



800MHz – Under Construction!

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It's been a while since you've heard much on the 800MHz Trunked Radio System, but now we can finally say that the vision is becoming a reality.

A 50,000 square foot warehouse in Schaumburg, Illinois is the current home of the Phoenix Fire Department's new radio system, due out in late 2003. "What's it doing in Illinois," you ask? That's where the makers of the system, Motorola have built the entire system, and where they'll make sure it is prepared for usage by our Fire Department staff. This is called the "Staging" process.

While at the warehouse, teams from the PFD will arrive to examine the system and its features. They will be there to witness tests and assessments that Motorola performs on the equipment to make sure it is functioning the way they expect it to. This also allows our technicians and users time to scrutinize its features and develop a familiarity with the system. During the last days in the warehouse, Motorola will allow other vendors (competitors) to bring in their radios and demonstrate that their equipment functions with our radio system. This is a key feature of our system, "Project 25." After the testing, it will take about a year to install the equipment. After installation, there will be more testing and performance drills prior to loading portable and mobile radios onto the system.

The City of Phoenix has committed a significant amount of money to this project to make sure that the equipment meets the requirements given by Police and Fire. Nothing is being compromised for the sake of saving money. Safety is the number one concern, and the new radio system will not be put on-line until every facet has passed critical tests.