



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – February 9, 2015

FirstNet News

- FirstNet is in the process of finalizing the data collection activities that would be beneficial for you to collect from the public safety community within your state or territory to inform the FirstNet Comprehensive Network Solution(s) Request for Proposal and the State Plans. Our goal is to ensure that SPOCs have time to consider and provide feedback for data collection details while moving through the process efficiently. Prior to finalizing these data collection requests, FirstNet will be holding an in-person meeting February 18 in Washington, DC and a webinar February 20 to give you an opportunity to preview the draft data collection categories and to solicit your input. Please reply to outreach@firstnet.gov by February 13 to indicate if you plan to attend either event.
- Save the Date! FirstNet, in coordination with the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) team, is also planning an in-person 2-day SPOC meeting between April 14-16, 2015. FirstNet will provide additional information within the next 2 weeks once a meeting venue has been secured.
- FirstNet Board members and staff participated in several events last week involving more than 200 stakeholders in Oregon (Tri-state Tribal Symposium; concurrent with Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians); Wyoming (WY Telecommunications Association winter meeting); Texas (TESSCO Technologies Innovation Showcase 2015); Alaska (AK Fire Chiefs Association Leadership Summit) and in Washington, D.C., for the federal consultation webinar. In addition, Board member Teri Takai participated in the Michigan Statewide Interoperability Communications Training Conference.
- This week, FirstNet will be at the NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association Telecom Executive Forum, the Texas initial consultation meeting and at a Pennsylvania-FirstNet southeastern regional meeting.
- Upcoming initial consultation meetings are: 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), Missouri (4/7), North Carolina (4/23) and South Carolina (4/29).

- 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

- This week, assignments were finalized for the PSAC work groups for public safety grade (12 volunteers) and priority and preemption (11 volunteers). The PSAC also submitted the initial Early Builder's Working Group (EBWG) recommendations, and FirstNet is now preparing a follow up tasking so the EBWG can continue its work.

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

Media coverage this week largely focused on the recently closed FCC AWS-3 Spectrum Auction, and many stories alluded to how it fully funds FirstNet and construction of the nationwide public safety broadband network. In terms of FirstNet's position on the AWS results, Board members and staff are encouraged to focus their comments around how the auction results look very promising for FirstNet, but the funding is not guaranteed until after the FCC receives money from the bidding companies, which is due in early March. Additionally, several local stories focused on FirstNet outreach efforts. Key stories from this week include:

Fierce Mobile Government: Question of FirstNet Funding Now Moot, Thanks to Successful FCC Spectrum Auction

<http://www.fiercemobilegovernment.com/story/question-firstnet-funding-now-moot-thanks-successful-fcc-spectrum-auction/2015-02-04>

Far surpassing estimated revenues, the Federal Communications Commission raised a staggering \$44.9 billion in a recent wireless spectrum auction with some of the proceeds earmarked for the development of a nationwide, interoperable network for first responders. The AWS-3 auction – comprised of the 1695-1710 megahertz, 1755-1780 MHz and the 2155-2180 MHz bands – closed Jan. 29 and revenues even eclipsed the \$19.1 billion raised in the FCC's last major spectrum auction held in 2008. This AWS-3 auction is the second of three designed to benefit the planned wireless broadband network for first responders, known as FirstNet, which is estimated to cost \$7 billion.

Radio Resource: Adams County to Serve as Host Core for New Mexico

<http://74.63.161.22/onlyonline.cfm?OnlyOnlineID=506>

Adams County, Colorado, will serve as the host core for the New Mexico early builder broadband network, a decision based on technical and financial comparisons, said a New Mexico official. New Mexico considered the Harris County, Texas, host core as well, said Jacqueline Miller, New Mexico deputy secretary for the Department of Information Technology. “We determined Adams County was a better solution so we could manage the system at a higher level of detail without additional upgrades,” she said. “Adams County had included some additional capacity.” Both Adams County Communications Center (Adcom 9-1-1) and New Mexico have spectrum lease agreements with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to build public-safety Long Term Evolution (LTE) networks using Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funds. Harris County is another FirstNet early builder, using funds from a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) port authority grant.

American City & County: Nationwide Broadband Network Aims to Shepherd Public Safety Into the 21st Century

<http://americancityandcounty.com/technology/nationwide-broadband-network-aims-shepherd-public-safety-21st-century>

When last week's nor'easter dumped about two feet of snow and brought hurricane-force winds to the island of Nantucket, the town's modern day communication systems didn't stand a chance. There was only one functioning communications system. “Some of our landlines are down, cell service is spotty, the Internet and TV are down, and the only thing we have is our public-safety radio,” Police Chief William Pittman told The New York Times in an interview done over that same radio system. It's the kind of crisis situation that a relatively young federal authority called the First Responder Network Authority, known as

FirstNet, is mandated to address so public safety can respond more effectively in the future. Created by Congress in 2012 with \$7 billion in federal funding, FirstNet is leading an effort to build a public-safety broadband network and give first responders access to 21st Century technologies in even some of the most remote, harsh environments and under chaotic circumstances.

Social Media

Social media discussions about FirstNet focused on outreach and consultation in the states and territories, the FCC auction, and the Alpine World Ski Championship. We posted a number of blogs this past week detailing our outreach and consultation, including one from Chair Sue Swenson about her recent participation in the California Town Hall in Humboldt County: <http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/public-safety-feedback-real-world-incident-show-need-npsbn-california-town-hall>. Additional blogs can be found here: <http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>. The FirstNet Twitter account has more than 1,612 followers; LinkedIn 510; Google+ 24; and YouTube has 86 subscribers.