

Wednesday, 14 October

Day 1 Conference Program

8.50am	Welcome and opening remarks Geoff Hird – Events Director, Comms Connect, and MC, Chris Stevens		
9.00am	Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) – Australian Government update Bradley Creevey – Assistant Coordinator General, PSMB Taskforce, NEMA		
9.30am	Public Safety Communications – an agency perspective Kylie De Courteney – Managing Director, NSW Telco Authority		
10.00am	Together connects emergency services Moderator: Kirsten Garwood – Head of Government, Telstra Tim Rutherford – CIO/CTO, Dept of Police, Fire & Emergency Management Tasmania Andrew Johns – Wireless Engineering Principal, Telstra		
10.30am	Morning Break — Exhibition Hall		
	Public Safety stream	Technology stream	Industry stream
11.15am	P25 global update Cheryl Giggetts – Board Member, Project 25 Technology Interest Group (USA)	Hybrid comms solution ensures continuous connectivity to rural & remote Australia David D'Souza – ICT & Operational Technology Leader, Powercor	Interoperability challenges in the age of 3GPP, IWF and MCX – lessons learned David Deacon – CEO, Etherstack Lilian Gaichies – COO, Streamwide
11.45am	Introducing a new shared voice console for NZ's emergency services Matthew Hansen – Senior Program Manager, PSN Program, SafetyNet NZ, Chris Laufale OSTU – NGCC Business Change Manager Paramedic Peer Support Volunteer	When fiber is not an option: Five agencies, four continents and the networks they built instead Luke O'Kelly – VP and APAC Region Head, Ceragon Networks	Safer marine operations with remote comms upgrade Daniel Conwell – Manager Marine Technical Services, Port Operations & VTS, Maritime Safety Queensland
12.15pm	Drone-in-a-box for emergency services: Resilient connectivity beyond terrestrial networks Riley Porteous – Communications Systems Team Leader, Surf Life Saving NSW	Delivering mission-critical comms for the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics Adolfo Ferraro – VP Critical Communications Sales, Leonardo	Private wireless networks for underground mining Kaine Mulder – Technical Product Manager, RFI Technology Solutions
12.45pm	Lunch Break — Exhibition Hall — Sponsored by TCCA/ACCF		
1.45pm	Architecting digital nations: Why MNO digital trust is the cornerstone of mission-critical confidence Julian Gorman – APAC Head, GSMA	When drones enter the incident scene Thomas Pils – SVP, Global Public Safety, Frequentis	Beyond the generator: An agnostic look at rapid-deployable power for critical communications resilience Gareth McKay – MD, Valen Power
2.15pm	Breaking invisible borders - Can the European EUCCS model unlock Australia's PSMB? Alain Ruinet – Sales and Programmes for Airbus Defence and Space's Public Safety and Security business, Airbus Defence and Space - Public Safety and Security	Powering Victorian Emergency Services Network with Coherent Optical Technology Kulbhushan Kul – CommTel Network Solutions (Australia)	ARCIA's role in a modern critical communications ecosystem Hamish Duff – President, ARCIA
2.45pm	From network rollout to mission adoption – Lessons learnt on successful agency adoption Pierre Fortier – Vice President, Capgemini	Powering the future power grid: Real-time performance visibility in a Polish utility's 450 MHz network Claus Still – CEO, Creanord Oy	Sensing the Future – How 5G and ISAC are redefining public safety networks Yasin Khan – CTO, Mission Critical Networks & Enterprise, Ericsson
3.15pm	Afternoon Break — Exhibition Hall		
3.45pm	From Portals to Pathways: Exploring future secure data delivery for 000 Leigh Wickerson – Regional Manager, Allerium	From Deep Space to Critical Communications: the SKAO as a blueprint for the future of connected infrastructure Peter Scougall – General Manager, Strategy & Growth, Ventia	Digital LMR and location services part 2: managing time and space dimensions David Ross – Senior Software Engineer, Omnitronics
4.15pm	PANEL: Beyond LMR vs Broadband — What Will the Next Critical Communications Ecosystem Actually Look Like? Moderator: Chris Stevens – Managing Director, CartGIS Panellists: Matthew Wormald , Fire NSW, Hamish Duff ARCIA, Kevin Graham , TCCA, Neal Richardson , Otari Services, Neil Jamieson , Hypha		
5.00pm	NETWORKING DRINKS — EXHIBITION HALL — sponsored by Hypha		
6.30pm	ARCIA ANNUAL INDUSTRY GALA DINNER — Sofitel Melbourne on Collins		

