

# Alster News

## In This Month's Issue

- PCTEL buys Antenna Specialists
- PCTEL to build new building
- Relm gets DES/AES Approval
- Bird/TXRX to share Management

## PCTEL/Maxrad buys A/S

PCTEL is a wireless access and mobile computing company. Their Mobility Solutions simplify access to broadband wireless Internet networks. PCTEL's RF Solutions provide software based solutions to measure, monitor and optimize the performance of cellular and Wi-Fi networks.

### Maxrad

PCTEL acquired Maxrad in January, 2004. In buying Maxrad, PCTEL increased their penetration of broadband wireless Internet networks by adding RF antennas. They also added base and mobile antennas in VHF, UHF and Cellular/PCS frequencies.

They also purchased additional manufacturing capabilities and expertise.

### Antenna Specialists

PCTEL announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire selected assets associated with Andrew Corporations' mobile antenna business.

PCTEL has agreed buy Andrew's GPS, On-Glass, and Antenna Specialists brand of professional antenna products. These product lines will now be developed, manufactured, and supported by PCTEL's Maxrad Product Group. Antenna Specialists itself



### PCTel Buys Antenna Specialists

was acquired by Andrew in July 2003.

### New Building

The company said it will consolidate all its antenna brands into a new facility in Bloomingdale, Illinois that will house all its antenna brands, including Maxrad.

PCTEL will move manufacturing from two of Andrew's factories in Mexico to this new facility, and will increase its headcount in Illinois by approximately 45 employees. At the same time, it will sell its existing Hanover Park, Illinois facility.

Please call me with any questions regarding the acquisition. Ω

Multiplier - Lithium-Ion batteries, charging and care	2
DataRadio - Wants and Warrants Checks for very little expense	2
Federal Signal - New Indoor Mass Notification Controller	2
Laminated Wood Systems and Valmont Structures	3
Aeroflex - Service Monitors for EDACS and P-25 Trunking	3
Bird and TXRX Systems to Share Management	3
Watson Dispatch and Bergvik Flooring for 911 Centers	4

## Relm Wireless - Forward Moving

### DES/AES

Relm Wireless announces that the DPH P-25 Digital Portable has been successfully tested with the LZA-0577 Cryptographic Module to Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2.

The results of the test and recommendation for certificate of validation has been forwarded to Cryptographic Module Valida-

tion Program.

### 136 to 174 MHz DPH

The DPH P-25 APCO Compliant Digital Portable will be available in either the common 148 to 174 MHz or the expanded version covering 136 - 174 MHz. The choice is yours. Isn't freedom a wonderful thing?

Call me if you have any questions regarding DES/AES or wider frequencies. Ω



## Multiplier - Lithium-ion Battery Care

Wouldn't you like to know how to prolong the life of Lithium batteries? Multiplier Industries is introducing several new Lithium chemistry batteries and wants you to know how to make them last longer. Please review this link for additional information:

<http://batteryuniversity.com/parttwo-34.htm>

Here is a brief synopsis of the longer article:

Lithium-ion battery provides 300-500 discharge/charge cycles. The battery prefers partial rather than a full discharge. Frequent full discharges should be avoided when possible. However, you should provide a full charge once every 30 or so charge cycles.

Lithium batteries have a lifetime of two to three years. The clock starts ticking as soon as the battery comes off the manufacturing line. The speed by which lithium-ion ages is governed by temperature and state-of-charge. Higher charge levels and elevated temperatures hasten permanent capacity loss. Store the batteries in a cool place at about 40% charge.

### Recycle Old Batteries

Multiplier Industries Corp. is a licensed participant in the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), Charge Up to Recycle!

For more information on recycling, please call Multiplier at 800-642-2424 or 800-822-8837. Ω



Lithium-ion Batteries

## DataRadio for Wants and Warrants from the Vehicle

DataRadio had a pretty busy booth at our ACES Show on the eastside. It seems a lot of local police and sheriffs agencies, and the dealers who serve them, found an inexpensive way to provide a Police Officer or Deputy with records access.

The DataRadio system includes a base station radio with modem that has computer connections to a CAD or records management system and one or more mobile radios (one per vehicle) with a modem that has connections with a laptop.

The officer or deputy uses their



laptop keyboard to type in license plates or an individual's name for wants and warrants checks. The vehicle modem keys the radio which is heard by the base station radio and the request is given via the modem to the CAD or records management system. The computer does its thing and retrieves the information. The information is passed through the base station modem and radio back to the vehicle and the officer or deputy reads the response on their laptop screen. What could be more simple? Ω

*DataRadio provides an inexpensive over-the-air Wants and Warrants check*

## Federal Signal - Indoor Warning Controller

Federal Warning Systems introduces a new Indoor Warning Controller called the Ultra Voice IC. It is microprocessor based and has highly efficient amplifiers enabling delivery of optimized tones and voice to distributed speakers or existing PA systems.

