



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leader Technologies to sponsor Ohio Homeland Security Initiative meeting at Ohio State University

Need exists for an integrated 'command and control' system at state and local level to help fight terrorism

COLUMBUS, OH (Dec. 7, 2004) – A think tank forum at Ohio State University, sponsored by **Leader Technologies**, a business communications company in Westerville, and involving General Dynamics, will offer a new format to promote management between industry and government to provide the critical tools of Homeland Security.

The anti-terrorism technology meeting will be held at the OSU's Schottenstein Center on Monday, Dec. 13, to showcase currently available, affordable "command and control" systems that could be implemented at the state and local level.

State and local agencies are on the front lines of the terrorist battle, said Leader founder and chairman Mike McKibben, yet they still haven't been able to resolve all the problems that plagued New York emergency officials on 9/11. "They need to be able to communicate in real-time, across agencies, and to know the position of every asset they have on the ground," he said. "This meeting will show what technologies are available today – right now – that local and state officials could implement to help win the war on terror."

"America is rich with innovative technology. To solve the homeland security problems, first responders need to be aware of what is out there and have the ability to purchase and integrate it," says Warren Parish, a strategist for Homeland Security systems. "Industry in Ohio for over 150 years has led the way for America to move forward, from the Wright Brothers to online services and financing. Today it again steps forward to combine the creative ability of new ideas in small business with large companies to press the attack on those who would deny the country its way of life."

Leader and other companies will demonstrate real-time command and control of personnel and equipment, radio interoperability and tie-in of cellular phones, integration of data across law enforcement agencies, and scalable voice alerting. The participants will also hear real-world experiences from other major cities where command and control prototypes are already in operation. These will be affordable solutions, not "pie-in-the-sky" theoretical proposals that will take additional years of testing and unlimited budgets, McKibben said. "Technologies exist now to achieve these goals. It's more a matter of simply making our first responders aware of what is out there," he said.

Homeland Security officials from Washington D.C., along with representatives from General Dynamics and Wells Fargo Bank, state and city officials from Ohio, Florida, Louisiana, Arizona and California are slated to attend.

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Leader Technologies will handle logistics and will participate as one of the technology providers. Leader's core technology, **Leader2Leader** and **Leader Alert**, can provide key requirements to anti-terrorism efforts, including alerting, database and indexing, and information rights management.

Command and control represents the second critical step necessary to allow Homeland Security to bring together disparate agencies that fight terrorism, noted McKibben. "The first allocation of Homeland Security funds went to buy first responder gear like radios, vehicles and chemical suits," he said. "Now we need to focus on threat risk levels. It is critical to build a command and control infrastructure to coordinate first responders as well as pull in regional and national support at a moment's notice."

The Ohio Homeland Security Initiative brings together providers and prospective users of command and control technologies, including detection of weapons of mass destruction, information management, database integration, pattern recognition, and alerting as well as first responder event management and collaboration.

About Leader®

Leader Technologies Incorporated has developed an enterprise-class communications platform called **Leader2Leader®** that connects voice, video and data across existing application systems to enhance collaboration and decision making. The platform combines information rights management, indexing, content repository, communications and collaboration. It provides an industrial-strength communications environment that facilitates critical Homeland Security needs in prevention, analysis, coping and recovery. The platform can be implemented locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. For more information, visit www.leader.com

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