

## *Ergon Communications Network Sets International Standard*

**January 3, 2014** - Queensland, Australia, is now host to one of the most advanced communications networks in the world, with work complete on the first stage of Ergon Energy's streamlined, high-resilience radio communications upgrade.

The project, which includes Zetron's Project 25 (P25) Console Subsystem Interface (CSSI) connected to multiple Zetron Advanced Communications (Acom) P25 console systems, demonstrates how an APCO P25 digitally encrypted radio communications network can be leveraged to optimise advanced monitoring, control, tracking, and communications across widespread delivery infrastructures.

Ergon Energy's field crews are required to move within the state to respond to emergencies and system faults and to support and bolster local area resources, particularly during natural disasters. To support Ergon's field crews and the power network, an advanced communication network is being built using a software-defined radio communications architecture.

Zetron, a leading provider of command-and-control integrated voice-and-data communication systems and radio dispatch consoles, has previously supplied Ergon with an Acom console system. Acom is a fully-digital switching and multiplexing system that represents the state of the art in integrated communication console technology for mission-critical applications.

Commissioned in June 2012, stage 1 of the new network built by BAI Group Company, Airwave Solutions Australia (Airwave) already covers 177,000 km in the southern Queensland region including Toowoomba, Warwick and Darling Downs.

The next section of the network, between Townsville and Cairns, will see additional high-availability P25 Radio Frequency Subsystem (RFSS) cores installed at Ergon's data centres in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Maryborough.

Zetron Australasia Vice President and General Manager, Ranjan Bhagat, said that, as a result of the RFSS deployment, Ergon Energy's system-wide resilience will be reinforced by having each of the existing Acom systems connect directly to each of the P25 RFSS cores via a resilient IP WAN.

"In this configuration," said Mr. Bhagat, "which is the first of its kind in the world, in the event of a radio systems failure, no intervention is needed on the Zetron CSSI-connected Acom P25 console system. The net outcome is that state-wide Ergon operations can continue seamlessly, even in the unlikely event of a system failure."

Airwave CEO Malcolm Keys said that the additional RFSS cores would make Ergon's network one of the most resilient private mobile radio (PMR) networks in the non-military world.

"Our primary role is to bring together the different components of the solution into a single, unified network," said Mr. Keys. "We are working in partnership with Ergon Energy, Auria Wireless, Tait Communications, and Zetron, who are also technology partners within the P25 Solution Centre. Together, we are emphasising the benefits of a common industry approach within the APCO P25 standards to achieve optimum interoperability efficiency."

### **About Zetron**

For over 30 years, Zetron has been providing mission-critical communications solutions to customers in public safety, transportation, utilities, manufacturing, healthcare and business. With offices in the U.S.A., U.K., Australia and numerous field locations, Zetron supports a worldwide network of resellers, system integrators and distributors. This gives Zetron a global reach as well as a local presence in the regions it serves. Zetron has installed thousands of systems and over 20,000 console operator positions worldwide. Zetron is a wholly owned subsidiary of JVC Kenwood Corporation.

