



Drakontas LLC  
ACIN Technology Center  
200 Federal Street, Suite #300  
Camden, NJ 08103

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

[www.drakontas.com](http://www.drakontas.com)

Contact: James J. Sim

Phone: (267) 415-4759

[jjsim@drakontas.com](mailto:jjsim@drakontas.com)

**Drakontas Launches New Research Program with  
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

*Drakontas will work with the Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO) of New Jersey to survey wireless communications techniques appropriate for underground communications, with the objective of improving emergency notification for passengers on trains in subterranean environments.*

**CAMDEN, NJ**– Drakontas LLC, a software company that develops situation awareness tools for Command and Control (C2) for first responders, law enforcement and homeland defense, today announced that it is the recipient of a research grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), a mode within the US Department of Transportation (USDOT).

The project team, led by Dr. Alan Kaplan, Drakontas' Chief Technology Officer, will explore the specific challenges of providing emergency messages to transit system passengers over wireless networks, in an effort to provide those passengers with better information during emergencies.

“The FTA has found that passengers on trains or subways may choose to evacuate the train if they do not get information in a timely fashion,” explained Dr. Kaplan. “The FTA has asked us to prototype an emergency messaging system that can operate in subterranean environments and over wireless networks, with the goal of improving information flow to passengers.”

Drakontas will use a combination of 802.11 (Wi-Fi) and other available wireless network technologies, along with its DragonForce™ situation awareness software, to prototype a solution to this problem.

Additionally, the Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO) of New Jersey will serve as a testbed for the development of the communications and emergency messaging tools.

“We are very excited to be working with PATCO,” says Dr. Kaplan. “Drakontas has built its reputation by partnering with law enforcement jurisdictions on the development, trial and evaluation of communications tools, and we look forward to applying that experience to our work with one of the nation’s leading public transportation providers.”

## **About Drakontas LLC**

Drakontas ([www.drakontas.com](http://www.drakontas.com)), headquartered in Camden, New Jersey, develops, evaluates and promotes interoperable communications solutions that increase the safety and operational efficiency of law enforcement, emergency response, and security personnel. The company was founded in partnership with Drexel University in 2004 to transition technologies developed at the Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Center for the Department of Defense to commercial, civilian and homeland security uses.

In addition to providing situation awareness solutions, Drakontas administers the NLECTC-Communications Technologies Center of Excellence (COE) through a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice. The COE, whose purpose is to test, evaluate and demonstrate cutting edge communications tools and technologies, manages a wide range of criminal justice pilot projects involving software defined and cognitive radios, position location technologies, wireless data interoperability, and other communications tools and capabilities.

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