

ianews, your connection to Icom America's Land Mobile Division! Keep up with the latest products, news and technical information in this newsletter.

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FR4000: The "Extra" Behind the Scenes

Within the special events production industry, users rely heavily on portable intercom systems for communications. Look on the belt of sound and camera crews, lighting technicians, production assistants — they're all wearing the signature beltpack, a portable intercom station that enables users to communicate instantly through the push of a button.

Portable intercom systems are nothing new. What is new is Production Intercom's use of UHF frequencies to create an interference-free, long-range wireless intercom product for a small but growing niche market of users.

"We built the UHF wireless intercom to meet a specific need in the industry for a long-range solution," says Dave Johnson of Production Intercom. The 25-year-old company, based in Lake Barrington, Ill., manufactures theatrical intercom and broadcast products. Its



Production Intercom's Wireless Intercom Solution is a base unit combining the HD903 adapter and 50 watt FR4000 for integrating wireless UHF handhelds and a wired intercom system.

lineup of products includes wired, portable, and wireless intercom systems, headsets, and beltpacks.

Ideal candidates for a wireless intercom solution include collegiate and professional sports teams; churches; and theater, concerts, and other live events.

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F3161 Series: Multimode Digital and Analog Portable Launches

The F3161 series, now available for purchase, provides land mobile a multimode portable that functions in digital/analog/LTR™ mixed mode operation, and then adds a whole lot more in analog and digital signaling features. For conventional users itching to try out digital, the F3161 bridges the gap between existing analog systems and the next generation in digital radio.



The F3161/F4161 handheld along with the F5061/F6061 mobile and FR5000/FR6000 repeater makes up the digital technology introduced with the Icom Digital Advanced System (IDAS).

The F3161 series with IDAS can receive both analog and digital, providing a scalable solution for introducing digital radios while keeping current analog radios and conventional system investments.

"The biggest feature of the F3161 is its ability to scan analog and digital," says Mark Maynard, Icom America's Mid Central Regional Sales Manager. "Plus IDAS allows an agreeable migration path for future narrowband requirements without disrupting legacy analog products in use."

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Meet Your Icom Team

Ellen Pardee

Warranty Administrator



Ellen Pardee is Icom America's new Warranty Administrator. Many land mobile dealers already know Ellen from her prior role as Parts Specialist.

Ellen's new role will be the first point of contact for Icom Dealers, helping them through the process of exchanging a product or processing a warranty claim. She's also the administrator for Servicing Dealers handling warranty repairs.

The warranty process is a detailed and thorough process with a number of guidelines. It's Ellen's job to make the process as convenient as possible for dealers.

Ellen is an avid sailor and diver and frequently spends time at her property in the San Juan Islands. She also loves to read and cook. Ellen has two sons, one is a paramedic firefighter in Anacortes and the other is a DJ in San Diego. Ellen also has two grandsons, "I love spending time with them," she says.

Icom America wishes Joanna Staebler, former Warranty Administrator, all the best with her new job as a data analyst for the Microsoft Corporation.

Continued from page 1 **FR4000: The "Extra"**

Wireless intercom systems provide two main benefits. First, they are much easier to install because there are no wires to run between intercom units. Secondly, production companies can easily move the units at any time.

Typically, customers purchasing Production Intercom's UHF wireless intercom system are looking to extend coverage over a distance of up to two miles or provide coverage in otherwise crowded airwaves or dead areas.

For example, Production Intercom provided a wireless system to a theater needing to extend communications throughout its complex, including a parking garage four stories underground. Even with the structure's steel infrastructure and thick concrete walls, the UHF wireless intercom system performed well, Johnson says.

"We tested five or six different brands of repeaters and settled on Icom ... The FR4000 is very durable and reliable."

– Dave Johnson, Production Intercom

Another customer, a sound company, chose the UHF wireless intercom system because of its long-range communications capabilities. The crew relies on the system when it works multiple stages simultaneously. On one such occasion, the sound company was working four live stages several blocks apart at the Freemont Street Experience in Las Vegas. Despite the city's crowded frequencies and interference-prone areas, the system performed well, the customer reports.

