



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAEM, COMCARE and EIC Sponsor Interoperability Pavilion and Learning Center at IAEM Annual Conference

PHOENIX, AZ – November 14, 2005 – The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), COMCARE, and the Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC) are opening an interoperability learning center that includes a set of demonstrations at the annual IAEM Conference on Tuesday, November 15th. Roaming Messenger is a contributor to the event in which over twenty different technology companies are participating. Using three emergency scenarios ranging from an explosion to a hurricane, to a pandemic flu event, the Pavilion features continual demonstrations showing how standardized data messages can be exchanged by disparate emergency agency software systems and tools.

According to the Executive Director of IAEM, Beth Armstrong, “This event shows that data standards are an effective way to promote interoperability without sacrificing the individual needs of emergency agencies. Agencies can choose the tool that best meets their needs and still be able to share information with any other agency effectively.”

COMCARE Chair and Executive Director of the North Carolina Wireless 9-1-1 Board, Richard Taylor said, “Events like this show how standardized emergency messages can improve response for day-to-day emergencies and large-scale events. We are delighted to be working with these public and private partners. We strongly support the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security in facilitating the development of the emergency message standards being demonstrated.”

“We are very happy to sponsor this pavilion and learning center,” said EIC Chair, Matt Walton. “Our members are showing the excellent work they have been doing with emergency response leaders to develop and use data standards.”

Using actual and draft standards, over 20 technology companies within the pavilion, in other locations on the exhibit floor, and around the country will exchange alerts, resource requests, and hospital status information during the demonstrations. Participants will demonstrate the interoperability value of the OASIS Common Alerting Protocol and three draft data standards being developed as part of a DHS-sponsored program in which IAEM, EIC and COMCARE are all participating. More information about the pavilion, demonstrations scenarios, standards and participants may be found at <http://www.comcare.org/IAEM.html>.

About IAEM, COMCARE, and EIC

IAEM is a non-profit organization representing 3,000+ emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager® program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more. For more details on the IAEM 53rd Annual Conference & EMEX Exhibit, see www.iaem.com.

The Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC) was launched in October 2002 to address our nation's lack of consistent technical interoperability and standards for emergency and incident management. Now comprised of over 40 private entities, public agencies and non-profit organizations, the EIC is promoting the development and adoption of standards for using Web services, Extensible Markup Language (XML), and existing relevant standards that will enable emergency industry interoperability.

COMCARE is a national non-profit alliance dedicated to advancing emergency response. We promote the adoption of modern, interoperable emergency systems and the development of new procedures, training, and tools to maximize their value for emergency responders. We encourage cooperation across professional, jurisdictional and geographic lines, seeking to improve effectiveness through solutions that integrate emergency response professions, government, the public, and private industry. COMCARE's 100+ organizational members represent the wide diversity of the emergency response community. For more information visit www.comcare.org

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