



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) - December 22, 2014

FirstNet News

- We conducted the Florida initial consultation meeting on December 12. More than 60 first responders and industry leaders from Florida and neighboring states attended. It provided a good opportunity to address the many questions and concerns attendees had; learn how mobile data is currently being used by emergency responders in Florida; and identify next steps for gathering information on potential users and coverage.
- The user advocacy team held the monthly SPOC calls with each of the ten regions last week – 45 states and territories were represented.
- NTIA released its [FY 2014 fourth quarter State and Local Implementation Grant Program \(SLIGP\) summary report which includes metrics and milestones from July 2013-September 2014.](#)
- Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings in 2015 are: Nevada (1/7), Colorado (1/14), Kentucky (1/28), Texas (2/11), Delaware (2/19), Wyoming (2/25), Arkansas (3/4), Massachusetts (3/12), Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), North Carolina (4/23) and South Carolina (4/29).
- Last week, FirstNet participated in Texas Public Safety Broadband and Tribal Telecom Conference (TTC) webinar sessions; presented at the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) Alaska Rural Broadband Workshop; and met with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Regional Association, Alaska Inter-tribal Council, Denali Commission, and Tanana Chiefs Conference.
- To date, FirstNet has received completed state consultation checklists from 38 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

- FirstNet recently posted blogs on two of the Early Builder projects – read more about the New Jersey project at <http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/early-builders-blog-new-jersey%E2%80%99s-deployable-public-safety-broadband-network> and the New Mexico project at <http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/early-builders-new-mexico-partner-federal-agencies-provide-broadband-border>.
- Happy Holidays! We will resume the weekly FirstNet updates on Monday, January 5.

From the States and PSAC Organizations

- The PSAC Early Builder working group conducted their kickoff call on December 16. The working group plans to submit its initial recommendations on lessons learned and early builder strategies to the PSAC Executive Committee by January 31.
- The National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) conducts four Regional meetings each year and one National Technology Showcase Forum. The link to the meetings calendar is: <http://www.nastd.org/meetings/new-item>. Information Technology and Communications Service Providers are welcome to participate in these meetings. Additional information may be obtained at the [NASTD website](#).

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

There was significant media coverage on a number of FirstNet related issues this week – including analysis reports on the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General audit report released December 9.

Government Technology: Year in Review: Making Sense of 2014

<http://www.govtech.com/public-safety/April-2014-A-Mixed-Bag-for-FirstNet.html>

The effort to build a nationwide broadband network for public safety faced its share of ups and downs in 2014. The good news: The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) passed some real milestones this year. In April, the FirstNet Board made key appointments, naming Ali Afrashteh as CTO and Jim Gwinn as CIO. Afrashteh, a telecom industry veteran with vast wireless experience, leads planning and deployment of the network. Gwinn, former CIO for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, is in charge of FirstNet's internal IT and communications. FirstNet officials also met with Maryland first responders in July, marking the beginning of state-by-state consultations that will dictate the new network's blueprint. And a few months later, FirstNet's governing board released an RFI seeking industry input on the network's design, a precursor to an actual RFP for the project.

Urgent Communications: With IG report in Rearview Mirror, It's Time to Let FirstNet Pursue Its Plans

<http://urgentcomm.com/blog/ig-report-rearview-mirror-its-time-let-firstnet-pursue-its-plans>

With this week's release of the Inspector General report, Congress should resist the temptation to take punitive action against FirstNet. Instead, lawmakers should ensure that the problems cited in the IG report have been resolved and let FirstNet proceed on its current roadmap for deploying a much-needed nationwide broadband network for first responders.

TR Daily (Summary): FirstNet Executive Director Position Posted

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has posted on USAJOBS the position of executive director of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), the newly named title of the authority's top manager. The salary range for the positions is \$120,749 to \$181,500 and it is a Senior Executive Service slot. FirstNet also has retained an executive search firm to help it identify candidates. Bill D'Agostino Jr., resigned as general manager in April (TRDaily, April 14) and TJ Kennedy has served as acting GM since then.

Executive Biz Blog: Randy Fuerst, Oceus CEO, on Public Safety Market Opportunities and Federal BYOD Programs

<http://blog.executivebiz.com/2014/12/randy-fuerst-oceus-ceo-on-public-safety-market-opportunities-and-federal-byod-programs/>

We recently won a first responder contract in the state of New Jersey called JerseyNet. In partnership with a New Jersey-based small business, we are responsible for designing and building deployable LTE systems across the state of New Jersey. This contract is under the auspices of the BTOP grant supported by FirstNet. We are well along the way in the successful execution of this big effort. There is no rest for the weary as I am keeping a keen eye on 2015 where we will soon announce some exciting new features and additions to our product portfolio.

ECN Magazine: Communication for First Responders

<http://www.ecnmag.com/articles/2014/12/communication-first-responders>

One of the well-acknowledged lessons from the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks was that federal, state, and local authorities had failed to prepare properly to support first responders with logistics, inter-agency coordination, and communication capabilities. One national initiative, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is building a nationwide public-safety communications network. The FCC has allocated 34 MHz of spectrum within the 700 MHz band and the low end of the 800 MHz band—22 MHz for broadband applications and 12 MHz for narrowband channels—primarily for voice communication.

FedTech: What FirstNet Means for Federal Emergency Responders

<http://www.fedtechmagazine.com/article/2014/11/what-firstnet-means-federal-emergency-responders#F91vrfw1Ps0WY1w0.97>

Federal first responders, including police, fire and emergency medical workers stationed at military bases, will benefit from a nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety. TJ Kennedy, general manager for the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), said he's seeing a lot of federal involvement in FirstNet in the western part of the country, where there's a high concentration of federal firefighters, and agencies are tightly knitted into the local environment.

Social Media

Social media discussions focused on outreach being conducted on a local level by the states and territories, as well as FirstNet media coverage, jobs, the RFI, state consultations and recent speaking engagements. A leading public safety opinion maker also developed a blog on the IG report (see below). The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 1,352

followers, and the LinkedIn account has more than 403 followers. Our blog posts from this week can be found at: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>.

Andrew Seybold Public Safety Advocate: FirstNet and the Inspector General's Report

<http://andrewseybold.com/3500-firstnet-and-the-inspector-generals-report>

FirstNet is a startup “company” formed by Congress to build and maintain the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The fifteen-member board of directors was appointed in the summer of 2012 and the first board meeting was held in September of that year. Since then, FirstNet has undergone many changes and a few “resets” along the way. Congress called for FirstNet to be an “Independent Authority” under the auspices of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which is part of the U. S. Department of Commerce (DOC). Unfortunately, Congress failed to describe what it meant by “Independent Authority” so the meaning was up for interpretation and the NTIA decided that FirstNet would be neither Independent nor an Authority. Instead, it is treated as a government body and is encumbered with all the rules and regulations of a federal agency.