THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY UPDATE | AUGUST 23, 2021

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FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

FirstNet Authority Board approves FY 2022 Budget; FirstNet Authority CEO highlights FY 2021 accomplishments and lists FY 2022 priorities

On August 18, the FirstNet Authority Board held its latest quarterly meeting. During the meeting, **the Board approved the FirstNet Authority's budget for fiscal year 2022 (FY22)**, including $79.3 million for FirstNet Authority operations, $94.1 million in investments into the nationwide public safety broadband network, and $79.3 million in reserve funds.

FirstNet Authority CEO **Ed Parkinson** highlighted the FirstNet Authority's top accomplishments in FY21 and looked ahead to the priorities for FY22.

Top Accomplishments in FY21 included:
Evolving the network

- Delivered access to AT&T 5G and **expanded the fleet of deployables by 15 assets**
- Launched and evolved **mission-ready tools**, such as Z-axis, high-power user equipment, compact rapid deployables, and FirstNet push-to-talk
- Expanded Band 14 to rural areas, tribal communities, and where public safety said they needed coverage most

Working with public safety

- Helped public safety integrate FirstNet into operations

- Completed an after-action review of the **Christmas Day bombing in Nashville**, in collaboration with public safety stakeholders
- Led a **working group on wildfire response**

Driving the future

- Conducted rigorous oversight of the FirstNet contract
- Released an **updated FirstNet Authority Roadmap**
- Held 1,200+ engagements across all states and territories, levels of government, and disciplines

Key Priorities for FY 2022:
Contract oversight: Maintain vigorous contract oversight to ensure that AT&T delivers on the nationwide public safety broadband network, while preparing for transition from initial build-out to future enhancements

Stakeholder engagement: Collaborate with public safety, industry, and government entities to demonstrate and obtain feedback on the operational benefits of wireless broadband for public safety operations and to inform future investments

Future planning and investment: Plan and invest in future capabilities, services, and policies to evolve the FirstNet network in alignment with the FirstNet Authority Roadmap

Organizational health: Evolve and streamline the FirstNet Authority's processes and procedures to best use the organization's capabilities and resources

Thanks to outgoing members
Chair **Tip Osterthaler** thanked Board members **Neil Cox** and **Edward Horowitz** and **Public Safety Advisory Committee** (PSAC) Chair **Todd Early** for their service to FirstNet and the FirstNet Authority. Neil and Ed have completed their terms with the Board.

After six years serving on the PSAC, including three years as chair, Early announced his retirement from the Texas Department of Public Safety and thus the PSAC. Under Todd's leadership, the PSAC has benefitted from his expertise, experience, and valuable input throughout his tenure.

"I want to thank the Authority, Board, and PSAC for allowing me to be a part of FirstNet and the work that's been done to build and enhance a network that equips first responders to save lives and protect communities. It's been a great honor," said Early.

The FirstNet Authority reiterates its profound appreciation for Todd's leadership and contribution to the network. His successor will be announced by the FirstNet Authority in the near future.

For more information on the FirstNet Authority, visit **FirstNet.gov**. For more about the PSAC, please visit **FirstNet.gov/PSAC**.

📅 SELECT UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

NASTD Annual Conference & Technology Showcase	August 22-25
Maximize Your FirstNet Coverage Webinar	August 25
Maine Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference	August 25-27

PSAC Virtual Business Meeting	August 26
FEMA Region VII RECCWG Governance & Policy SWG Meeting	August 26
South Dakota Statewide Webinar	September 1

For interest in attendance for any of our webinars, please email **Outreach@firstnet.gov**.

🛡️ FIRSTNET IN ACTION

3GPP Declares Release 17 Stage 2 Architecture Standards Frozen
The second quarterly Third Generational Partnership Project (3GPP) Plenary e-meetings of 2021 focused on the completion of Release 17 (R17) stage 2 (architecture) work and preparation for prioritization of features for R18. The group declared the stage 2 work frozen, while allowing some work items to continue into the third quarter of 2021. At this time, the R17 stage 3 (protocol) freeze date remains on schedule for March 2022.