Thursday, 15 October

Day 2 Conference Program

8.55am	Welcome and opening remarks Chris Stevens , MC, Comms Connect		
9.00am	5G and Smart Cities – emerging technologies enhancing citizen safety Hamad Alnuaimi – ICT Advisor, Abu Dhabi Police GHQ		
9.30am	The AI shift that's rewiring emergency communications Louise Francis – NZ Country Manager, Ecosystm		
10.00am	Collaboration is driving Innovation in Critical Communication Shane Fitzsimmons AO AFSM – Board Chair, Connectivity Innovation Network (CIN)		
10.30am	PANEL: AI in Critical Comms – insights from local and global leaders Moderator: Chris Stevens – Managing Director, CartGIS Panellists: Dayle Stevens OAM – AI Executive, Telstra, David D'Souza – ICT & Operational Technology Leader, Powercor, Craig Parnham – Executive Director, Digital Technology & Innovation, NSW Telco Authority, Louise Francis – NZ Country Manager, Ecosystm, Dan Winson – Founder & CEO, Zetifi		
11.15am	Morning Break – Exhibition Hall		
	Public Safety stream	Technology stream	Industry stream
12.00pm	Together builds safer communities Vaiju Joshi – Portfolio Director, Mobile Transformation, SA Police Luke Marchant – Market Creation, Industry & Customer Advisory Head, Telstra	Modernising Search & Rescue Communications Matt Ellingham – ICT Director, NZ Land, Search & Rescue Inc	Building for Agents, not Chatbots: How agentic AI is changing workflows, risk management and product development Dan Winson – Founder & CEO, Zetifi
12.30pm	How to implement cost effective interoperability Cheryl Giggetts – Board Member, Project 25 Technology Interest Group (USA)	Converging LMR, Satellite, NTN and PTT technologies in a real-life water utilities case study James Potter – Director, Product Management, L3Harris Technologies	Advances & best practice for natural disaster response Dylan Earle – Business Solutions Manager, Tait Communications
1.00pm	The secret sauce behind NZ's world-leading Public Safety Network Cellular Jason Novak – Principal Engineer, One NZ	Geospatial Intelligence for Mission Critical Operations: Integrating Location Services, Mapping and Radio Networks Arslan Nizami – Engineer, Tait Communications	Delivering critical communications on one of the world's most remote islands Molly James – Service Delivery & Roaming Manager, Omnitouch Network Services
1.30pm	Lunch Break – Exhibition Hall – Sponsored by TCCA/ACCF Communications		
2.15pm	Unbreakable Connectivity: How European Emergency Services are combining space and terrestrial networks Simon Hill – CTO, Excelerate Technology Matt Wroughton – Group Sales Director, Excelerate Technology	From beach patrol to statewide response: Building an interoperable, remote-ready dispatch ecosystem Cal Silcock – Manager, State Operations, Surf Life Saving SA	AFC in 6Ghz and WISP Compliance Adrian Robertson – President WISPAU and Director of WISP, Dreamtilt
2.45pm	From LMR to Mission-Critical Broadband: Lessons from Public Safety Networks Steve Bush – CEO, Tait Systems New Zealand	Star Wars – the LEO strikes back Dale Stacey – Managing Director, Sat Pty Ltd	Is 6GHz band AFC an option for your 5GHz network challenges? Mike Everest – Managing Director, DuxTel
3.15pm	When the vehicle calls for help: Is Australasia ready for eCall? Neal Richardson – Director, Otalise Services Ltd	Trust before Tech: Introducing AI when failure matters Derek Madden – CEO, Moorabool Shire Council	Critical comms use cases in the global Health Sector Elina Avela – CEO, Beaconsim
3.45pm	CONFERENCE CLOSES		

To view the full program, visit melbourne.comms-connect.com.au. Change of program content: WF Media (Comms Connect) will endeavour to ensure that this conference program is correct at the time of the event. We may need to alter the program prior to the event and reserve the right to do so without notice.