



Communication Technologies in the RF Domain

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News

For Immediate Release

Syntonics Awarded \$7 Million Contract to Build 30 FORAX High Antennas for Radio Communications (HARC) Systems for the U.S. Defense Department

COLUMBIA, MD. December 29, 2010 . . . Syntonics LLC, based in Columbia, Md., announces the award of a \$7.095 Million contract to produce and deliver 30 FORAX-HARC aerostat antenna extension payloads for the U.S. Army.

FORAX-HARC (High Antennas for Radio Communications) is based on the proven FORAX (Fiber Optic Remote Antenna eXtension) RF-over-fiber product line. The lightweight HARC payload enables any tethered aerostat to become a tall antenna tower, increasing line of site and coverage of radio communications. In this contract, Syntonics is delivering thirty (30) six-radio HARC systems, each providing SINCGARS and EPLRS antennas high aloft on a tethered aerostat, while four (4) SINCGARS and two (2) EPLRS radios remain on the ground in the command post (CP). The airborne antennas enable line-of-sight communications over long distances, over obstacles and mountainous terrain, and down into “urban canyons” created by tall buildings. Keeping the radios in the CP reduces aerostat payload weight, keeps the radios secure, and eliminates operational difficulties in controlling the radios. The radios’ RF signals are transmitted and received over a single optical fiber in the aerostat’s tether.

In 2009, Syntonics delivered three prototype six-radio HARC systems and two ship-sets of spare modules that are in use today. This contract adds to the Army’s number of aerostat-mounted deployable communications systems in use around the Globe.

The FORAX product line, deployed since 2004 by U.S. DoD, FBI and FEMA as well as foreign militaries, moves antennas away from command posts; eliminates the electronic and visual signature of nearby antennas; increases the security of people and equipment in the CP; and enables radios and crypto equipment to be operated from inside SCIFs. Syntonics is working on FORAX links for WNW, ANW2 and 3GPP to add to its already-fielded HF, SINCGARS, EPLRS, VHF/UHF, GPS, and UHF MILSATCOM (“TACSAT”) modules. To date, FORAX is fielded in over 45 installations in the US and abroad.

Syntonics is a defense electronics company that produces FORAX RF-over-fiber communication systems for military radios and innovative antennas for military applications. For more information on Syntonics and its products, please see the company's website at www.SyntonicsCorp.com.