

Dear Sirs,

Could you please clear up some points for me, I am not a technical person regarding radio so please bear with me.

Later this month I take over as leader of the Galloway Mountain Rescue Team and am very concerned that there will be a huge additional financial burden on the team as a result of this new fee. Our Radio Officer is formulating a response to the consultation but I would like some clarification on a couple of issues.

Is the fee payable for each radio in use ? We currently have 8 base sets (we are required to have 2 in each base or vehicle location so that one radio is dedicated to the calling channel at all times, your regulation I believe) and about 40 handsets. Does this mean 48 fees ?

UK Mountain Rescue has a number of channels, there is a calling channel and each team has a primary and a secondary which are shared with a number of other teams. Our radios are capable of using any UK MR channel which provides interoperability when working with other teams.

Assuming that we have two team channels plus the calling channel (total 3) would that mean we would pay $3 \times 48 = 144$ fees ? Or a figure calculated on $48 \times$ the bandwidth in which our channels lie ?

Would we also be charged for the ability to use the other channels ?

Would we also be charged for the GPS positioning channel ? This is a new system that we are hoping to introduce on a smaller number of the handsets in the near future. It automatically feeds the position of each search party back to the incident control and is of great value to the search managers.

As we cover a large area we also operate 3 (at the time of writing) repeaters on another band, how would we be charged for this ? All our radios can receive these signals which we are using more and more as our network of repeaters grows.

In recent years we have moved to a new system (in the marine environment, I don't believe the previous system was but I am not sure) which has greatly enhanced our operational capabilities due to an increased number of radios and much more flexibility. It would be criminal to have to give up these improvements because we could not afford to operate in the new regime. How we, as a land based organisation, ended up in the marine system is still a bit of a mystery to me!

Hope you can help me out.

Would you please reply to both eric.johns@baesystems.com and eric_inthepeak@hotmail.com

Best Regards,