



July 2016

Message from Mike Worrell, FirstNet Senior Fire Services Advisor

As the Senior Fire Services Advisor my goal is to keep the fire service informed on FirstNet by actively engaging in outreach opportunities. I have attended many engagements and I am encouraged about the excitement and anticipation surrounding FirstNet. There is still a lot of work to be done in preparation for FirstNet deployment. Many in the fire service still have not had any exposure to FirstNet and we are continually working to increase awareness so public safety can prepare for network deployment. Chief Jeff Johnson, FirstNet Board Vice Chair is relentless in his efforts to push for deployment and acceptance of FirstNet. We are actively working with fire service standards bodies so FirstNet meets the expectations of the fire responders when deployed. The deployment of this network for public safety will without a doubt be a game changer. Think about how your smartphone has become part of your daily life and the convenience it brings. The integration of FirstNet into the fire service will result in higher efficiency, increased safety, better decision making and better service for the public. Later this year FirstNet will have selected its partner to deploy the network, and in 2017 state plans will be developed and distributed. Deployment is only a year and a half away!

- Mike

FirstNet Request For Proposals

FirstNet achieved two key milestones this year. On January 13 FirstNet issued the long awaited Request for Proposals (RFP) for deployment of the FirstNet network. The RFP release was a major milestone in FirstNet's efforts to deliver the network for public safety. FirstNet stayed "on time and on track" with the RFP release. This sets in motion the process for us to partner with an industry player(s) to build and deploy the network – this is something that public safety has been looking forward to for many years. The second milestone was the deadline for submitting proposals. FirstNet is moving forward in the RFP evaluation process. Unfortunately we cannot comment on specifics of the procurement because they are considered source selection sensitive information. FirstNet is following federal procurement regulations for this RFP, as they ensure there is a fair and competitive process for complex procurements like the FirstNet Network. We are confident that the procurement will lead to the best possible solution for public safety; we look forward to announcing the partnership award as soon as November 2016.



State Engagements

FirstNet's consultation goals for the rest of the year are to continue to meet with states and territories to uncover key issues and build relationships. We want to work together to prepare for both the governor's decision on RAN deployment and the network adoption decision that will be made by public safety users. FirstNet has already participated in more than 30 Governance Body meetings.

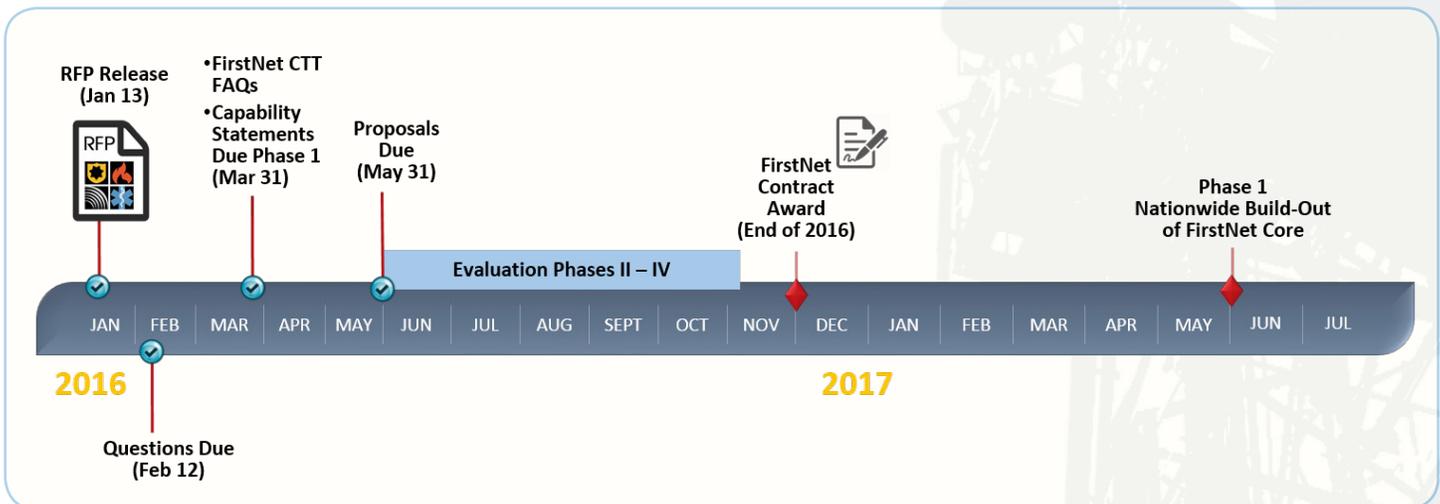
These meetings have allowed FirstNet to connect with the states on important issues like the State Plan and the Governor’s decision and discuss the key issues that the state and FirstNet need to consider over the next year. In addition, FirstNet has conducted more than 20 executive consultation meetings thus far with plans to continue these meetings throughout the fall and winter of 2016.