Check out the latest **Tech Talk blog** to learn more about the June 2021 3GPP Plenary e-meetings.

AT&T Unveils New Disaster Response Technology for RIEMA
Governor Dan McKee, Director Marc Pappas of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA), Deputy CEO Lisa Casias of the FirstNet Authority, and AT&T unveiled new FirstNet equipment and technology for Rhode Island first responders. As part of the state's plan when opting into FirstNet, AT&T has delivered two new Compact Rapid Deployables (CRDs) to RIEMA. Rhode Island is the first state in the country to receive CRDs as a part of the state's decision to advance its public safety broadband communications with FirstNet.

Read the full **press release covering the Rhode Island event** to see how this new technology will make a difference for the **state's first responders**.

FirstNet Authority Board Approves FY22 Budget for Operations, Investment into Public Safety's Network

During its third quarterly meeting of 2021, the FirstNet Authority Board approved a $253 million budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), with a focus on overseeing deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network, supporting public safety engagement on their communications priorities, and directing investments in the network based on public safety's feedback.

Learn more about the approved budget in this **Board meeting press release**.

FIRSTNET IN THE NEWS

National Coverage
Los Angeles Fire, Public Health Departments Select FirstNet Coverage
MissionCritical Communications, August 5

FirstNet – Helping Firefighters Face Historic Wildfire Season Amid Pandemic
The Politicians Post, August 6

3 tips to adopting FirstNet
EMS1, August 11

FirstNet Authority seeks input on potential solutions to off-network challenges
Urgent Communications, August 14

Regional Coverage

RI first in the nation to deploy new disaster response tech
WPRI, August 10

FirstNet Wireless brings connectivity to Glenwood Canyon
FOX 21 News, August 11

BE SOCIAL WITH FIRSTNET

FirstNet Authority ✔
@FirstNetGov

Learn more about the @FirstNet Uplift tool and how it is helping public safety agencies stay connected with an extended community of support entities during disasters and major incidents: firstnet.gov/uplift

> **Bill Schrier** @billschrier · Aug 15
> "With the @FirstNet Assist app on their phones, the fire/police chiefs know if an uplift event is going on in Texas City," says Robert Turner, City IT director at #APCO2021. "The chiefs tell me to uplift the priority of support resources they are sending to the incident."
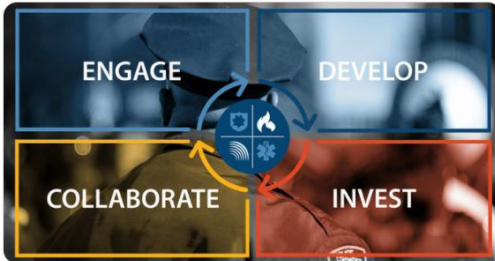
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The FirstNet Authority has released a Request for Information, seeking input on research into off-network comms tech, specifically emerging technologies that have off-network D2D functionality for voice and broadband capabilities. Details: sam.gov/opp/92745b7454...

FirstNet Authority releases RFI

FirstNet Authority ✔
@FirstNetGov

Replying to @FirstNetGov

Engagement, development, investment, and collaboration are central to our work with public safety to advance the network. The cycle ensures we are regularly learning from first responders to address their needs.

ENGAGE DEVELOP COLLABORATE INVEST

⟲ FirstNet Authority Retweeted

Governor Dan McKee ✔
@GovDanMcKee

These @FirstNet pop-up cell towers ensure that first responders have continuous, reliable communication during emergencies.

On Tuesday I was proud to see Rhode Island lead the nation in delivering this technology.

Thank you to @RhodeIslandEMA and @att for moving RI forward!

The FirstNet Authority Update comes to your inbox with a quick look at events and information you need to stay up to date with the First Responder Network Authority