

ET 75-153



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August 3, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
 Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on ultra-wideband radio and the impact that it can have on public safety. OnScene, Inc. was formed to address the modernization and safety needs of the nation's fire, police and public service departments. I'd like to familiarize your office with the tragic statistics associated with fires in the United States. Our country, as evidenced by the recent events in Worcester, MA, has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. The United States mourns the loss of more than 100 firefighters each year in duty-related incidents.

The Worcester warehouse fire that claimed the lives of six firefighters was an emergency that was managed by the book. Prescribed policies, procedures and guidelines were precisely followed, yet the results were disastrous. People died not because incident managers or firefighters failed to perform but because today's technology is wholly inadequate.

All key industry participants agree that the solution will be found in advanced technology. In fact, government officials are so convinced that the U.S. Congress is passing a fire bill that is directly aimed at solving the issue of safety through the procurement high technology safety systems.

OnScene's mission is to produce and deploy a product that will locate and three dimensionally track firefighting personnel on a real time basis, inside any structure. The system employs a revolutionary 40 MB wireless, ultra wide-band communications technology which produces a low power, noise-like signal that can transmit data, voice and video communications; can be used as a personal radar; or as a position tracking device. Our tracking unit is a personal locator device worn by firefighters and will resemble an electronic PASS device, meeting all of the standards in *NFPA 1982 - Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems for Firefighter*. Today's PASS technology merely triggers an audible alert when an individual has been immobile for a period of time, and has repeatedly proven inadequate both in staged events and, unfortunately, in actual firefighting incidents.

The OnScene system, which will be introduced in September 2001, is about the size of a cellular telephone and will provide constant tracking of individual firefighters coupled with ongoing communications with incident commanders. The OnScene system will provide the nation's fire departments with an electronic lifeline and an unprecedented level of protection. However, the effectiveness and ultimate success of this

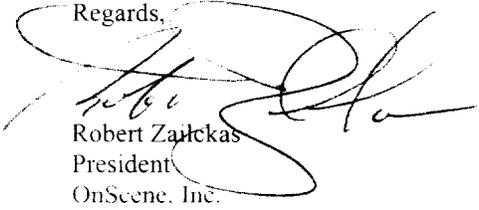
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system is very much dependent upon the use of ultra-wideband technology and, ideally, the ability to transmit high bandwidth signals without multipath interference over short distances.

I'd like to take this opportunity to urge your office to promptly move forward in making a decision in this matter. Any assistance that the FCC can provide that will support the deployment of ultra-wideband technology would be greatly appreciated by all involved parties.

Once again, thanks for your time and interest.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Zaitckas', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Robert Zaitckas
President
OnScene, Inc.