



## PRESS RELEASE

26 April 2006

### **Arqiva-led consortium short-listed to revamp Ireland's emergency services communications network**

- **Capital investment in excess of €100M over a 10 year period**
- **Bid to provide a fully interoperable national digital radio network for the Garda, fire and ambulance services**
- **Arqiva joins forces with Lockheed Martin and SELEX Communications to leverage existing presence and experience in Irish market**

**Dublin, 26 April 2006** - Arqiva today announced that it has been short-listed by the Irish Government to provide a nationwide digital radio service to Ireland's emergency services. In partnership with Lockheed Martin and SELEX Communications, a Finmeccanica company, Arqiva is one of the prime bidders for the National Digital Radio Services (NDRS) project, which involves a capital investment in excess of €100m over 10 years. The NDRS project will enable the emergency services to communicate securely and effectively with each other over one network for the first time, bringing them in line with their European counterparts.

The proposed service will dramatically improve communications between all of Ireland's emergency services and other public bodies, including the Prison Service and Customs & Excise, who currently rely on mobile phone networks for inter-service communications. The NDRS project will enable secure communications in the event of a major disaster, enabling rapid and secure information sharing.

Pat Walls, General Manager for Arqiva in Ireland, commented, "We're delighted to have been short-listed for such a high profile contract. The NDRS project promises to deliver state-of-the-art digital radio communications to the emergency services throughout Ireland, enabling them to respond more effectively and with greater coordination. Arqiva has a long history in providing managed services to the blue light services in Ireland and, with the skills and experience that Lockheed Martin and SELEX Communications bring to the consortium, we are confident that we can provide a resilient, secure and flexible communications network within the timeframe set out by the Government."

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Arqiva currently provides radio communications services to all of the ambulance services in Ireland and 70% of the fire brigades, as well as providing services to the RNLI, the Irish Coastguard and the Garda. The company will lead the consortium's bid and, if successful, will finance, design, build, operate and manage the overall national digital radio network. SELEX Communications will provide radio infrastructure and, along with other manufacturers, will offer a framework contract for provision of radio terminals. Lockheed Martin completes the consortium and will provide programme management and system engineering, alongside independent quality assurance and design validation, a key requirement from bidders.

Arqiva plans to build the network by upgrading existing infrastructure, therefore minimising the environmental impact of building new sites.

- Ends -

**More on Arqiva**

Arqiva has a 50-year history in transmission and has helped pioneer the technologies of the digital age. The company was acquired in January 2005 for €1.9bn (£1.27bn) by a consortium of investors led by Macquarie Communications Infrastructure Group. Arqiva has five operating divisions:

- **Public Safety** – provides frontline communications for the UK and Ireland emergency services, government agencies and commercial organisations including design and installation, system maintenance and fully managed services for mobile radio, telecommunications and mobile data solutions.
- **Wireless Solutions** – provides market-leading, multi-operator infrastructure systems and services to wireless telecoms, transport and interior public space businesses. This is done through a portfolio of over 2400 towers, masts and managed sites, plus InBuilding (indoor coverage) and CityCell (urban coverage) products
- **Terrestrial Media Solutions** – provides national transmission for UK commercial television including ITV, Channel 4, Five and associated digital multiplexes, playing a leading role in the run-up to digital switchover. Transmission services also provided to vast majority of UK independent radio stations, both analogue and digital.
- **Satellite Media Solutions** – provides high quality and flexible solutions to a diverse range of international customers. Includes permanent and occasional broadcast services as well as IP, voice, data and digital media networks. Operational bases in London, Gerrards Cross, Winchester, Feltham and Bedford.
- **Mobile Media Solutions** – new division dedicated to the delivery of content to handheld devices. Recent technology developments open up new service concepts and revenue streams for broadcasters, content providers and mobile operators alike. Arqiva is platform-neutral and has mounted pioneering technical and commercial trials with partners such as Microsoft, O2 and Nokia.

[www.arqiva.com](http://www.arqiva.com)

**More on Lockheed Martin**

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about 135,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation reported 2005 sales of \$37.2 billion.

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**More on SELEX**

SELEX Communications, a Finmeccanica Company, is a communications systems supplier for military and civil customers. Uniquely placed to lead the delivery of Network Centric Communications, the Company's capabilities encompass solutions for joint, land, sea and air applications, secure and mission critical communications. Leader in advanced technology with over 100 years of experience, SELEX Communications develops state-of-the-art communications solutions meeting customer requirements and exceeding their expectations. SELEX Communications employs more than 5,000 people worldwide, with offices and plants in Italy, the UK, USA, Germany, Turkey, Romania and South America.

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