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VirtualAgility Collaborates with IBM on Crisis Management Capabilities for Cities

VirtualAgility crisis management capabilities key to improving responders' situational awareness and performance.

WINCHESTER, MA--February 10, 2011. VirtualAgility has collaborated with IBM on the development of the new *Centro de Operações do Rio de Janeiro, (COR)*, the Operations Center for the City of Rio de Janeiro.

The VirtualAgility OPS Center crisis management system leverages advanced IBM software and hardware and VA's own Crisis WorkCenter to let managers consolidate the flow of information from many sources in order to maintain high levels of situational awareness. Just as important, VirtualAgility enables managers to integrate the plans and actions of public agencies and government departments and to coordinate operations seamlessly, regardless of different systems, communications and policies.

Emergency managers from city agencies including police, fire, EMR, transit and utilities can coordinate activities and share information using the VirtualAgility OPS center application. The new system also allows them to collaborate with colleagues and first responders anywhere across the city of Rio. This system allows them to support every phase of the crisis cycle from risk identification and preparedness to coordinated response and recovery.

Stuart Rudolph, President and CEO, VirtualAgility: "Emergency readiness and response can't be addressed piecemeal. In fact, discontinuity is the main obstacle. The essence of effective crisis management is, literally, virtual agility, the means to aggregate enormous amounts of real-time information and present it in a form so intuitive and clear, that a first responder can know what to do regardless of what is going on."

Indeed, allowing users to visualize and share operational plans and real-time information in many different ways, and see what's happening from a variety of perspectives, is a chief advantage of VirtualAgility's crisis management technology.

Enabling managers in different places to work from a common operational picture is another advantage--and crucial to performance when multiple agencies are in action together. Of course, crisis management solutions require more than technology. VirtualAgility's industry-leading subject matter expertise ensures that their crisis management system operates in compliance with international incident management standards that have been tested over time.

As Guruduth Banavar, IBM VP & CTO, Global Public Sector said: “Working closely with business partners like Virtual Agility helps us to offer even more expertise for Smarter Cities projects which involves connecting core city systems, eliminating operational silos and ensuring that cities remain prosperous and sustainable in the face of unprecedented urban growth.”

To see a YouTube video with more about the Rio Center, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkYEK9oZYMo&NR=1>

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About VirtualAgility

VirtualAgility delivers easy-to-use, quick-to-configure Web 2.0 solutions for creating interoperability and business continuity in government and industry. With its robust line of SOA solutions, VA is helping customers meet the need for improved situational awareness and coordination within and among agencies. VirtualAgility solutions can be laid over existing “stovepipes” to create a common, integrated user view that doesn’t disrupt day-to-day operations. Using patent-pending VA technology, even the most disparate organizations can plan, prepare, train, respond, and recover on a single platform. These crisis management solutions, built on advanced IBM technologies, represent the next level of collaboration and information sharing: true virtual agility.