Metropolitan Engagements

FirstNet is also working with the SPOCs to engage with metropolitan areas nationwide to further its knowledge of public safety’s wireless usage and needs, and answer questions about the FirstNet network. In addition, these engagements are focused on public safety adoption and gaining market share. FirstNet has recently begun coordinating with the SPOCs to get these meetings scheduled through the summer and fall of 2016.

Consultation Task Teams

Consultation Task Teams (CTTs) are state and territory-based groups that will provide a formal opportunity for stakeholders in each state and territory across all levels of government to provide meaningful input to inform FirstNet network policies and operations. The first CTT is on Quality of Service, Priority, and Preemption (QPP) and builds on the earlier work of FirstNet’s Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). Several regions have already hosted QPP CTT meetings, with these meetings expected to wrap by the end of August. CTT meeting attendees have provided valuable feedback regarding the need for standardized policies and procedures, including the importance of documenting requirements for local network control. FirstNet will compile and report out on the feedback received from the CTTs in the fall of 2016.



PSAC Task Teams

The PSAC is comprised of 42 representatives from public safety and state, territory, local and tribal organizations. PSAC Task teams provide advice and recommendations to FirstNet on a variety of topics, most recently in the areas of public-safety grade, priority and preemption and user equipment. The PSAC task teams have worked diligently to assist FirstNet in understanding public safety considerations for Identity, Credential and Access Management (ICAM) and Local Control. The fire

service was well represented on both tasks by fire PSAC members.

Identity, Credential and Access Management

- ICAM allows authorized users and devices access to:
 - The Network
 - FirstNet Application and Data
 - Access Restricted FirstNet Applications based on user specific attributes
 - Access to Enterprise Applications/Data, i.e. Computer Aided Dispatch or Records Management Systems.
- Defined discipline specific user attributes



Local Control

- Identified capabilities that allow influence and control the relationship with the NPSBN.
- Developed the Local Control Framework
- Developed key terminology associated with local control.

Requested Future Taskings

- Organization of Public Safety Discipline Specific Working Groups
- Coordinating efforts with Public Safety Communications Research Program (PSCR) Research and Development Project Task Team

Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR)

In February 2012, Congress enacted the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act. The legislation contained landmark provisions for the development and build out of the NPSBN, a dedicated, interoperable network for emergency responders. The Public Safety Trust Fund (PSTF) was established to support the design and implementation of the Network.

The Act charged the NIST with utilizing up to \$300 million of PSTF allocations to establish a R&D program to support the development and deployment of the NPSBN. The priorities incorporated into the Act and PSTF marked an unparalleled push toward interoperability and next-generation technologies for the public safety community.

In January 2016, the NIST PSCR program established the Innovation Accelerator to spearhead R&D efforts. To pave the way for the Innovation Accelerator, PSCR worked with its diverse stakeholder

base to identify R&D priorities that have crosscutting positive impact for public safety. Technology Roadmaps are being developed to outline the critical technology gaps that were identified. The Innovation Accelerator will leverage the Roadmaps to make better-informed decisions on R&D initiatives. In the near-term, PSCR stakeholders identified five technology focus areas that will drive R&D for the Innovation Accelerator:

- LMR to LTE
- User Experience
- Location-Based Services
- Mission-Critical Voice
- Public Safety Analytics

If you are interested this research sign up for the PSCR Newsletter:

<http://www.pscr.gov/outreach/newsletter/index.htm>

Voice Radio Communications Guide for the Fire Service June 2016

Provides a basic understanding of radio communications technology, including hardware, policies and procedures, and human resource issues.

Firefighters are a unique group of radio users. Your safety and operational effectiveness, as well as the safety of the citizens you protect, depends on understanding how radio communications technology works and how it must be used in the harshest and most hostile of environments.

Focus areas include:

- Digital and analog radio.
- Conventional radio systems.
- Direct communications.
- System design and portable radio selection and use.
- Interoperability.
- Radio spectrum licensing and the Federal Communications Commission.
- First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).



The document can be downloaded at:

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/operations/ops_safety.html

Ways To Connect with Firstnet

The FirstNet website www.FirstNet.gov is an excellent resource to find information.

Social media is a technology-enabled tool that assists the public safety community to collaborate, share information, and help each other. One of the most popular social media platforms is Facebook, which

provides a unique tool for engaging with communities and keeping them informed on key developments.

The FirstNet Communications team is continually adding new material to YouTube that showcases FirstNet interactions with public safety across the country, educational materials and videos that highlight future capabilities. FirstNet Blogs provide insight into the activities of the FirstNet Team. In the future we will share material and information from other states and departments to highlight FirstNet related information.

Please feel free to reach out to Mike Worrell at Mike.Worrell@firstnet.gov, or Jeff Johnson at Jeff.Johnson@FirstNet.gov.

Thanks for taking the time to read about FirstNet. We look forward to working with you.



Social Media



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/first-responder-network-authority-firstnet>



<https://twitter.com/FirstNetGov>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/FirstNetGov>



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