Several companies manufacture wireless intercom units, but Production Intercom's use of UHF frequencies sets its product apart from its competitors'.

Competing wireless products typically use unlicensed, low-power devices similar to baby monitors or cordless telephones. While these products are relatively inexpensive and do not require a spectrum license from the FCC, their performance suffers and range is limited.

The Production Intercom UHF wireless intercom, on the other hand, is comprised of a specially designed HD903 adapter and an Icom FR4000 repeater. The HD903 adapter connects the UHF repeater to the wired intercom system. It also eliminates constant transmit background noise from getting into the cabled portion of the system and can function as the power supply for a small cabled system of up to five belt packs.

The Icom FR4000 repeater handles radio traffic to and from the wireless remotes. Operating at a maximum of 50 Watts allows for long-range communications. It prevents interference from other equipment and is compatible with most UHF portable radios.

Together, the solution addresses the challenges of standard wireless intercom solutions, including interference, dead areas, and limited range.

"We tested five or six different brands of repeaters and settled on Icom because of its well-built quality and performance. The FR4000 is very durable and reliable," Johnson says. He says the FR4000 outperformed all other repeaters in the wireless intercom application.

Some customers initially balk at the idea of using half-duplex vs. full-duplex. In the age of ubiquitous cell phones, users tend to gravitate toward simultaneous two-way voice. That is, until they get a taste of the performance benefits of half-duplex. "Once we get them out there and show them the benefits, like the reliability of the 50-Watt repeater and lack of interference," the hesitation quickly vanishes, Johnson says.

For People Who Make Smart Choices

Sandy Williams Retires After 21 Years

Benefits of the F3161 and IDAS:

- Digital/analog mixed mode operation
- Two offset channels in 12.5 kHz channel spacing
- Abundance of digital features
- Better audio quality with AMBE+2™ codec
- Better sensitivity and lower noise for further coverage
- Better security with 15-bit digital encryption
- Flexible application possibilities
- GPS reporting over voice*
- Digital trunking in the near future
- Future IP integration

*Requires GPS speaker microphone, HM-170GP

For more information on IDAS please visit www.icom.co.jp/world/idas/



Sandy Williams, next to Chris Lougee, opens up her new laptop presented by the company to keep in touch using email.

Sandy Williams started with Icom America in May of 1987 and after 21 years has gracefully decided to retire the 9th of this month. The Land Mobile Division credits Sandy with holding the division together through the years.

“We owe our start to Sandy,” said Icom America Vice President, Chris Lougee, remembering his start 17 years ago when Sandy was the only one in the division office. Tears were held back as Chris and other employees shared funny and emotional memories working with Sandy.

Icom America misses Sandy greatly and hopes to keep in touch with her often.



Icom America President, Hiro Nakaoka, awards Sandy with a plaque for her 21 years of outstanding service and dedication.

Continued from page 1 **F3161: Multimode Digital**

The FCC in March 2007 in its Third Report and Order (R&O) stated that while it has not establish a fixed date for transitioning to 6.25 kHz it “strongly urges licensees to consider migrating directly to 6.25 kHz technology rather than first adopting 12.5 kHz technology and later migrating to 6.25 kHz technology.”

IDAS, available in the F3161 series, allows licensees to better prepare for the future migration path to 6.25 kHz.

John Sullivan, Icom America Western Regional Sales Manager, shares the same opinion as Maynard, that the F3161’s dual analog and digital operation is a considerable selling point. “Dealers feel that this is what is required to make the end users feel comfortable to change to the new digital technology.”

Beyond IDAS’ improved sound quality and greater coverage area, the greatest

benefit, economically, for licensees is its true 6.25 kHz channel spacing.

The FCC this month in a memo reiterated that “12.5 kHz technology [required by January 1, 2013] is a transitional step in the eventual migration of PLMR systems to 6.25 kHz technology.” Being its most prominent capability, the F3161 in IDAS’ 6.25 kHz digital mode doubles the channel capacity of 12.5 kHz channel spacing.

