

November 3, 2005

Mr. Daniel Gonzalez
Chief of Staff to Chairman Martin
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Mesh Networks in the Public Safety Environment - WT Docket 05-157

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

On behalf of Tropos Networks, I am writing to respond to inquiries made during meetings with representatives of the City of New Orleans, Tropos Networks, and the Commission's staff about the wireless mesh broadband networks deployed throughout the Gulf Regions as part of the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. In addition, we set forth below additional information addressing wireless mesh networks in the public safety environment and the cost elements associated with the technology.

Wireless mesh networks are now delivering a wide range of broadband applications to the public safety sector. The public safety sector's demand for mesh technology first emanated from the need to provide a substitute for legacy data communications networks using licensed spectrum. Our technology delivers broadband at speeds paralleling or in excess of wireline broadband. This combination of much-enhanced speed, affordability, expanded applications, and service quality has led, in less than two years, to enormous growth in the number agencies and geographic areas served by mesh networks.

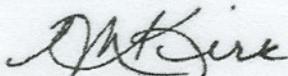
Tropos wireless mesh technology delivers metro scale mobile broadband access via a scalable, reliable and secure Wi-Fi infrastructure. By layering patented routing intelligence on top of 802.11 standard applications, the Tropos Wi-Fi cells form an economical, self-configuring and self-healing wireless broadband data network that forwards information through a mesh along the highest throughput path to the wired network. (As opposed to more conventional means of routing information, it rarely moves data on the shortest, most direct path—the algorithm is designed to move data on the fastest path.) The result is high performance, large scale Wi-Fi deployments that do not require wired backhaul to each access point, installer truck rolls, or expensive and complex client devices and software. Because any laptop or PDA device manufactured to the 802.11 standard will work on the network, public safety officials have found the networks to be both easy to use and affordable. In fact, a Tropos system can be deployed at a multi-square-mile scale in a matter of days, providing an outdoor mobile broadband environment indistinguishable from indoor wireless and wired experiences. It is these fundamentals--affordability, resiliency, robustness, and durability--that allowed broadband networks providing voice, Internet and data services to be deployed within days in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region to serve first responders, assisting agencies and victims.

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Attached is a list of cities and counties in which law enforcement and other public safety agencies have deployed Tropos technology. The range of broadband applications include video surveillance, photographs, VOIP, Internet access, secured data base access, report transmission, and monitoring. The technology delivers up to 10-15 MBs of concurrent subscriber capacity per square mile. In a typical public safety environment there are between 10-15 routers, the size of a breadbox, mounted on a lamp post or telephone pole, per square mile. Depending on configuration, our mesh networks typically can be installed for no more than \$70,000-\$100,000 per square mile, including power backup supplied by a battery source or a small solar panel.

Please call upon me if there is any additional information I can provide. Tropos Networks commends the Commission's examination of the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts and its continued commitment to improve public safety communications.

Sincerely,



Ellen M. Kirk
Vice President – Marketing
Tropos Networks

Attachment

Copy to:

Ms. Cathleen Massey, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Mr. Michael J. Wilhelm, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Mr. Scott Stone, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Mr. Anthony Dale, Office of Legislative Affairs.

TROPOS NETWORKS WIRELESS BROADBAND MESH PUBLIC SAFETY DEPLOYMENTS

Arlington County, VA
Baltimore, MD
Boulder City, NV
Burlingame, CA
Corpus Christi, TX
Framingham, MA
Franklin, TN
Frisco, TX
Granbury, TX
Greensboro, NC
Jackson, TN
Jamestown, NY
Las Vegas, NV
Milpitas, CA
New Orleans, LA
North Miami Beach, FL
Oklahoma City, OK
Pacifica, CA
Panama City, FL
Pensacola, FL
Roswell, GA
San Mateo County, CA
Village of Brocton, NY
West Hollywood, CA