



COUNTY OF ERIE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Erie County unveils new dispatch console system at Public Safety building

Erie, PA – Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and the Erie County Department of Public Safety on Thursday unveiled new dispatch consoles at the county's 911 dispatch center.

The Zetron dispatch console system, which replaces the previous Catalyst system, was installed by manufacturer E.F. Johnson starting in January. The system, which marks the first step in the full implementation of the Next Generation Public Safety Radio System, went live in February.

"We are excited to be adding this dispatch console system to our Public Safety operations," Dahlkemper said. "Not only is it the first tangible evidence of our Next Generation system, it is bringing significant advantages to our emergency communications."

Already, the new dispatch console system has improved the reliability and quality of communications to first responders – an improvement that will be enhanced once the full Next Generation Public Safety Radio System is in place.

The early deployment of the Zetron system immediately saves Erie County \$210,000, which was the annual cost of the maintenance contract on the previous system.

The launch of the Zetron dispatch consoles also provides telecommunicators an opportunity to become proficient on the system as Erie County moves forward with implementation of the full radio system upgrade, said John Grappy, director of the Erie County Department of Public Safety.

Meanwhile, work on the next phase of the Next Generation Public Safety Radio System is moving forward. Erie County officials are in the process of finalizing the design of additional equipment that will be ordered from E.F. Johnson, and continue to finalize land/property agreements necessary for the construction of eight communication towers.

The Next Generation system will consist of 17 tower sites total: nine existing towers that will be repurposed, and eight new towers that will be constructed.

Once complete, the Next Generation system will migrate current county radio systems to a common platform, providing a technologically advanced communications system that meets the needs of all Erie County residents and first responders.

The entire project remains on target for installation and testing by January 2018, with users set to be transitioned to the new system in March 2018.

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