Using an eight minute digital voice chip, the IC provides 16 distinct messages. Using the microphone (included) you can make live broadcast messages. Also, you can use the microphone to record and replay messages.

The amplifier shelf can hold two Hot Swappable, 400 watt, Class D - pulse width modulated amplifier modules for 70 Vrms speakers systems. Or the shelf can hold one 400 watt module and a 70 Vrms to 25 Vrms stepdown module for 25 Vrms speaker systems.

It is UL listed and comes with three audio outputs (600 ohm, Line Level and 33 ohm), 4 programmable relays, 70 Vrms audio output and battery back up. Ω



Ultra Voice

## Components - Monopoles - Towers

When you need to support an antenna at a new or existing site, we can help.

### Components

If you need to attach an antenna to an existing building, monopole, rooftop or tower, Valmont Structures (including Microflex in Oregon and PiRod in Indiana) provides every component you could need to keep the antenna pointed in the right way.

### Monopoles/Towers

Over the years, certain guidelines have come into play when choosing a structure to support antennas: from 20 to 80 feet, a laminated wood structure is expensive and does the job; from 60 to 120 feet, a steel

monopole is a better choice; from 100 to 200 feet, a three or four legged tower is the ticket and from 200 to 1,000 feet a guyed tower is the way to go.

Alster is fortunate to have Laminated Wood Systems for when a wood structure is needed to satisfy the need. For Monopoles we have Valmont Structures with four manufacturing plants around the US.

For three and four legged towers we have both Microflex and PiRod. The engineering will determine whether the Microflex or PiRod design is best.

Finally for guyed towers we have PiRod. You can trust Laminated Wood and Valmont Structures to satisfy your structure needs. Ω



Laminated Wood Pole

## Aeroflex - Service Monitors for EDACS - P-25

Aeroflex provides a wide range covering wireless applications from HF, VHF, all the way to an industry first of 2.7 GHz. They make the most advanced Radio Test Sets currently used in engineering, production, support and service applications worldwide including:

2945A – with tracking generator and full spectrum analyzer with “live look and listen.” It is also available with software that provides Auto/Manual test capability for EDACS radios and repeaters. This offers up to 4 user defined variants can be created and

stored, each with up to 24 spot channel frequencies. Performs bit error rate tests to check performance of receiver and transmitter.

2975 – with P-25 trunking software for VHF/UHF/700 MHz (Opt14) or 800 MHz (Opt4), SmartNet SmartZone for VHF/UHF/800 MHz (Opt3) and 900 MHz (Opt8). Please [www.P25.com](http://www.P25.com) to stay up-to-date on the latest Project 25 news and to download software to keep your IFR 2975 Project 25 Radio Test Set current.

Please call with any questions. Ω

*Aeroflex makes test equipment for EDACS, P-25 and TETRA*

## Bird and TXRX to Consolidate Management

Bird Technologies, parent company of Bird Electronic and TXRX Systems, announced that they will consolidate the management of both companies into their Solon, Ohio offices. Manufacturing will continue to be separate.

### Bird Electronic

The Bird story begins in 1942 with J. Raymond Bird, who has 40 US and foreign patents. His Model 43 ThruLine® Wattmeter

and was introduced in 1952 and gave Bird a household name status for Instrumentation, Resistive Devices, Components, and Test Systems for RF Applications.

### TXRX Systems

TX RX Systems Inc. focuses on components and sub-systems for the worldwide RF industry while taking pride in their engineering designs and manufacturing of multicouplers, combiners, duplexers, signal boosters, antenna and RF components. Ω



**Bird and TXRX Systems Share Management**

## 911 Dispatch Centers - Read This

### Watson Dispatch

If the furniture in your center is over four years old, you should be thinking about upgrading. It doesn't matter who made the furniture, improved ergonomic and technical cabling should become part of your center.

Watson Dispatch has provided over a thousand positions to 911 centers in the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii. It would be our pleasure to provide an audit of your center and suggest upgrades from foot-rests to powered work surfaces.

### Bergvik Flooring

Another good way to improve your center is to add new or replace your old raised floor. The surface can be wood, vinyl, carpet or linoleum.

The purpose of raised floor is to provide access and control of cabling (both

electrical and computer) from the equipment room to the dispatch center.

We have sample pieces of the flooring for your evaluation and we provide free quotations.

### ACES 2005

All of the Alster Communications Electronic Showcase events will be on our "West and Very West Side."

February 3, 2005, will be ACES in Hawaii at the Ala Moana Hotel and Convention Center in Honolulu. Our tentative dates for the mainland version is Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, October 4, 5, 6 in Salem, Seattle and Anchorage.

For more information on any ACES Show location, please call me. Ω

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