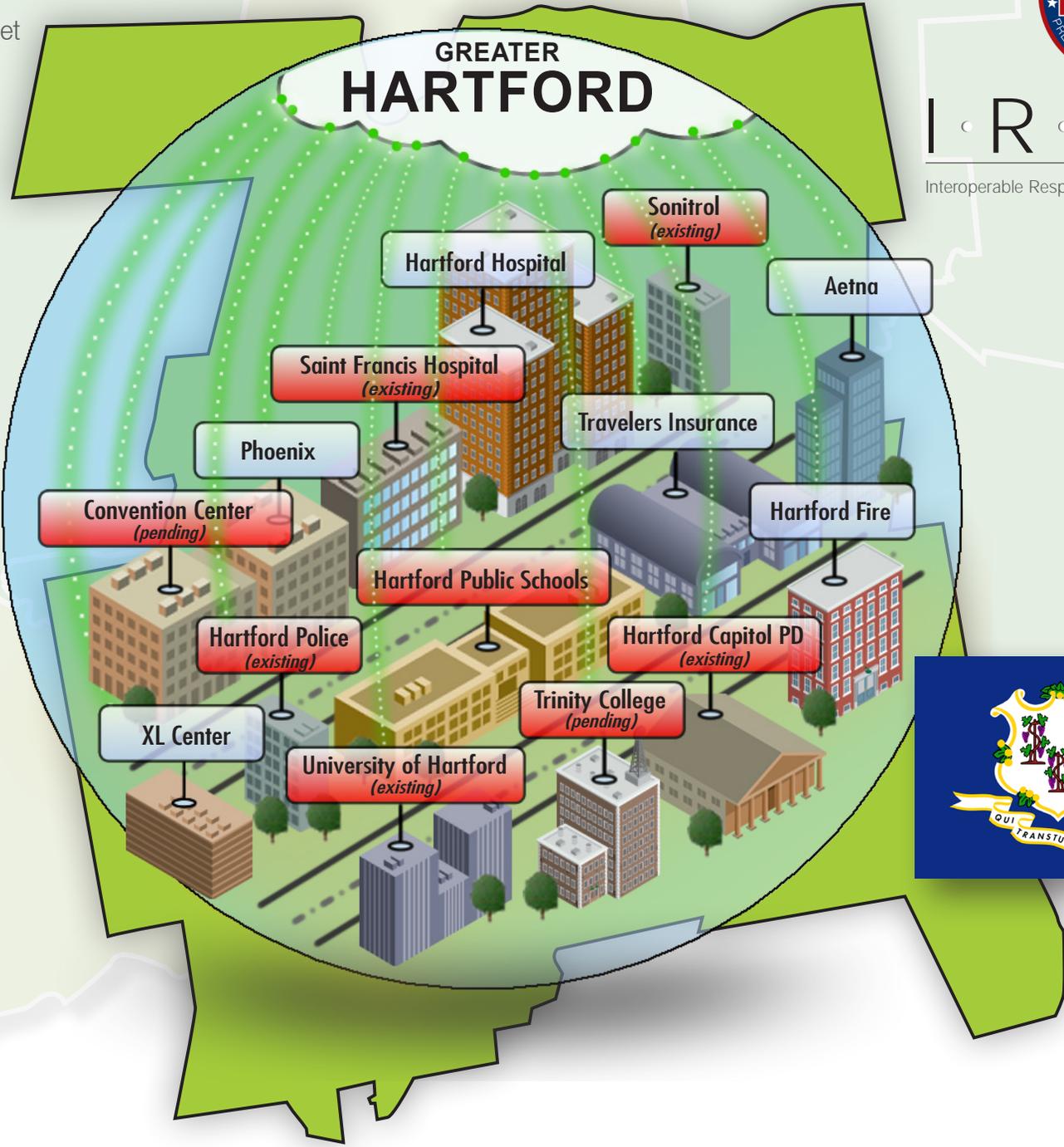
Web: [www.mutualink.net](http://www.mutualink.net)



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Interoperable Response And Preparedness Platform

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**Substitute Senate Bill No. 299**

**Public Act No. 13-221**

**AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG THE STATE POLICE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTING INCIDENTS AND CERTAIN OTHER INCIDENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On and after October 1, 2013, in the event of any incident involving numerous victims or casualties, the chief or superintendent of the local police department having jurisdiction over the municipality where such incident occurred or, where there is no organized local police department, the commanding officer of the state police troop having jurisdiction over such municipality may notify the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection of such incident. Upon receipt of such notification, said commissioner shall, by any means he or she deems appropriate, notify all organized local police departments in the state and all state police troops of the incident, the location and time of the incident and any other information said commissioner deems appropriate for dissemination to local police departments and state police troops.

(b) Not later than October 1, 2013, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in conjunction with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, shall adopt a written policy

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concerning the type of information that shall be disseminated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the method of accomplishing the dissemination of such information.

Approved June 25, 2013