



PRESS RELEASE

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Arqiva brings Oldham businesses into the digital age

- **Public-private scheme set to benefit local authority users and businesses across Oldham's borough**
- **Arqiva making long-term investment in borough's radio infrastructure over five years**
- **Commercial solution utilising digital TETRA technology and Arqiva spectrum**

Oldham Council has launched a Public Private Partnership scheme to deliver a digital radio network for both the authority and local businesses, to be implemented by Arqiva, the communications infrastructure and media services company.

The five-year deal is the first of its kind for a UK local authority and will benefit the business community with capacity for approximately 1,000 radio users across the borough including businesses such as couriers, taxi companies and private security firms.

With a population of 220,000 spread over 55 square miles, Oldham's existing analogue systems struggled to meet the demands of the public and private sector, providing a poor signal susceptible to malfunction, particularly during bad weather.

Councillor Mark Alcock, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure, said:

"Businesses all over the UK need to seize every opportunity to grow again after a tricky couple of years for the economy and communication sits at the very heart of an efficient operation. Upgrading our infrastructure in Oldham with Arqiva means we can provide small businesses with an outstanding service, at an affordable rate. This is something they would never have been able to achieve on their own and will provide a real boost to the local economy."

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The digital TETRA system will provide small- to medium-sized enterprises with a digital communication network, enabling clearer push-to-talk voice calls and text messaging capability all utilising Arqiva's 412 MHz spectrum.

Steve Mace, Sales Director for Arqiva, said: "Organisations in Oldham are currently using and paying for mobile phones to satisfy what is essentially the need for a wide-area two-way radio. Thanks to this innovative public-private partnership, the local authority and businesses throughout the borough will now be able to benefit from a dedicated and cost-effective wide area network"

- Ends -

About Arqiva

Arqiva operates at the heart of the broadcast and mobile communications industry and is at the forefront of network solutions and services in an increasingly digital world. The company provides much of the infrastructure behind television, radio and wireless communications in the UK and has a growing presence in Ireland, mainland Europe and the USA. There are three business units:

Wireless Access provides cellular, wireless broadband, voice and data solutions for the mobile communications, public safety, local government, and commercial markets. Arqiva is the largest independent provider of radio sites in the UK and Ireland. With its own spectrum, the company can provide complete mobile communications networks including backhaul links.

Terrestrial Broadcast provides transmission for all UK terrestrial TV broadcasters, including the new networks being built for the Digital Switch Over. Transmission is also provided for BBC Radio and most commercial radio stations, both analogue and DAB. The company owns and operates two of the six UK digital terrestrial TV multiplexes, enabling major media companies to bring their TV and radio services to Freeview.

Satellite & Media provides global communication platforms to enterprise, government and broadcast customers around the world. It owns and operates teleports at key locations including Los Angeles, Washington, London and Paris, as well as comprehensive satellite capacity, an international terrestrial fibre network and extensive media facilities. These enable Arqiva to provide world leading organisations with a comprehensive range of services to deliver their data, broadcasts and media across the globe.

Arqiva has its headquarters near Winchester and other major UK offices in London, Warwick, Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire. Major customers include the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Five, BSkyB, Classic FM, the five UK mobile operators and the emergency services.

www.arqiva.com

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