



## **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – April 20, 2015**

### **FirstNet News**

- FirstNet would like to thank the more than 125 representatives of SPOCs and SPOC team members from the 52 states and territories and the members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee Tribal Working Group that attended the two-day 2015 SPOC Meeting in Reston, Virginia. We appreciate the time you took from your busy schedules and hope that the topics and in-depth discussions were of value to you. Feedback to date has been extremely positive and we are considering holding another in-person meeting with the SPOCs later this year. The materials for the meeting were sent out by Amanda Hilliard Friday via secure file transfer. Please let us know if you were unable to receive them. A meeting summary will be distributed in the coming weeks.
- In conjunction with the 2015 SPOC Meeting, FirstNet staff held an in person session with 25 state and territory attendees on April 13 at FirstNet Headquarters. The session focused on the potential involvement of public safety stakeholders in FirstNet's evaluation of network proposals, as previously requested by a number of SPOCs. FirstNet will continue this dialogue with the SPOCs in greater detail through regional calls and consultation activities.
- The FirstNet Board will be holding a special meeting this Friday, April 24, 2015 via conference call. More details will be provided this week, including an agenda and the dial-in information. During the special meeting, the Board is expected to consider a proposed acquisition approach for the NPSBN, including a Special Notice with Draft RFP documents. The Board also plans to discuss a Third Public Notice on the definition of public safety entity. We hope you will be able to participate in the special meeting.
- Last week, FirstNet participated in a panel during the 2015 Broadband Communities Summit in Austin, Texas, the Wildland Fire Managers Meeting in Boise, Idaho, the Congressional Fire Services Institute Seminars Day in Washington DC, the National Volunteer Fire Council Board Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, and the Telecommunications Industry Association 16th Annual Spring Policy Summit in Chesapeake, Maryland. This week FirstNet will be attending the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) Board and Mid Year meetings in San Antonio Texas, April 20-21, as well as the Virginia State Sheriffs Association Annual Meeting in Roanoke, Virginia on April 23.

- Upcoming meetings of note: June 1, 2015 - FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (**PSAC**) **in person meeting**. The afternoon session will be open to the public. June 2 – **FirstNet Board Committee meetings**. June 3 – **FirstNet Board meeting**. The FirstNet Board meetings will be open to the public. June 3 – 5 – 2015 Public Safety Communications Research Labs (**PSCR**) **Public Safety Broadband Stakeholder Meeting**. Sessions begin immediately following the FirstNet Board meeting and continue through Friday. All meetings are being held at the San Diego Omni Hotel. For additional information, check the PSCR meeting link.
- Two consultation meetings are scheduled for this week in New York and North Carolina. We have now held 20 consultation meetings involving more than 1,300 state and local participants. An updated schedule can be viewed on the [website tracker](#).
- To date, FirstNet has received 50 of 56 completed consultation checklists. Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings are: New York (4/20), North Carolina (4/23), South Carolina (4/30), West Virginia (5/5), Louisiana (5/13), Arkansas (5/14), Virgin Islands (5/19), Maine (5/20), Idaho (5/21), Connecticut (5/27), New Hampshire (6/9), New Mexico (6/10), Ohio (6/11), Vermont (6/16), Kansas (6/17), Wisconsin (6/18), California (6/23-25), Illinois (7/14), Alabama (7/15), Georgia (7/21), Tennessee (7/23) Pennsylvania (8/4), Hawaii (8/11-12), American Samoa (8/13-14), Indiana (8/26), and New Jersey (9/3).

## News from the States and PSAC Associations

- In support of the data collection efforts for FirstNet acquisition and State Plan efforts, multiple states, including Idaho and Oregon, are planning on using the recently updated Department of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Communications, Mobile Data Survey Tool (MDST). Additionally, the state of Washington is using the Survey Monkey vehicle with the help of Washington State University for the same purpose.

## Media Watch

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*Department of Commerce hyperlinks will direct you to websites that are not under the Government's control.*

### *Traditional Media*

The latest developments with the LA-RICS BTOP project received significant coverage in the telecom and public safety trade press. The SPOC meeting also generated some coverage. Even though the meeting was closed to the press, we held a press availability after it to recap the meeting and answer reporters' questions about the meeting. An analyst report about American Tower drew coverage for predicting Verizon would be the front runner to partner with FirstNet to deploy the NPSBN.

### **FirstNet Holds 2-Day Meeting for SPOCs**

[http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news\\_id=11959](http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=11959)

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) held a two-day national meeting for state single points of contacts (SPOCs) in Reston, Virginia. The first in-person SPOC meeting drew 125 representatives from more than 50 states and territories. FirstNet board members Kevin McGinnis and James Douglas attended the meeting and gave presentations. Douglas, former governor of Vermont, offered advice on working with governors.

### **Urgent Communications: FirstNet Conducts Initial In-person Meeting with Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) from States, Territories**

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/firstnet-conducts-initial-person-meeting-single-points-contact-spocs-states-territories>

FirstNet conducts its first in-person meeting with the single points of contact (SPOCs) from throughout the nation, and the feedback was great enough that another such event could be planned for the latter part of this year, according to FirstNet Acting Executive Director TJ Kennedy.

### **The Chief Seattle Geek Blog: Impressions from the SPOCs meeting in Reston**

**Virginia.** <https://schrier.wordpress.com/2015/04/19/live-long-and-prosper-impressions-from-the-spocs-meeting/#comments>. The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) conducted its first-ever meeting of "state points of contact" or SPOCs (pronounced like "Mr. Spock") in Reston, Virginia, this past week. Bill Schrier, the state of Washington's SPOC, shares his impressions.

### **Radio Resource: LA-RICS Releases New Plan for Public-Safety LTE Network, NTIA Review**

[http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news\\_id=11939](http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=11939)

The Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) released a response to corrective action plan (CAP) to attempt to have its grant funding reinstated after the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) [suspended its \\$154.6 million Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program \(BTOP\) grant last week](#)...The NTIA deadline for a revised plan was April 13. It was unclear at press time when NTIA might consider the plan and/or reinstate funding in concert with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). "We received LA-RICS' revised plan late yesterday and are currently reviewing it in consultation with FirstNet," said an NTIA spokesperson.

### **Analysts: Verizon's prospects for winning FirstNet project increasing**

<http://www.fiercewireless.com/tech/story/analysts-verizons-prospects-winning-firstnet-project-increasing/2015-04-16>

In a report reviewing American Tower's prospects for improving its tower business, analysts at Macquarie Research say they are increasingly of the view that Verizon (NYSE: VZ) could win the FirstNet public-safety-network project. "We are increasingly of the view that VZ could win this project and that this could alleviate our concerns over the lack of a natural second tenant on the newly acquired VZ sites," write analysts Kevin Smithen and Will Clayton of Macquarie Research in an April 15 note for investors.

### **Web and Social Media**

The SPOC meeting was the main topic of discussion about FirstNet over social media, with a number of states active being on Twitter before, during, and after the meeting. The FirstNet Twitter account has grown to over 2,050 followers; LinkedIn 665; Google+ 36; and YouTube has 102 subscribers. Blogs this week included National Telecommunicators Week, an overview of NIST's report on identity management for the NPSBN and a recap of the SPOC meeting. You can access all of the FirstNet blogs at:

<http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>