ANNEX 6A

Louisiana Public Broadcasting - Collaboration between   
broadcasting organisations

Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA), in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), has proposed a project for enhancement of Emergency Alert and Communication Resources at originating points of alerts. LETA would be designated as the single provider of video and audio pool services to all media outlets throughout the state. These enhancements would allow GOHSEP to work in a cohesive manner, enabling them to "speak with one voice", providing a better means of managing resources and minimising duplication of effort.

Originating points of alerts would include the pressrooms at GOHSEP, at the State Capitol and at the Joint Information Centre. LETA would also support communication directly from the Remote Command Centre. In directly serving the needs of first responders, LETA would help in saving lives and protecting property and it would position LETA as an essential participant in both local and state-wide emergency protocols.

LETA has a working collaboration with New Orleans station WWL-TV 4, a CBS affiliate. In the event of a mandatory city evacuation due to a hurricane, WWL-TV 4 will move their broadcast operations to the LETA Broadcast Operations Centre Teleplex in Baton Rouge and continue on-air operations. This has been in effect since August 2005 and was most evident during Hurricane Katrina, when New Orleans was devastated. Station WWL-TV 4 occupied space from August until October at the LETA studios.