



KENWOOD



Radio Comparison

Compare the VM5000, VM6000, VM7000, and VM8000 to find the right mobile radio for your operation.

Quick guidance: Choose the VM5000 for straightforward vehicle-based P25 communications; the VM6000 for enhanced mobile controls, connectivity, and capacity; the VM7000 for specialized low-band and multi-deck operations; or the VM8000 for advanced multi-band, multi-protocol communications with DMR, high-speed programming, and enhanced security options.

Feature Comparison

Feature	VM5000	VM6000	VM7000	VM8000
Best for	Reliable single-band vehicle communications with a compact, uncomplicated installation	Public-safety vehicles needing an enhanced interface, more channel capacity, and modern connectivity	Complex fleets needing low-band coverage, multiple RF decks, or simultaneous monitoring	Public-safety fleets needing advanced multi-band, multi-protocol operation, including DMR, with flexible control-head and multi-deck configurations
Supported bands	VHF, UHF Low/High, 700/800 MHz	VHF, UHF Low/High, 700/800 MHz	Low Band, VHF, UHF Low/High, 700/800 MHz; high-power Low Band and VHF options	Multi-band VHF, UHF, and 700/800 MHz
Protocols	P25 Phase 1 & 2 trunking, P25	P25 Phase 1 & 2 trunking, P25	P25 Phase 1 & 2, Viking16, and	P25 Phase 1 & 2 trunking, P25

	conventional, Viking16, FM analog	conventional, Viking16, FM analog	analog; Low Band high-power model is analog only	conventional, DMR Tier II and Tier III, Viking16, FM analog conventional
Channel capacity	1,024 channels	1,024 standard; 2,048 and 4,096 options	1,024 standard; 2,048 and 4,096 options	1,024 standard; 2,048 and 4,096 options
User interface	Basic KCH-19; 422 × 154 display; dash or remote mount; dual-head capable	Enhanced KCH-20RV; 2.75-inch, 400 × 240 color display; dedicated emergency key and expanded controls; optional handheld control head	Enhanced KCH-20RV; 2.75-inch, 400 × 240 color display; single or dual remote configuration; handheld control head supported	Supports KCH-19VM, KCH-20RV, and KCH-21RVM control heads; enhanced 2.75-inch, 400 × 240 color display option with dedicated emergency key and expanded controls
Audio	Built-in speaker; internal or external speaker supported	External speaker	Select and unselect speaker capability for dispatch-console-style audio control	Up to 15-watt external speaker output with TrueVoice noise cancellation
Installation	Dash mount, remote mount, dual control heads, or fixed control station	Remote mount only; optional dual control heads; fixed control station	Single or dual remote mount with multiple RF decks available	Single dash-mount control head or single/dual remote-mount control heads; single-deck multi-band or optional multi-deck operation with up to four RF decks
Connectivity & programming	Wi-Fi in remote-mount configuration; Bluetooth Low Energy; Armada	Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Bluetooth Low Energy; Armada	Wi-Fi; built-in over-the-internet programming; Armada OTAP/OTIP support	2.4/5 GHz Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.0 and Bluetooth Low Energy, rear USB Type-C high-speed programming, and Armada

	OTAP/OTIP support	OTAP/OTIP support		direct/OTAP/OTIP support
Recording & messaging	Voice recording, instant recording replay, and text messaging	Voice recording, instant recording replay, and text messaging	Voice recording, instant recording replay, and text messaging	Voice recording and instant recording replay
Advanced operation	Mixed-protocol zones, analog and P25 conventional vote scan	Mixed-protocol zones, analog and P25 conventional vote scan	Cross-band repeat with two decks; multi-band roaming across P25 trunking systems with up to three decks; simultaneous receive/display of up to four bands	Mixed-protocol zones; analog and P25 conventional vote scan; mixed-system conventional priority scan across analog, P25 conventional, and DMR Tier II; built-in GPS and P25 authentication
Ruggedness	IP54 radio deck; IP55 remote control head; MIL-STD-810 tested	IP54 radio deck; IP55 remote control head; MIL-STD-810 tested	IP54 radio deck/front unit; IP55 remote control head; MIL-STD-810 tested	IP54/IP55 configuration-dependent protection; MIL-STD-810 C through H; IEC 61000-4-2 Level 4 electrostatic-discharge rating
Encryption	ARC4, DES-OFB, AES-256, OTAR	ARC4, DES-OFB, AES-256, OTAR; VK5000 and Motorola keyloader compatibility	ARC4, DES-OFB, AES-256, OTAR; keyloader compatibility; encryption not applicable to the analog Low Band model	ARC4, DES-OFB, AES-256, OTAR; up to 1,024 stored keys; tamper detection and zeroize options; optional FIPS 140-3 Level 3 encryption module

Shared platform benefits	TrueVoice noise cancellation, built-in GPS, perpetual software licensing, Armada fleet management	TrueVoice noise cancellation, built-in GPS, perpetual software licensing, Armada fleet management	TrueVoice noise cancellation, built-in GPS, perpetual software licensing, Armada fleet management	TrueVoice noise cancellation, built-in GPS, perpetual software licensing, Armada fleet management, and compatibility with all P25-standard systems
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Which Radio Should You Choose?

Choose the VM5000 if simplicity matters most

The VM5000 is a strong fit for agencies and organizations that need dependable P25 and analog operation without the added complexity of an enhanced control platform. Its built-in speaker, dash-mount option, and standard 1,024-channel capacity make it well suited to straightforward vehicle installations.

Choose the VM6000 for enhanced usability and expansion

The VM6000 adds a larger color display, more physical controls, full Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capability, optional higher channel counts, and handheld control-head support. It is ideal when operators need a richer interface and fleets expect their communication requirements to grow.

Choose the VM7000 for maximum coverage and interoperability

The VM7000 is designed for demanding multi-band environments. It can support multiple RF decks, monitor and display up to four bands, repeat across conventional bands, and roam across P25 trunking systems. It is the best choice for interoperable command vehicles, regional response teams, and fleets that must communicate across several frequency bands.

Choose the VM8000 for next-generation multi-band and multi-protocol capability

The VM8000 combines multi-band VHF, UHF, and 700/800 MHz operation with P25, DMR, Viking16, and analog protocols in a flexible mobile platform. Its support for up to four RF decks, multiple control-head choices, 15-watt audio, dual-band Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.0, USB Type-C programming, mixed-system priority scan, and optional FIPS 140-3 Level 3 encryption makes it ideal for agencies seeking advanced interoperability and long-term expansion.

Product capabilities and available options vary by model, band, configuration, and licensing. Confirm final system compatibility, accessories, and feature licensing before purchase.