



Acquisition Directorate

RESCUE 21 WESTERN RIVERS

Mission execution begins **here.**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

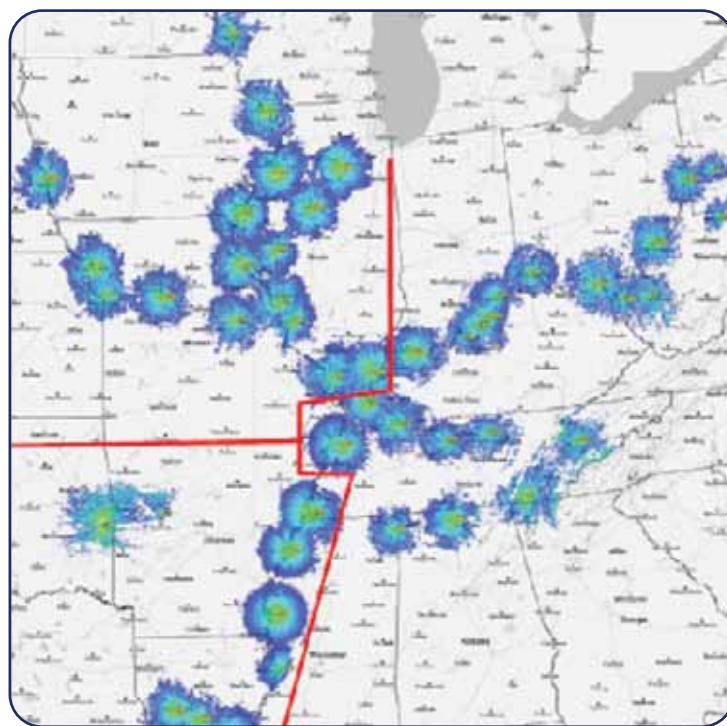
Rescue 21 Western Rivers, the Coast Guard's updated communications system for Sectors Upper Mississippi, Lower Mississippi and Ohio River Valley in the Coast Guard's 8th District, will provide modernized VHF-FM marine coverage to "The Heartland." The system will leverage cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf equipment to deliver the communications capabilities needed in the inland environment of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, Cumberland, Tennessee and Arkansas rivers. All work on the Western Rivers is scheduled for completion by the end of 2014.

As part of Rescue 21 Western Rivers, the Coast Guard will be recapitalizing the National Distress Response System (NDRS) to include a comprehensive command, control and communications suite that will provide coverage along the Mississippi River and throughout the Ohio River Valley. Rescue 21 technologies will replace aging equipment and will add a second radio at remote tower sites to provide a continuous Channel 16 distress guard during broadcast Notices to Mariners and other non-distress communications. In addition, by migrating the system's backhaul infrastructure from antiquated analog telephone lines to the DHSOneNet IP network, the project will provide the infrastructure for the future implementation of digitally encrypted communications and co-location of the Nationwide Automatic Identification System.

In support of future sustainment activities, Rescue 21 Western Rivers will work in concert with the Coast Guard's Command, Control and Communications Engineering Center in Portsmouth, Va., to coordinate equipment recapitalization with ongoing support and maintenance activities to sustain the physical infrastructure at legacy NDRS locations.

When completed, this vital major systems acquisition will provide a state-of-the-market VHF-FM communi-

cations system, replacing the legacy NDRS that has been in use since the 1970s. By replacing outdated legacy technology with a modernized system, Rescue 21 Western Rivers will provide the Coast Guard with the upgraded tools and technology needed to better protect the nation's inland waterways.



Rescue 21 Western Rivers projected coverage areas.

FEATURES:

- Allows simultaneous monitoring and replaying of information over multiple radio frequencies
- Enhances clarity of distress calls
- Allows continuous uninterrupted monitoring of Channel 16 VHF-FM