



STATEMENT by the Honorable Jon Nehring, President Snohomish County Emergency Radio System (SERS)

As President and Board Chair of the Snohomish County Emergency Radio System (SERS), I am pleased to announce that we have concluded our vendor selection process to replace our aging and failing countywide emergency 911 radio system that serves local public safety agencies. This selection process began more than a year ago with SERS working with the public safety agencies throughout the County to assess their emergency communication needs. We then created a specific set of requirements for meeting those needs in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner to assure we would get a new, high-quality and reliable radio system. The selection process was performed in conjunction with Snohomish County's Purchasing Division ensuring a fair, equitable and transparent competitive process was followed to enable all qualified vendors to make proposals. We are very excited to now be moving to the next step in that process of replacing our countywide emergency 911 radio system.

SERS working Snohomish County has selected Motorola Solutions Inc. (Motorola) as our partner in designing and building the next-generation SERS system. The selection committee carefully vetted the submitted responses, and Motorola clearly demonstrated that it has the proven capability with the most experience in deploying systems that met our requirements not only within the State of Washington, but all over North America. The selection committee independently reviewed Motorola's claims and confirmed a high-level of customer satisfaction by public safety and emergency communications agencies it has provided radio systems to that are similar to what is envisioned by Snohomish County. Therefore, we believe that we are starting this process with a solid foundation with a proven and capable partner that will serve Snohomish County well.

SERS will now immediately begin negotiating a contract with Motorola. The contract will be executed only after funding is authorized by the County. That could involve a proposed ballot proposition to be voted on in a countywide election later this year. Ongoing negotiations will now proceed to possibly reach a precise, final dollar amount needed to acquire and install the new radio system. That stage of negotiations could be completed in June. Until that time when the County and SERS officially express their intention to contract with Motorola, SERS will continue to reference earlier preliminary estimates for the new radio system costs being in the range of \$60-\$75 million (2016 estimate by Stantec, SERS technical consultants for the project).

SERS mission is to help ensure the safety of the citizens of Snohomish County who are served by our First Responders from 48 law enforcement and fire protection agencies. That requires facilitating high-quality and reliable emergency communications between 911 dispatchers and first responders who currently use 5,000 two-way, push-to-talk radios to communicate with each other. SERS current radio system is a Motorola 800 MHz analog system that in 2020 reaches its 20-year end of life when replacement parts will no longer be available. The new system will be a P25 radio standard, digital system.

We are pleased to provide more information about this project or respond to other inquiries regarding emergency communications in Snohomish County. As this project progresses, SERS will be publicly issuing regular media updates. Please direct future inquiries to contact@sers800.org. Thank you.

Jon Nehring

SERS President & Mayor, City of Marysville, WA