



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – February 23, 2015

FirstNet News

- The User Advocacy team conducted the Delaware initial consultation meeting with 34 public safety stakeholders on February 19.
- FirstNet conducted a SPOC meeting on February 18 with 11 states to preview and obtain feedback on FirstNet data collection activities and also held a webinar on the issue on February 20 with 53 SPOCs and their staff. The meeting and webinar provided valuable opportunities to get early feedback from the states on the path forward for data collection, and overall the feedback was generally positive for both. SPOCs are encouraged to provide any additional written feedback on the proposed data collection activities to datacollection@firstnet.gov by February 27.
- Last week, Chair Sue Swenson and Governor Jim Douglas met with the National Governors Association (NGA) at the winter meeting, where 29 states and territories were represented. They gave an excellent update to the Chiefs of Staff from around the country and were also able to meet with some Governors. This was a very productive meeting to update state leadership. Sheriff Rich Stanek participated in the Minnesota 21st Century Broadband Networks – Driving Our Future meeting.
- Last week, FirstNet also participated in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) meeting, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Webinar: How FirstNet Can Help EMS Provide Better Patient Care, and the County Executives of America Board Meeting.
- Federal outreach included meetings with the FEMA Grants Program Directorate staff, key Department of Justice programs and Health and Human Services staff to discuss an emergency coordination grants coordination strategy to support FirstNet adoption. FirstNet also had the opportunity to brief the Policy and Plans Steering Group's Spectrum Working Group on FirstNet activities. The Policy and Plans Steering Group is convened within the Department of Commerce based upon direction given to the NTIA by Presidential Memorandum. The group is at the Assistant Secretary level and focuses on advancing Presidential directives related to radio spectrum use and policy.

- This week, FirstNet will be presenting at National Emergency Number Association (NENA) 9-1-1 Goes to Washington, the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters/Black Chief Officers Committee (BCOC), the NATE Unite 2015 Conference and Exposition, the National States Informational Geographic Council Conference, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Technical Operations meeting, the Region V Meeting and the IACP State Association of Chiefs and Mid-Sized Cities Combined Conference.
- The February monthly regional SPOC/SWIC calls take place this week.
- Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings are: Wyoming (2/25), Arkansas (3/4), Massachusetts (3/12), Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), Missouri (4/7), New York (4/20), North Carolina (4/23), South Carolina (4/30), Virgin Islands (5/19), Maine (5/20), Idaho (5/21), New Hampshire (6/9), 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), Pennsylvania (8/4), Hawaii (8/12), Indiana (8/26) and New Jersey (9/3).
- To date, FirstNet has received completed consultation checklists from 46 of 56 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- The next FirstNet Board and Committee meetings will be **March 24-25** at the Department of Commerce headquarters building in Washington, DC. More information regarding registration and the agenda will be forthcoming.

From the States and PSAC Organizations

- The Tribal Working Group (TWG) meeting met February 22 in Washington, DC in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session. The TWG developed a list of recommendations on tribal outreach, education, and inclusive strategies to ensure full participation by tribal jurisdictions in the nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network.
- The state of Tennessee will be holding the first of three state broadband summits on February 27 in Nashville, bringing together diverse stakeholders including public safety, education, healthcare, and economic development. For more, visit www.connectedtn.org

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

Media coverage was heavy this week with several FirstNet stories, including Federal coordination with FirstNet; state consultation, the Early Builders network projects, and the demonstration public safety LTE network at the Alpine ski championships in Vail. Key stories from this week include:

Feds, FirstNet Build Public Safety LTE Network

<http://www.fedtechmagazine.com/article/2015/02/feds-firstnet-build-first-public-safety-lte-network>

OEC had spent years helping Boston's public safety community improve emergency communications prior to the marathon. As it works today with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to build the nation's first interoperable public safety broadband network, the coordinated, multifaceted response to the Boston Marathon serves as a model for what could one day be possible nationwide.

Fierce Wireless Tech: Sonim Creates Public Safety Advisory Board to Focus on First Responder Needs

<http://www.fiercewireless.com/tech/press-releases/sonim-creates-public-safety-advisory-board-focus-first-responder-needs>

Board to Highlight Emergency Communication Priorities, Work toward Assuring Deployment and Operation of FirstNet Band 14. "We are so excited about being a part of a group of leaders who were fundamental in making the FirstNet network a reality. Our team will be working closely with the board to bring in additional members who have the knowledge, experience and relationships to meet the high standards and critical needs of our first responders," said Plaschke. "Ensuring that the FirstNet public safety broadband network launches is our collective priority. We're pleased to have Sonim support our efforts to make this critical network a reality," said Dowd.

Radio Resource: Public-Safety LTE Pilot Exposes Necessity of Private Network

<http://74.63.161.22/onlyonline.cfm?OnlyOnlineID=509>

Several themes were highlighted during a public-safety Long Term Evolution (LTE) pilot in the Colorado mountains last week: Public safety needs a private network for broadband, some rural communities might have greater needs for broadband than urban areas, and public-safety users quickly embrace LTE applications and devices. Colorado state and local public-safety officials, working closely with industry suppliers, deployed a band 14 700 MHz LTE demonstration network during the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships (FIS AWSC) Feb. 2 – 15 in Vail and Beaver Creek, two mountain ski resorts in the state. With approval from the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), the FCC granted a special temporary authorization (STA) to use the band 14 spectrum.

Urgent Communications: LA-RICS LTE Project Shrinks As Cities Opt Out, Refuse to Approve Sites

<http://urgentcomm.com/public-safety/la-rics-lte-project-shrinks-cities-opt-out-refuse-approve-sites>

With its public-safety LTE system scheduled for completion in six months, the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Authority (LA-RICS) has seen the scope of the deployment shrink as some member cities have opted out of the project or refused to approve sites, according to LA-RICS Executive Director Patrick Mallon...As part of the LA-RICS agreement with FirstNet, “we’re obligated to provide PSBN [public-safety broadband network] coverage to any and all public-safety entities that want to participate,” Mallon said. “So, even if they’ve opted out, they have offered to let us continue to install equipment in their cities. Because of that, we anticipate that they will want to participate in the PSBN system.”

Social Media

Social media discussions about FirstNet focused on outreach and consultation in the states and territories, the Alpine World Ski Championship, and the recent webinar event, “How FirstNet Can Help EMS Provide Better Patient Care,” that Board Member Kevin McGinnis and Director of Outreach Amanda Hilliard participated in. Maine SPOC Lisa Leahy commented on Twitter that the webinar was “received well by 1st responders.”

We posted a number of blogs this past week on outreach and consultation efforts, as well as the CTO team’s observations of the public safety LTE Network at the Alpine World Ski

Championship: <http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/public-safety-lte-demo-network-2015-fis-alpine-world-ski-championships>. The Vail blog received hundreds of views and was widely discussed over Twitter. Additional blogs can be found here: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>. The FirstNet Twitter account continues to grow steadily, with more than 1,720 followers; LinkedIn 537; Google+ 26; and YouTube has 88 subscribers.