

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Takina Wellington Convention & Exhibition Centre
27-28 May 2026



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, 27 May 2026

PLENARY/THEATRE 1	
8.50am–9.00am Welcome & opening remarks: MC, Chris Stevens – Managing Director, CartGIS	
9.00am–9.30am Official Welcome and Opening Government Minister(s) – TBC	
9.30am–10.00am NGCC's evolution: new Public Safety Network Cellular customers and beyond Steve Ferguson – Director, Next Generation Critical Communications Steve Lawrence – Chief Technical Director, Next Generation Critical Communications	
10.00am – 10.30am The secret sauce behind NZ's world-leading Public Safety Network Cellular Services Jason Novak – Principal Engineer, One NZ	
10.30 AM – 11.30 AM MORNING BREAK	
THEATRE 1	THEATRE 2
11.30am–12.00pm Radio Spectrum Management update – 2026 and beyond Claire Smollett – National Manager, RSM Daniel O'Grady – Manager, Policy & Planning, MBIE	11.30am–12.00pm Presentation under review
12.00pm–12.30pm The importance of rapid response during critical emergency events Inspector Kerei Gray – PSN Implementation Manager, NZ Police Dylan Earle – Customer Solutions Manager, Tait Communication	12.00pm–12.30pm Ad hoc comms networks using mmWave-enabled UAVs: real-world problems and solutions Dylan Jorgensen – CEO, Qamcom
12.30pm–1.00pm The impact of Voice Quality in mission-critical IP networks using PoLQA Senthil Sundram – Head of Telco Solutions, Rohde & Schwarz	12.30pm – 1.00pm Terrestrial-first, Space-enabled: Designing universal outdoor coverage for Aotearoa Matthew Schultz – Partner, Gravelroad
1.00PM – 2.00PM LUNCH BREAK	
2.00pm – 2.30pm From Dedicated Networks to Hybrid Ecosystems: Cyber Resilience Is Now Operational Resilience Vanessa Leite – Cyber Security Advisor	2.00pm – 3.00pm RFUANZ AGM
2.30pm – 3.00pm How Can Your Embedded Antennas Partner Streamline Your Product Development? Jan Jesman – Technical Director, Panorama Antennas	
3.00pm – 3.30pm Global Critical Comms update Kevin Graham – CEO, TCCA	3.00pm – 3.30pm Presentation under review
3.30PM – 4.15PM AFTERNOON BREAK	
4.15pm – 5.00pm Panel Session – Women in Critical Comms Progress with purpose Moderator – Katrina Curry – General Manager, Hourua Panellists: Annouschka Martinsen – Strategic Executive Advisor, Governance and Government Affairs Manager, NGCC; Claire Smollett – National Manager, RSM; Sam Piper – Operations Manager, Hourua; Bidar Homsey – BD Public Safety Lead, Frequentis Australasia & Board Chair, ACCF + 1 x TBC	
5.00PM – 6.00PM: Networking Drinks on the Exhibition Floor – <i>sponsored by Motorola Solutions</i>	
6.30PM – 11.30PM: RFIANZ Gala Awards Dinner	

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Thursday, 28 May 2026

PLENARY/THEATRE 1	
9.15am–9.20am Welcome Soren Low – Chairman, RFUANZ	
9.20am–9.30am Opening remarks MC, Chris Stevens – Managing Director, CartGIS	
9.30am–10.00am Keynote From Preparedness to Response Aligning Operations and Connectivity in Emergencies Andrew Howe – Operational Readiness Advisor for the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group in Ōtautahi/Christchurch Darren Cooley – Head of Enterprise & Government, Pivotal Satellite	
10.00am–10.30am AI for drowning prevention – groundbreaking tech from Surf Life Saving NSW Matt Ingersole – CIO, Surf Life Saving NSW	
10.30AM – 11.30AM MORNING BREAK	
THEATRE 1	THEATRE 2
11.30am – 12.00pm Powering public safety with 5G – secure, resilient, cyber-ready Enrique Garcia – Head of Mission-Critical Networks, Ericsson	11.30am – 12.00pm Ultra-Early Fire Detection in Practice: 2025 Edge-AI + LoRaWAN Deployments Sohan Domingo – VP Operations, Dryad Networks
12.00pm – 12.30pm Presentation under review	12.00pm – 12.30pm Integrating Voice Communications with IoT and GIS for Operational Efficiency Michael Clarke – Senior Communications Consultant, Omnitronics
12.30pm –1.00pm IoT in the Wild: How LoRaWAN is used to protect Brook Waimārama Sanctuary wildlife for the next generation Murray Neill – Field Ops Coordinator, Waimārama Sanctuary Thomas Bennett – IoT Solutions Specialist, Go Wireless NZ	12.30pm –1.00pm High-capacity voice backhaul links enhance NZDF comms platform Speakers TBC
1.00PM – 1.45PM LUNCH BREAK	
THEATRE 1	THEATRE 2
1.45pm – 2.15pm Modernising Utility Communications Towards AI-Ready Infrastructure Tafadzwa Nyambira - RF Engineer, Agile Networks	1.45pm – 2.15pm RSM Interference case studies Nathan Schaffer – Manager, Radio Spectrum Investigations
2.15pm – 3.00pm Panel session: AI in Critical Communications – reality v hype plus real-life use cases Moderator – Chris Stevens – Comms Connect MC + MD, CartGIS Panellists: Matt Ingersole – CIO, Surf Life Saving NSW; Tafadzwa Nyambira – RF Engineer, Agile Networks +3 TBC	
3.00PM EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE CLOSE	

Change of program content – The Comms Connect team at WF Media 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