

Softil Releases Outlook 2020 for Mission-Critical Communications

First MCX deployments for public safety networks;5G buildout will continue, but will not yet impact public safety operations;CBRS supplements LTE installations

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, December 4, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As the year 2019 edges towards history, it is customary for Softil to dust off its crystal ball and look into what the mission-critical communications (MCC or MCX) industry can expect in the year 2020. What will be new, what will change, what will stay the same? As the world's leader in enabling MCX communications, Softil is well placed to forecast what 2020 holds for the MCX industry.

"Softil coined the term "True MCX" to stress to all solution providers that they should not operate in silos and fully adhere with international standards for mission-critical communication solutions over broadband," says Pierre Hagendorf, Softil's CEO. "Full interoperability of solutions is essential for all involved in the development of the MCX revolution and will ensure rapid uptake and deployment. The market seems to be inching in that direction, but it will take a few years till true interoperability becomes commonplace."

Trends of 2020

Radio is Not Going Away

Land Mobile Radio is here to stay for at least another decade and will operate in parallel with new MCX networks. LMR will ultimately fadeout from new Mission Critical Communication deployments within the next 3-5 years with MCX solutions being the undisputed future of broadband communications.



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Pierre Hagendorf, CEO, Softil

LMR to MCX interworking

It would be nice if next generation technologies would work like magic – say the right words, snap your fingers and old technology is magically replaced with the new. It doesn't work like this in reality. Technologies transition usually much slower than we want, and we need to facilitate this transition. Next year will see LMR to LTE gateways dominate MCX installations as only they can provide the necessary bridge between old and new.



Pierre Hagendorf, CEO Softil

We will [Finally!] See Deployments of Public Safety Broadband (MCX)

Have you ever tried to hit a moving target? Commercial offerings of MCX (MCPTT as a bare minimum) is a perfect example of trying to hit a moving target. Despite all the failed predictions so far, it is unavoidable that commercial deployments of MCX appear in 2020. There is now critical mass following internal trials which will result in deployments and we can expect both the US FirstNet and UK ESN networks to become available to first responders and taking advantage of PSBN.

Dispatch and Recording Solutions to Enhance MCX Deployments

Right on the footsteps of the first MCX deployments to the first responders we should expect that dispatch consoles, control rooms, computer aided dispatch (CAD), and logging and recording solutions will provide much needed management components for first responder communications solutions. Dispatch console solutions will also help to seamlessly combine LMR and MCX usage by first responders in the field.

MCX Device User Interface Will Advance

As new, smartphone-like devices become available to first responders, ease of use will become critical. The UI of these devices will have to be intuitive, simple, error free and customizable to tailor for different groups and requirements of first responders (Fire, EMS, Police ...). The UI will have to evolve for the sake of usable public safety broadband to properly address user requirements. This will be one of the hottest subjects of the year in 2020 as the service becomes available and first trials result. There is also a slew of up and coming alternative UI options – Voice, VR, Haptics – the research will continue well into 2020 with commercial offerings appearing in the next 2-3 years.

MCX for Rail Deployments Will Continue Its Pace

Trains cross boundaries of different countries with different service providers and different levels of standard implementation, which makes achieving a universal solution such as Europe's differing train networks more challenging. This is why first vendors of technology enabled solutions is happening in single countries such as South Korea and Australia where MCX technology can be deployed end-to-end and there are no concerns of cross-border interoperability. MCX and LTE-R deployments will expand further in South East Asia in 2020 and Europe will resolve its issues and deploy by 2025.

Integration of MCX and NG911/NG112

The advent of Public Safety Broadband and overall shift to IP Communication technologies for MCX offers a unique opportunity to directly connect emergency call centers with first responders in a much richer manner. NG911/NG112 are both IP technologies and thus connect audio from an emergency call to an MCX (MCPTT) group and should be straightforward. However, the need to simultaneously cater to legacy networks and devices and new MCX networks and products does present a challenge that is currently being worked out. The year 2020 will see the appearance of such MCX/ng911 interconnectivity solutions, most likely implemented by Dispatch Consoles.

5G Will Not Be Impactful in 2020 Yet. But Watch Out For CBRS

The 5G revolution will take years to implement and overcome the challenges of millimeter wave communication range. Besides, MCX standards in 3GPP are still in the process of assessing the impact of the so called 5GS, so 5G buildout will continue, but will not yet impact public safety operations next year. CBRS, on another hand, is rapidly evolving and is likely to become an alternative to LTE deployments next year for in-building coverage and full standalone private LTE operations, especially in mining, transportation, and utilities. CBRS will generate much excitement in 2020.

Internet of [Life Saving] Things (IoLST) Will Continue Advancing

This is a safe prediction. The Internet of Things (IoT) has passed the Through of Disillusionment and is now entering the Slope of Enlightenment. Inevitably, more and more aspects of our lives and work are becoming "IoT enabled." This IoT enablement generates data, massive amounts of data. As we move towards public safety broadband, it opens opportunities to make IoT data easier to access for public safety needs and opens an evolution path from IoT to IoLST.

More on MCX in 2020 at <https://www.softil.com/press-release/softil-mcx-outlook-2020/>

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