Question of the Day –

Overcoming user concerns regarding interference

With another novel approach to the daily programme, the afternoon closes with an active plenary session to examine a significant current issue for TETRA. Tuesday's topic examines the Health and Safety questions that users may have about TETRA. This topic is going to be of great interest to many delegates. The complexities behind an evaluation of safety are extreme, and we are lucky to have a group of industry and scientific experts to help us understand all the aspects of such a sensitive topic.

The session begins with an address from Brenda McAll, a TETRA industry adviser with many years of experience in the field of Health and Safety concerns. Following this, we will hear more about the practical approach that is taken to electromagnetic compatibility issues. The highlight of the session will be an address from Professor Colin Blakemore, arguably one of the world-experts in the arena of electro-magnetic energy research and standards. Professor Blakemore is Professor of Physiology at the University of Oxford. When the UK's Home Office wanted an independent examination of any potential health, safety and interference issues with TETRA, they turned to Professor Blakemore to examine the issues and write a report. Brenda McAll will close the session with a view from the TETRA MoU and the TETRA industry. If you have any questions on health and safety, this is the session that will help you find the answers.

Welcome to the Nokia Christmas Party

Tuesday December 11th 6.16–8.00pm

For a little relaxation after a day of intense discussion, come along to the Acropolis lunch room and enjoy the northern holiday atmosphere with mulled wine, snacks and refreshments. The first day's lucky draw for the Nokia 9210 Communicator will be announced at the party.

Workshop reviews

Monday's full Workshop Agenda has been a great success. Eleven workshops were offered during a very full day. IIR had carried out research with past delegates to identify new topics to cover in detail in the workshop programme. This resulted in several new or comprehensively revised workshop topics being offered in this year's programme, including 'Testing Radio Performance' and 'Validating TETRA Services'.

Some of the most popular workshops are those presented jointly by independent technical experts and users, such as 'Validating TETRA Services' and 'Overcoming the Operational Challenges of Implementing TETRA Systems'. With contributions from representatives of the C2000 project in Holland, the Belgian Federal Police with their Astrid programme and many others, these workshops offered delegates the blend of theoretical and practical experience – always a great confidence builder.

Workshop delegate comments included "delighted", "thought-provoking" and, as always "not enough time!!" One of the most innovative workshops this year was the curiously titled 'Don't B2….B3!!' The B3 here stood for 'Bringing Business Benefit'. This workshop, presented partially in the form of a 'documentary', showed how a variety of applications had brought real benefits to a broad mix of user organisations.

The TETRA MoU's 'Introduction to TETRA' was the only all day workshop. Always a favourite, the workshop had been upgraded this year with IP and TETRA Release 2 included in its packed agenda. Starting at 9 a.m. and finishing at 5 p.m., this workshop gave its audience a detailed look into the world of TETRA in less than eight hours!
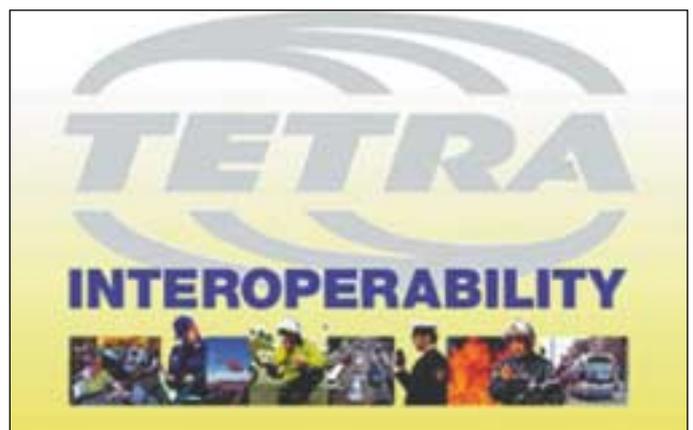
It is hoped that a number of these workshops will be run next year at the TETRA Seminars to be held in London, June 2002. Contact IIR for further details of this proposed event.

