



# Changing the Game: Radios for Public Safety

Author: **Marc Vaughn**

*EFJohnson Technologies Pre-Sales Engineer*

Meeting the interoperability challenges and budget constraints in today's environment requires a dedicated approach to developing innovative mission critical communications solutions that can meet the following criteria:

- Maximize ease of use and increase first responder safety when using mission critical radio equipment
- Achieve seamless interoperability in a multi-vendor, multi-protocol environment
- Offer cost effective solutions to meet the needs for today and in the future via seamless upgrade paths
- Use advanced technologies to improve voice communication clarity and effectiveness

At EFJohnson, our goal to achieve these criteria has culminated in the development of our Viking™ portable radios series.

## Maximizing Ease of Use

By taking a user first approach and incorporating design elements derived specifically from customer feedback, EFJohnson's Viking radios were built from the ground up to exceed the expectations of today's rigorous public safety communications needs while providing a cost effective upgrade path for tomorrow.

## Future Proof Solutions

A public safety agency is able to start out with a cost effective high performance radio with the assurance that, as their needs grow, future technologies such as P25 Phase II TDMA are just a software flash away. This allows them to budget for their needs today, without the worry of having to purchase new equipment in the future to stay current. Regardless if the radio is used on an EFJohnson ATLAS® P25, Harris P25, Motorola SmartZone® or ASTRO25™ network, public safety agencies can be assured that advanced features such as encryption, OTAP, and OTAR will function flawlessly without having to purchase expensive servers or costly proprietary solutions.

## Interoperable Multi-Protocol Solutions

EFJohnson is the only vendor licensed by Motorola to be able to fully operate on today's Motorola Smartnet® and SmartZone® networks creating a seamless migration path from legacy networks to a future P25 radio system. This has the advantage of assured interoperability with regional partners as well. In today's environment, public safety agencies face a tough challenge with manufacturer radios that can only operate on P25 systems, requiring the agency to have the equipment sit on a shelf until it's time to migrate. When it is time, the fleet is forced to migrate together all at once, when it may not be optimal. EFJohnson offers a way out of this by offering a truly multi-vendor alternative to support Smartnet/SmartZone and P25 seamless migration. Legacy operation ensures maximum value and the ability to deploy the Viking radios when it works best for the customer's operations.

## Interoperable Multi-Band Solutions

EFJohnson has addressed two of the biggest challenges in the development of multi-band radios described in the recent [report](#) published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

- How do you keep the MBR (multi-band radio) as small and light as a single-band radio?
- How can you keep the cost of a MBR comparable to the cost of a single-band radio?

EFJohnson's engineering team rose to the challenge to create the new Viking VP900 — the smallest multi-band portable radio on the market AND at half the cost of comparable radios. Even with the small size and low cost, the VP900 still has all of the features you expect from a multi-band portable. It is equipped with the loudest audio, the industry's leading noise cancellation, and optional internal GPS. It also includes standard features such as immersion, top display, and voice annunciation.

## Advanced Technologies Such as Noise Cancellation in a Cost-Effective Radio

EFJohnson has listened to public safety and designed a radio that is compatible with existing Motorola MTS/XTS series audio accessories such as SWAT earpieces or EZ-Comm equipment for the fire services. While using these existing audio accessories, you can be assured that the audio quality will be second to none. The Viking series comes standard with world class noise reduction, ensuring your message will be heard the first time, every time.

In addition, EFJohnson has dedicated its efforts to maximizing audio and noise cancelling performance via real world field tests based on actual first responder use cases. Please visit the [EFJohnson YouTube channel](#) for product demonstrations and advanced noise cancellation comparisons. You can also hear what our partners are saying about the innovative solutions from EFJohnson.

We understand that in these difficult fiscal times, having the latest communications equipment is often a balance between the technology needs and the available budget. We are committed to bridging the gap with equipment that grows with our customers. It truly is a smarter way to P25.

*For more information please visit our website at [www.efjohnson.com](http://www.efjohnson.com) or contact us at [marketing@efji.com](mailto:marketing@efji.com) to learn more about these revolutionary new radios.*