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PROJECT 25 SCANNER EXPECTED 'IN ABOUT A YEAR

by Don Bishop, Editorial Director, MRT
Uniden America, Fort Worth, TX, expects to manufacture a scanner capable of receiving trunked Project 25 communications within a year or a little longer.

"It's something we have been working on," said Jim Cassidy, the company's product planning manager in charge of scanners and other products. Cassidy said that listening to communications carried by a public safety trunked radio system doesn't violate restrictions imposed by federal law, which includes exceptions for public safety communications and for broadcasts intended for public reception.

Aside from many other advantages offered by trunking, some public safety agencies liked the relative privacy offered by trunking before trunk tracking scanners were developed. Conventional scanners cannot automatically follow conversations or working groups as they switch from channel to channel. But news gathering organizations pressured local and state governments to allow them to purchase trunking transceivers—with the transmitters disabled—to continue monitoring police, fire and emergency medical communications. Many public safety agencies relish the thought that Project 25's digital signals once again will give them privacy because current scanners only convert analog signals into intelligible audio. Development of a compatible scanner would overcome the nominal privacy given by Project 25's digital nature.

The next step for public safety agencies would be to use Project 25's encrypted mode. "Once a system is encrypted, it is absolutely illegal to monitor it," Cassidy said. "But when enough systems go encrypted, news agencies will bring it to the FCC's attention and say, 'We can't deliver the six o'clock news anymore because we can't hear what's going on.' What will drive that to occur is when we release a Project 25 digital scanner."

Cassidy said that although it is uncertain whether the FCC would act, it seems certain that news

Established 1984

agencies will make a case that they have the right to monitor communications systems paid for by taxpayers. He expects news organizations to concede that certain facets of public safety communications should be encrypted. "I have a feeling that's where the argument will be played out, but not for a couple of years," he said. "When Uniden produces a Project 25 scanner, many news agencies will need one because many systems are going to Project 25 so quickly. Will public safety agencies choose to spend the money to go encrypted? If they do, all that can be done is to bring it to the FCC's attention that news agencies will be unable to hear common transmissions that allow them to bring citizens the news.

"The first step toward that day will be taken when Uniden comes to market with a digital scanner," Cassidy said.

FREQUENCY UPDATES

By way of Metro Fire Radio, Mike Coppola passes on these recent changes.

Secaucus Fire is now or will shortly be using 156.165(R) (PL 71.9)

East Newark Fire is now using 154.385(R) (DPL-411) This repeater is said to only be using about 20 watts. It's not known what there coverage is at this time.

Closter (Bergen County) has recently changed their entire system.

	Freq	PL
Ch#1	151.115(R)	151.4
Ch#2	154.265	71.9
Ch#3	151.130(R)	203.5

Channel 2 use to be the fire ground and will now be used for m/a.

Northstar: All Northstar jobs to Closter will be coordinated on Spen 1 (154.680).

ALINCO DJ-X2000

So you want to buy an Alinco DJ-X2000 scanner. Not a bad idea. It's one hellava radio. Loaded with

neat stuff. What follows is my experiences with one of these beauties.

To give you some background on me, let me start with been there, done that, had the scanner! Yup, I have been fortunate enough to have had or played with more than 100 scanners since scanning became a hobby circa 1960's. That said, I admit the one's I've had the most experience and fun with have been the hand helds. Yupi, Bearcat, AOR, Alinco, Welz and Icom, to name just a few manufacturers, head my list of toys had.

Recently I obtained an Alinco DJ-X2000. First impressions have been very good. Compared to almost any other scanner I've had, it's definitely one of the most sensitive. It's not lacking in features either. Some of the neater stuff includes a digital recorder, auto frequency detection of nearby transmitters and 2000 alpha tag-able channels! (a must for CRS syndrome <Can't Remember S _ _ t>).

Now the bad news..... after only a few days of play I discovered what I consider to be a serious defect. Loss or blocked reception in the upper end of two meters! Yea, you read it right, TWO METERS.

A giant spur/birdie is right on 147.30 Mhz. You can't hear it in NFM mode, and you can't hear anything else there either. What could be worse you ask? Well, it's about 60Khz wide! In fact, the radio is so deaf in that area that a transmission in the same room with 5 watts is UNDETECTABLE.

After speaking with Alinco on the phone about the end of March, it was decided to return the radio. Now I must point out that Alinco was very helpful, slow, but cooperative. They are obviously very busy taking care of customers.

After about 3 weeks I received a call from the head tech in CA explaining that they would refund my money thru the place of purchase or I could wait for the unit to be sent to Japan for evaluation.

Needless to say, I found a problem that they were not aware of.