Debate of the Day –
Interoperability, Interworking and Direct Mode

Following the keynote address that opens each day of the TETRA World Congress, the plenary session for all delegates moves on to the 'Debate of the Day'. Tuesday's opening debate looks closely at the fundamental issues associated with a true, multi-vendor solution – interoperability, interworking and direct mode operation. The debates will include case studies, presentations and a panel discussion ending with an opportunity for questions from the floor. Starting today's debate will be a case study from Graham Matthews of Simoco Digital Systems detailing the experiences of interoperability in the Catalonia network. This is followed by a progress report on the Aachen Project, the regional German TETRA network that will be combined with the Dutch and Belgian TETRA networks to form the basis of the 3-Country TETRA pilot programme.
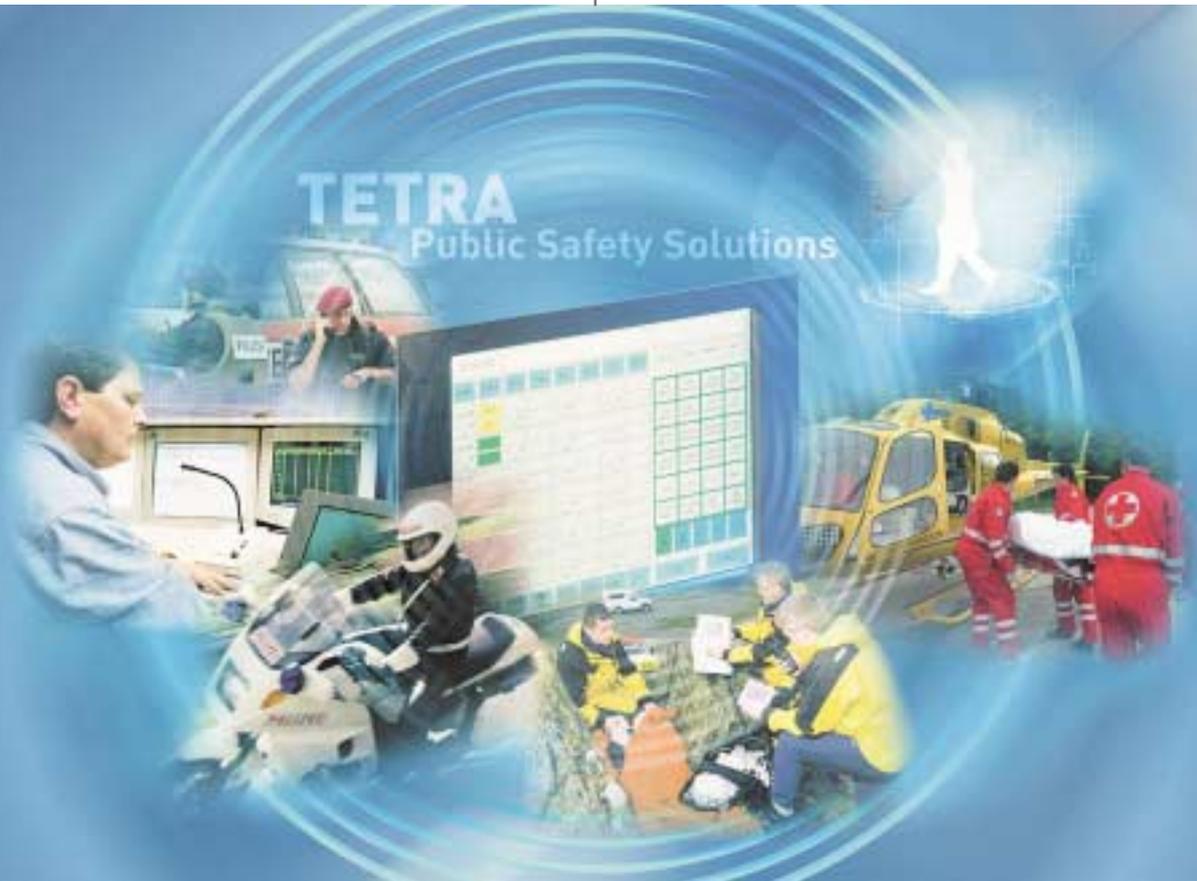
The debate continues with a look at Direct Mode Operation (DMO) – the unique difference between TETRA and any other trunked radio communications technology. DMO can bring many operational benefits such as providing coverage in rural areas or areas of poor coverage. To close the debate, a panel session drawing on user and industry expertise from around the world will discuss their concerns for the future of interoperability and interworking. It will also look at the leading role of the TETRA MoU Association to ensure the smooth continuation of IoP testing. The debate will be closed with a wrap-up from the TETRA MoU Association's Secretary, John Cox. Make sure you join in what is going to be an energetic and important debate.

Interoperability — try it for yourself

The question of interoperability is one that is raised by all users as it is at the heart of TETRA's promise as an open standard supported by a variety of manufacturers. It will be examined theoretically in Tuesday morning's 'Debate of the Day'. But, there's nothing like seeing it in action for yourself in order to gain the assurance that the theory has been put into practice. That's easy! This year's World Congress features the most comprehensive demonstration of Interoperability (IoP) that has ever taken place in a single venue.

Infrastructure companies here in Nice supporting this initiative are Marconi, Motorola, Nokia, Rhode & Schwarz – Bick, Simoco and IFR. Terminals from Cleartone, Teltronic, Marconi, Simoco, Nokia and Motorola are on live display and can be used on the TETRA networks here in the Acropolis. Look for the TETRA Interoperability logo on the displays at the largest ever World Congress TETRA exhibition. Then you can see (and hear!) the evidence of IoP in practice for yourself.

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→ Technology for Partners

→ Experience in useable Systems, Software and Hardware

→ Experience in Integration, Services and Solutions
    for TETRA Customers

→ Reference Systems in Operation

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