

### HF On-The-Air Test and Analysis Capability at Rockwell Collins

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Proprietary Information

# Topics

- The Case for OTA
- HF Stations at RCI
- Propagation Modeling
- Performance Evaluation

# The Case for OTA Testing

- Tests under "Real World" HF Propagation Conditions
- Engineering & Research
- ALE Testing
- Modem Waveform Performance
- Customer "Live" Demonstrations
- HF System Installations Operational Check

# **Rockwell Collins HF Stations**

- Rockwell Collins Government Systems
  - Oxford Junction, IA (brand new "Comm Central")
  - Cedar Rapids, IA (COTHEN System Integration Lab)
  - Kirvin, TX (mothballed remote site)
- Rockwell Collins Avionics
  - Melbourne, Florida
- Rockwell Collins France
  - Blagnac, France (near Toulouse)
  - CREIL, France (near Paris)



### **Rockwell Collins HF Station Locations**

### Rockwell Collins HF Licenses & Frequencies

- US Nationwide Experimental Licensees
  KM2XLB 16 Frequencies
- Cedar Rapids Area Experimental Licenses
  - KB2XAX 46 Frequencies; 2.4 29.7 MHz
  - KA2XAH 24 Frequencies
  - KA2XDI 28 Frequencies (Mobiles)
  - KC2XKG 19 Frequencies
- Kirvin, Texas Area Experimental Licenses
  - KA2XXA 19 Frequencies
  - KK2XHQ 35 Frequencies
  - KK2XHR 35 Frequencies (Mobiles)
  - KM2XMN 16 Frequencies

# Oxford Junction, Iowa Station

- New Station Commissioned Sept. 2008
- Located on 80 acres in rural Clinton County
- Ten HF Antennas:
  - Six LPH-0406 Curtains; 30, 90, 150, 210, 270, & 330 degree azimuths; 3.0 30 MHz
  - Two Collins 237B-3 RLP; 6.5 30 MHz
  - Two CMV-330 Monopoles; 3.0 30 MHz
- Eleven HF Radios
  - One 10 kW Transceiver (2.0 30 MHz)
  - Ten 1 kW ALE Transceivers (1.6 30 MHz)
- 10 X 14 Antenna Switch Matrix
- Emergency Power Generator 150 kW
- Fiber Optic Telecom Link into Building

### Comm Central – Oxford Junction Equipment

- Normally a "Lights Out" Station
- 4 Operator Consoles (for on-site local use)
- All equipment computer controlled
- On-The-Air Test Capability:
  - HF E-Mail
  - HF ALE
  - HF Modem Waveforms
  - Propagation Data Collection

New HF Comm Central Station Near Oxford Junction, Iowa



The Array of Six LPH-0406 Log Periodic Curtain Antennas



One of the LPH-0406 Curtains



Side View at the front of an LPH-0406 Curtain



#### LPH-0406 Curtain Feed Point Configuration



CMV-330 Monopole and a 237B-3 RLP

The Collins 237B-3 Rotatable Log Periodic Antenna



#### Equipment Building with Emergency Generator



Local Operator Positions – Two of Four Available



The Antenna Switch Matrix

# **RCI COTHEN Lab Station**

- Located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- HF Capabilities:
  - 1 kW ALE Transceiver
  - TRACS (Tracking Communications System)
  - Voice Privacy (VP-116)
  - Rotatable Log Periodic Antenna
    - Sabre Model 606
    - 100-foot Tower
    - 6.5 30 MHz



Saber Model 606 RLP Antenna on Self Supporting 100 Foot Tower



**COTHEN System Integration Lab (Cedar Rapids, IA)** 

# US Customs Service COTHEN

- 18 Fixed Sites in US, Puerto Rico, and Bahamas
  - 1 kW Transceivers; Log Periodic Antennas
  - 70+ Control Centers Networked to Ground Stations
- 300+ Mobile Systems
  - 100 W Mobile Systems
  - On a Variety of Platform Types
- All have ALE, Simplified Control, and Voice Privacy
- Initially Fielded in 1985





## TRACS



- Provides Asset Tracking of Mobile Platforms Using ALE
- Error-Free Position Location Transmission Over HF
- Little to No Operator Assistance
- Accuracy Within 100 Meters



# **RCI** Melbourne, FL Stations

- Building 307 Capabilities:
  - 1 kW HF-80 Transceiver
  - Rotatable Log Periodic Antenna (6.2 30 MHz)
    - Antenna Products Model LP-1017CA RLP
    - 80-foot Tower
  - T2FD Antenna; B&W BWD-90 (6 30 MHz)
  - Long Wire Antenna with tuner
- Building 312 Capabilities:
  - 400 W HFS-900 Transceiver
  - Aeronautical Voice/Data
  - T2FD Antenna; B&W BWD-90 (6 30 MHz)



Rockwell Collins Avionics Div Melbourne, Florida

Antenna Products Model 1017CA RLP Antenna on 80 foot Tower

# **RC France Stations**

- Blagnac Station Capabilities:
  - 1 kW URG-III Transceiver, Q9600 Modem, & HF Messenger
  - Rotatable Log Periodic Antenna (6.2 30 MHz)
    - Antenna Products Model LP-1017CA RLP
    - 80-foot Tower
- CREIL Station Capabilities:
  - 400 W URG-III Transceiver, Q9600 Modem, & HF Messenger
  - T2FD Antenna; Telex 1910AA (6 30 MHz)
  - Local Control or Remote Control from Blagnac



#### **Rockwell Collins France Blagnac, France**

Rotatable Log Periodic Antenna (6.5 – 30 MHz)

### HF Propagation Prediction Software

- PropMan 2000 <sup>™</sup>
  - Windows GUI with Ioncap Engine
  - Point-to-Point Ionospheric HF Propagation Predictions
  - Determine Optimum ALE Channel Frequencies
- GRWAVE
  - HF Surface Wave Propagation Model
- PropCov Program
  - VOACAP Engine
  - Coverage Area from Single Transmitter
- FreqPlan Program
  - Customized PropMan for Moving Platforms such as Aircraft





![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

**PropCov Area HF Propagation Prediction Program** 

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#### FreqPlan HF Propagation Prediction Program

## Summary HF On-The-Air Testing Options

- HF Test Links among Rockwell Collins Stations
- Two way test link between RCI HF Station(s) and customer's HF station
- RCI HF Station(s) combine with other HF stations for HF Network testing

# Summary

## HF On-The-Air Testing Options

- Real World HF Performance Evaluations
  - ALE Testing
  - Modem Waveform Testing
  - Data Protocols
  - HF Networking Protocols
  - Interoperability on-the-air Testing
- Propagation Prediction, Monitoring, & Analysis
- Technical Support and Analysis Available

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)