Website: <http://www.zetron.com/>

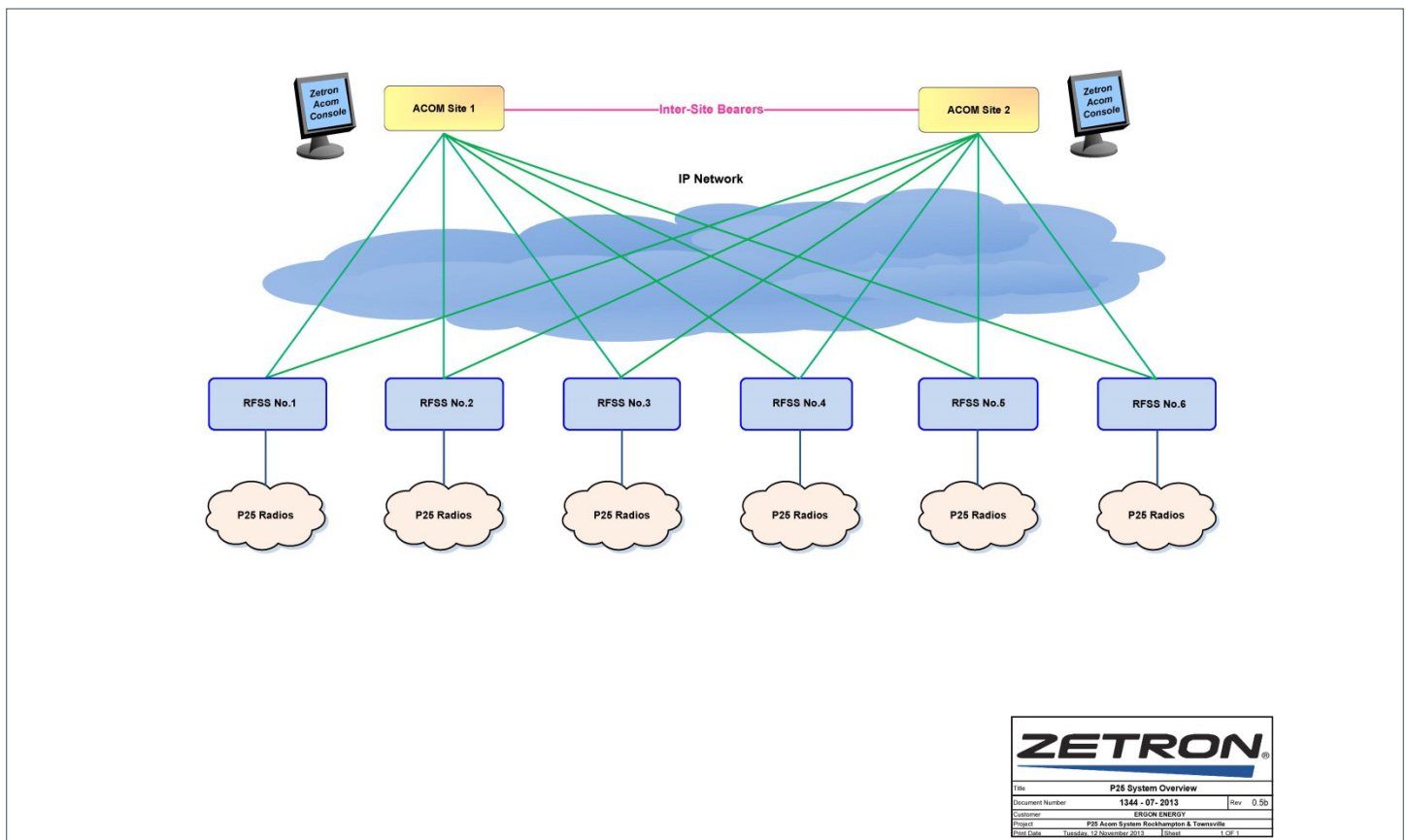
## About Airwave Solutions Australia

In Australia, Airwave Solutions Australia is owned by Broadcast Australia who operates nationwide critical communication services from over 600 sites under long term contracts with government. These services cover 99 percent of the population, supported by over 600 employees, including 250 field technicians, radio planning specialists, engineers and project staff. In addition to these staff there are 2,000 trained first-in-maintainers located close to communications sites in regional and remote locations that ensure continuity of these high-availability services 24/7.

Airwave's primary focus is the construction, funding and operation of state-wide government radio networks. Other specialist services include consultancy, design, network build, migration, training, networking operating and service management. In the UK, Airwave Solutions Limited (Airwave UK) operates one of the world's largest and most complex public safety voice-and-data networks, providing a nationwide secure digital network for over 300,000 subscribers across 300 individual emergency services and government agencies. Airwave Solutions Australia is a member of the BAI Group of Companies and has an exclusive partnering arrangement with Airwave Solutions Limited (Airwave UK).

Website: [www.airwavesolutions.com.au](http://www.airwavesolutions.com.au)

## Ergon Energy's Communication Network



Ergon's multiple Zetron Acom systems connect to multiple RFSS cores to provide the ultimate network resiliency.