With abundant digital and robust analog feature sets, LTR™ trunking, noticeably better audio quality, significantly better spectrum efficiency, and backwards compatibility, the F3161 series is definitely the portable of choice for those tempted by digital and are planning for the narrowband path ahead.

For People Who Make Smart Choices

Accessory of the Month

BC-190 Sensing Charger

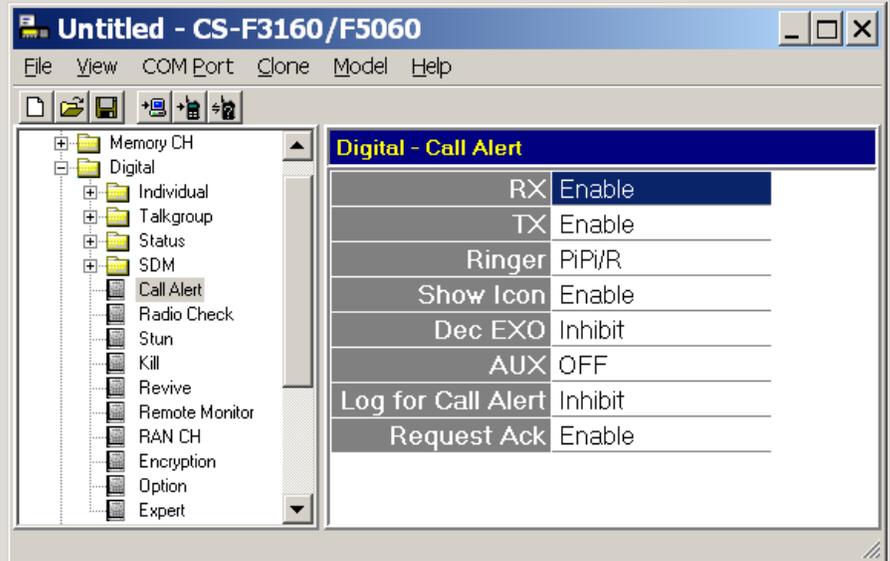


Introducing the BC-190 sensing charger, a single desktop rapid charger for the F50/V & F60/V series radios. This new charger will recharge the battery even after the initial rapid charging is completed. This means the battery is always ready to go.

The BC-190 will allow the radio to be left on during charging. The optimized battery charging cycle also helps making battery packs last longer as it avoids battery damage in extreme conditions (completely drained / over-charging).

TECH CORNER – Enhanced Digital Features Explained

The latest products from Land Mobile have additional digital features using Icom's 6.25kHz digital technology. Like the existing F3061 or older F5061 radios, the newer radios support digital selective calling and talk groups. Many of the new digital capabilities are similar to features in MDC 1200. Radios with this capability include the F3161/F4161 radios, the current F5061/F6061 radios (older models can be upgraded), and the FR5000/FR6000 repeaters..



These additional digital features are:

Status

You can send your personal status to another radio, or group of radios, or allow your status to be accessed (polled) by other radios. Available for individual or talk group calls.

Short Data Messages (SDM)

You can send short, pre-programmed data messages (12 characters long) to another radio, or a group of radios. Available for individual or talk group calls.

Call Alert

Call Alert allows you to send an alert signal to another radio, or group of radios, so that it can respond back. Available for individual or talk group calls.

Radio Check

Radio Check enables you to check whether a target radio is powered on and within range. This feature is active for individual radios, not for talk groups.

Stun

Targeted radios can be rendered inoperable remotely using the Stun feature. A stunned radio

can also be revived remotely. This feature is active for individual radios, not for talk groups.

Kill

Targeted radios can be rendered inoperable remotely. A radio that has received a Kill signal can only be made operable again by having a new cloning file programmed into the radio. This feature is active for individual radios, not for talk groups.

Revive

Targeted radios can be revived remotely after they have been stunned. This feature is active for individual radios, not for talk groups.

Remote Monitor

The Remote Monitor feature allows one radio to open the mic of a targeted radio and hear any audio in the vicinity of that radio. This feature is active for individual radios, not for talk groups.

Digital Encryption

Digital encryption uses an encryption key that you create and assign to the desired channel. Note that this encryption method is not AES/DES encryption.

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