



## First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – September 30, 2014

### FirstNet News

- FirstNet conducted the second state consultation meeting in Minnesota on September 24. It was a very productive session for the consultation team and the state. Attendees included several key public safety leaders from across the state, including the Minnesota State Commissioner of Public Safety Mona Dohman, who also serves as the SPOC. Board member Sheriff Stanek also attended. Read more about the meeting at <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/minnesota-state-plan-consultation-meeting>.
- The outreach team held three separate webinars this week reaching out to the PSAC members and the SPOCs on the [RFI/Draft SOO](#) and the [Public Notice](#) to explain the details and encourage responses. They were very well received. A total of 46 states/territories and 28 PSAC members participated.
- Upcoming webinars
  - For SPOCs – Quarterly Webinar #4
    - Wednesday, October 1: 2 – 3:30 pm EDT. The Outlook calendar appointment update with the link and conference bridge were sent last week. The agenda includes time for additional questions regarding the RFI and Public Notice. Contact Kristi if you have questions.
- The next consultation meetings will be October 8 in Oregon; October 16 in Washington; October 29 in Montana; November 6 in Utah; November 18 in Iowa; and December 12 in Florida.
- To date, FirstNet has received completed state consultation checklists from 27 states and territories: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Washington, Washington DC, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- New hires: Justin Shore and Tom Shull
  - Justin Shore has recently joined FirstNet as Government Affairs Counsel where he will be working with our local, state, and federal government stakeholders. Originally from Arizona, Justin came to

FirstNet most recently having been regulatory compliance counsel for a publicly traded technology and customer care company. Justin has experience in both Houses of Congress, the Justice Department's National Security Division, and previously worked at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

○ Tom Shull, a native Washingtonian, joins FirstNet as a “Government Affairs Manager” working for Ed Parkinson’s growing team. Shull got his start in telecom policy at the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) where he worked as part of TIA’s government affairs team before joining the staff of Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (Ret) of Connecticut. After three years in the Senate, he joined the public affairs group for telecom manufacturer Alcatel-Lucent where he worked on Congressional issues related to public safety communications. Shull also worked as a public relations consultant at the McNulty Group.

### **From the States and PSAC Organizations**

- FirstNet is conducting outreach presentations in Santa Ana, CA and Moore, OK on September 30.
- FirstNet will also conduct an outreach presentation at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Annual Conference in St. Paul, MN on September 30 and at the Big City Emergency Managers semi-annual meeting in Chicago, IL on October 1.

### **Media Watch**

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### *Traditional Media*

This past week, we saw several articles surrounding the recently released RFI and SOO, and public notice. Articles also came from the states of Colorado and California on FirstNet efforts in their states. This includes a report on use of the ADCOM BTOP during a major planned event in Colorado.

## **Denver-area public safety realizes benefits of Adams County Band 14 LTE during local concert**

Denver-area public-safety agencies utilized Adams County's leased Band 14 spectrum from FirstNet and deployable LTE communications to gain unprecedented access to network databases during a recent concert by the band Phish, even when commercial-carrier systems in the area were saturated by social-media traffic from attendees. See more at: <http://urgentcomm.com/public-safety-broadbandfirstnet/denver-area-public-safety-realizes-benefits-adams-county-band-14-lte>

## **Communications Daily (Summary): FirstNet Seeks Advice on Relationship With Carriers, User Fees (9/25/14)**

FirstNet seeks comment on how to interpret key provisions of the spectrum law enacted in 2012, which enabled the launch of the long-awaited wireless broadband network for first responders. Among the questions, FirstNet seeks to better define its relationship with the wireless industry. FirstNet's notice and request for comment was published in the Federal Register Wednesday and seeks comment by Oct. 24

([http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/fr\\_firstnet\\_rfc\\_09242014.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/fr_firstnet_rfc_09242014.pdf)). One big question is the extent to which FirstNet will be able to negotiate commercial agreements with carriers, industry officials have said (CD Sept 18 p12). The notice pointed out that the Spectrum Act says repeatedly that FirstNet should leverage existing infrastructure when "economically desirable." FirstNet asked what this means exactly. "We seek comments on an appropriate definition of and approach to assessing what is 'economically desirable,' and the factors that should be considered, and by whom," the authority said. FirstNet asked: "In weighing economic desirability with respect to the speed of rural deployment, we seek comments on how to balance costs with speed."

## **Emergency communications agency finds ways to hire friends, skirt competitive bidding**

As a new federal agency set out in the summer of 2012 on the mammoth task of building a nationwide, wireless communications network for over 4 million emergency responders, an eyebrow-raising pattern took shape. The First Responder Network Authority was stacking its ranks with more than 20 board members, staffers and pricey consultants who were familiar faces to the agency's newly appointed chairman, Samuel Ginn, or to a longtime associate who joined him at the agency.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/09/25/240908/emergency-communications-agency.html>

## **FirstNet's Scandal and Resurrection**

McClatchy Newspaper's Greg Gordon just wrote a well-researched investigative article about procurement problems with the nation's First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The details in the article correspond almost exactly with my mostly second-hand knowledge of the situation. But I am hoping FirstNet and the nation can, with help, put this episode behind us and proceed to actually building a nationwide wireless broadband network for our brave responders who protect the safety of 320 million Americans.

<http://schrier.wordpress.com/2014/09/25/firstnets-scandal-and-resurrection/>

#### *Social Media*

The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 955 followers, and the LinkedIn account has more than 257 followers. The FirstNet YouTube account

[www.youtube.com/user/FirstNetGov](http://www.youtube.com/user/FirstNetGov) continues to gain an increased numbers of views, with the FirstNet and NG911 video generating the most interest at 467 views

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wa4otGMKvJ0>. Our blog posts from this week can be found at: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>