

HOT PRODUCTS 2008



25 Innovative New Products Showcased at APCO's 74th Annual Conference By Keri Losavio

"I'm looking for tools to help me to be more efficient and effective and do my job better —oh, and toys."

The statement at left is the standard response public safety personnel give when asked why they're so eager to get into the Exhibit Hall at any APCO conference. This year, more than 350 companies displayed their products at the 74th Annual APCO Conference and Exposition in Kansas City, Mo. But because many APCO members could not attend the conference and because many of those who did couldn't visit every booth, *Public Safety Communications (PSC)* wanted to give all of our readers the chance to see the most innovative new products that were on display at the show.

Before the conference, *PSC* asked the exhibitors to let us know what new products they would have on display. Nearly 70 exhibitors responded, and they told us about their new furniture, computers and software, radios and equipment, network systems and more. In Kansas City, an anonymous review team roamed the hall looking for additional, innovative new products, asking questions of the exhibitors and assessing how all of these products meet personnel and mission-critical needs.

With due consideration, the *PSC* staff and the Editorial Advisory Committee selected the 25 most innovative products of 2008 to feature here. These are not listed in preference order. Rather, we attempted to group them in a logical fashion where possible; thus, all of the radios are grouped together on pages 26–28, the furniture listing begins on page 28, and the stand-alone products are in alphabetical order by company name beginning on p. 29. We've also included a list of additional new products that were on display (see p. 33), and we'll be featuring others in the Cool Cache department in future issues.

RADIOS

Multi-Band Radios: The Future Is Now

Three companies introduced multi-band radios this year: Harris Corp. introduced the Unity XG-100, Motorola introduced the APX Two-Way Radio Series, and Thales Communications Inc. introduced the Liberty Multiband Land Mobile Radio. Each promises true interoperability in a single radio.



The **Unity XG-100** from Harris Corp. provides secure interoperable communications over public safety frequency bands from 136 to 870 MHz. This will enable emergency personnel to communicate directly without having to carry multiple radios or route transmissions through ad-hoc network bridges. The new radio is approximately the same size as currently fielded single-banded radios.

"The tri-band portable and mobile radios offer a single radio capable of operating on VHF and UHF and 800 MHz, including trunked 800 MHz," says one reviewer. "The radios are Project 25 compliant and FCC type accepted." Shipments are expected to start in 2009.

For more information, call 800/442-7747 or 321/727-9207, or visit www.harris.com.