I advised them since I liked the scanner, I would wait for the repaired unit. In fact, the US district manager, Mr. Nakata, promised to give this his personal attention. When I asked how such an obvious problem could be missed, I was advised that the

police use two meters in Japan, so little attention is paid to problems there. That's a new one on me.... I thought two meters was a world wide band.... I explained that here in the USA that's a heavily used band.

You gotta wonder about that. All the Alinco ham radios that come thru without problems on two meters?

If you have the DJ-X2000, check out 147.300 Mhz. Bet you won't hear anything there..... or 25Khz above or below that freq. What's really strange is that if you use the auto frequency find mode (similar to the Opto Scout's ability) it will find a transmission but won't hear it. It's as if the scanner has been masked in that range.

After about 5 weeks or so I received an email from the chief engineer at Alinco in Japan asking for confirmation of my shipping address. I received the unit back a few days later.

Now you're probably wondering..... did they fix it? Were there any other problems upon it's return.... Well, they fixed it! No other problems..... and they sent me complimentary new accessories with it! Man, that's service..... I have to say they took every effort to make me happy. This was my first experience with Alinco and I was more than pleased with their service and attention. Phone calls, e-mails and very sincere attention.

I would HIGHLY recommend getting an Alinco product if you think you want one. Service is always a big concern when spending a good amount of money on a radio. I can say if you have a problem with an Alinco product, based on my experience, you will be made happy.

I checked with some other owners of the DJ-X2000 and they found the same problem when I pointed it out to them..... And I saw one for sale at Dayton of the European type and it too had the problem.

While I was out at Dayton I stopped at the Alinco booth and personally thanked Mr. Nakata. He was extremely polite and gave me another gift at their booth. I'm sure they were very happy that this problem was found in the first run of radios.

If the newer shipments still have the problem, it becomes a question as to weather you can live with

the spur..... I couldn't.
73, Dave Buda, Wi2Q

40	631.750	82	883.750
41	637.750	83	889.750
42	643.750		

TV AUDIO

How many times have you been delayed, rushing home to watch your favorite TV program? Most scanners today have the ability to tune the frequencies used by VHF and UHF TV channels. You'll need to set the scanner to the Wide FM mode (WFM).

<u>TVCh</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>TVCh</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
2	59.750	43	649.750
3	65.750	44	655.750
4	71.750	45	661.750
5	81.750	46	667.750
6	87.750	47	673.750
7	179.750	48	679.750
8	185.750	49	685.750
9	191.750	50	691.750
10	197.750	51	697.750
11	203.750	52	703.750
12	209.750	53	709.750
13	215.750	54	715.750
14	475.750	55	721.750
52	703.750	56	727.750
15	481.750	57	733.750
16	487.750	58	739.750
17	493.750	59	745.750
18	499.750	60	751.750
19	505.750	61	757.750
20	511.750	62	763.750
21	517.750	63	769.750
22	523.750	64	775.750
23	529.750	65	781.750
24	535.750	66	787.750
25	541.750	67	793.750
26	547.750	68	799.750
27	553.750	69	805.750
28	559.750	70	811.750
29	565.750	71	817.750
30	571.750	72	823.750
31	577.750	73	829.750
32	583.750	74	835.750
33	589.750	75	841.750
34	595.750	76	847.750
35	601.750	77	853.750
36	607.750	78	859.750
37	613.750	79	865.750
38	619.750	80	871.750
39	625.750	81	877.750

ESSEX COUNTY UPDATES

Caldwell: Fireground is 155.100 PL 141.3

Montclair: FD F1 500.3625

Verona: **

EDACS freqs/LCNs:

LCN1 470.3000

LCN2 471.7000

LCN3 471.1500

LCN4 471.2000

LCN5 471.7500

** note this is an EDACS NARROWBAND (4800) system.

Talkgroups

02.022 Incident command

02-041 Police dispatch

02-042 Special event 1

02-050 School/crossing guards

02-060 Fire alert (tones/dispatch)

02-062 Fireground

02-063 Fireground 1

02-066 Fire command

02-067 Fire training

02-080 Rescue alert (tones/dispatch)

02-082 Rescue "dispatch" [ambulances call in here when responding]

02-083 Rescue "EMS Ops"

02-085 Paramedics

02-087 ??

02-101 DPW dispatch

02-102 DPW Operations

02-104 Buildings & Grounds "B&G"

02-107 Seniors bus

02-110 Sewer dept

PD uses I-call sometimes.

West Orange: EDACS (Wideband 9600):

LCN1 867.0750

LCN2 867.7250

LCN3 868.3250

LCN4 868.6625

The Urban DX'er would like to thank all those who contributed to this months issue!

Charlie - N2NOV, "R" from Bridgeport, CT, "MFR301" & Metro Fire Radio