

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA CARLETON
 MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA CARLETON

MEMORANDUM
NOTE DE SERVICE

Our File/N/Réf. **25 07-96-0007; 18-96-0014**
 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 23 October 1996

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Regional Council

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP RADIO TOWERS**

BACKGROUND

The communications infrastructure (towers and antennae) for Ottawa-Carleton's new voice radio communications system is currently under final design. As was reported to the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board in December 1995, the successful proponent for the supply of the radio equipment was Ericsson Communications Canada. The contract was awarded by the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee on 4 June 1996. Since that time, staff and the Project Consultants have been working hard to expedite the site development necessary to have the system operational by the summer of 1997. The time frame that we have set for this programme is extremely ambitious and requires that every opportunity to speed up the process be carefully explored. Further, staff have been aggressively looking for ways to reduce the cost of the overall programme.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Industry Canada, the agency that governs access to radio frequencies, has made it quite clear that in the face of ever increasing demands for communications infrastructure, all companies and agencies involved in creating new communications systems must seek out every opportunity to share radio towers and thus avoid unnecessary duplication. Microcell Connexions Inc. is a new company that embarked on an aggressive programme to enter the area of personal communications. As part of the infrastructure required to implement its strategy, Microcell has been seeking partners to share in the cost of their infrastructure.

INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED
 TO BE LISTED ON CORPORATE
 SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 COMMITTEE AGENDA - 19 Nov 96

The Region was approached by Microcell to see if we had any sites in common. In discussion, it was determined that we have three sites in common. The three sites are Innes Road in Cumberland, Barrhaven in Nepean and Maple Grove in Kanata. All three sites are locations where the Region currently owns the necessary property.

After extensive negotiations it was agreed that in exchange for access to these Regional sites, Microcell will pay the entire cost to build three antenna towers and associated equipment rooms. The estimated value of this arrangement is \$250,000 for the Region. The term of the agreement is for 10 years at the end of which the Region and Microcell can mutually agree to extend it or not. In any event, the towers will remain in the ownership of the Region from the time they are built.

Microcell has already begun to seek the necessary approvals to begin immediate construction of these critical antenna towers, a fact that serves our own time-sensitive critical path very well.

This opportunity to work with a private sector company to serve both of our needs is very exciting and proves clearly that given mutually beneficial arrangements, both the company's shareholders and our own taxpayers can be well served.

We are open for business and will continue to seek every other such opportunity that may exist.

CONSULTATION

Public consultation is not required.

FINANCIAL COMMENT

It is imperative that the Region's Voice Radio Communications System become operational as soon as possible in order to better serve the needs of our amalgamated Police Services. The partnership with Microcell Connexions Inc. is an opportunity that serves the mutual needs of both parties. Microcell's aggressive construction schedule meant that the partnership had to be approved in early October in order to take advantage of what is left of this year's construction season. In exchange for access to Regional sites, Microcell will construct communications infrastructure worth approximately \$250,000. This will allow the Region to offset expenditures in other areas of the programme.

*Approved by A. Proulx
on behalf of
M.J.E. Sheflin, P.Eng*

DB/js