Belgian Federal Police and communication solutions

PSCE meeting 7 June 2011

As is (organisations)

- Federal Police (4 DG)
- Local Police (196 police zones)

  Integrated Police (101)

- Federal emergency ambulances service (112)
- Fire brigades (+/- 250)
- Customs
- Intelligence State Service
- …
- Gathered in the "Advisory Astrid Users Committee"
- Astrid systems (radio and dispatching 101 and 112) operated by the A.S.T.R.I.D. state company

As is (communications and applications)

- Nationwide multidisciplinary voice centric radio network TETRA

- Plain gateways with neighbouring countries
  Waiting for a European roaming interface between countries

- Nationwide SDS radio network TETRA
  short messages and Automatic Vehicle Location

- Nationwide narrow band data radio network "IP over TETRA" (TETRA 1)
  Manual access to police database for controls, dispatching application

- Video matrix on Fed Pol level, different video systems on local level

- Proprietary wireless video system for helicopters (direct mode)

- GPRS
  Bankcard reader for immediate collecting

- One national dispatching application (operated by A.S.T.R.I.D.)

- One national police portal to the main police DB and applications

To be

- There is an evident need for:
  - Reliable TETRA1 network
  - New video system for helicopters (current system is outdated)
  - International roaming (ISI)
- There is a confused need for more data applications using wide or broad band data radio network (video, mailing…)
- These needs can't be supported by TETRA 1

- Strategy (coming from the ICT Coordination Committee): before making any data infrastructure or data application investments, the Integrated Police wanted to better know is operational needs
- End 2009, DST/DTRC decides to lead an enquiry among representative police services (22 Fed Pol, 25 Loc Pol) to know the needs for wireless mobile data applications.
- Sep 2010. DST/DTRC leads a second enquiry about ISI

To be

- Data wireless enquiry results: Hit parade of the mobile wireless data applications:
  - Police or civilian DB consultations
    - Manually
    - Automatically
  - Operational field awareness
    - Dispatching application (event, units, maps)
    - Video
    - Sensors
  - Front office administration
    - Booking tickets and other operational forms
    - Mailing
  - Back office administration
- Need for ISI confirmed to apply the existing international covenants

Strategy

- Taking in the view that:
  - There is no optimized governance process in the Integrated Police
    - Extended Direction Committee (very high level)
    - ICT Coordination Committee (low level: capacities distribution to ensure projects execution)

    Theoretical dossier will not convince. Better to organize "Proof Of Concepts" in a first step

  - Very scarce ICT development capacities at Federal level
    Trying to adapt existing police data PC applications to a mobile environment -> the MDT and PDA have to run on Window

  - Small budgets at Police Federal level
    Relying on A.S.T.R.I.D. for wireless data infrastructure and operational field awareness application (= enhanced dispatching application, core business of A.S.T.R.I.D.)

  - No frequencies are currently available to develop a mission critical data infrastructure
    No TEDS solution in the coming years. When frequencies available, the new data standard for PSS will likely be available -> Lobbying for frequencies and for the new data standard for PSS with 2020 as target.

Strategy

- Taking in the view that:
  - The broadband data standard for PPDR is not yet ready
  - There is not yet a need for mission critical mobile data applications in Belgium
    Until now the officers have never had the opportunity to use reliable data applications -> police data application relying on a 3G commercial network is an added value in Belgium. A.S.T.R.I.D. intends to become 3G MVNO. Afterwards, applications that will become "mission critical" (following to the officers on the field) will have to rely on the new data standard and infrastructure for PSS operated by A.S.T.R.I.D.
  - The video system for helicopter is strategic for Fed Pol
    Budget will come -> no POC step is necessary -> call for tender started for a nationwide cellular proprietary video system
  - There is a video matrix at federal level
    Taking benefit of it as a unique contact point to distribute the images supplied by the Fed Pol (helicopters, water guns) to the other services. Trying to make available on it images coming from Local Police Services (video data exchange is no evidence). Possible link with the video matrix: leased line, VPN internet, 3G
  - SDS is working on a reliable way and simultaneously with voice
    Developing data application for radio terminals based on SDS (photo push, DB enquiries). A.S.T.R.I.D. will realize this
  - There is no business case for developing ISI
    Support of Europe (FP7-SEC WP2012) is recommended

Communication solutions

- Data radio infrastructure
  - Short term
    - MVNO solution supported by the national TETRA operator (TETRA 1 likely conserved as fallback solution)
    - Proprietary solution for Heli video, connected on the federal video matrix, directly available for the PSS
  - Middle term: efficient new standard and infrastructure for mission critical purposes (2020)

- Data applications
  - Technical adaptation of existing PC applications
    Not possible for decentralized applications (front and back office administration) -> standalone working and further synchronisation
  - New "operational field awareness" application
  - SDS+JAVA based applications for handhelds