



Winter 2017

FirstNet Makes Public Safety Push at Technology Show

Las Vegas welcomed nearly 200,000 people to witness breakthrough technology debuted at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES 2017). FirstNet's CEO Mike Poth and President TJ Kennedy carried the message to CES that many of these technologies can make a life-saving difference for public safety. By encouraging industry to think about how technology can benefit public safety, FirstNet aims to drive the advancement of communications tools for first responders.

Sensor technology and the world of connected things garnered much interest in the exhibit hall. Noticeably absent, though, was the idea of a "connected" first responder.



Nothing hits a dispatcher harder than when an officer or firefighter can't be reached on the radio. What if they were outfitted with biometric smart body armor that alerted dispatch to life threatening injuries, so medical could be dispatched more quickly? Such technology requires real-time transmission over a dedicated public safety broadband network.

Read more on FirstNet.gov.

Fire Chief Endorses FirstNet

Richard Carrizzo, fire chief of the Southern Platte, Missouri Fire Department and treasurer of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has been a long time supporter of FirstNet. "The need for FirstNet is real and pressing, and its promise must be realized," he wrote in an IAFC December column.



Read more at <https://www.iafc.org>.

FirstNet-APCO Collaborate on Applications

FirstNet's applications group, based in Boulder, Colorado, has been working with the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International to foster emerging applications for public safety. Participants in APCO's third technology workshop called for developers to create a tool for testing new apps for interoperability and cybersecurity on FirstNet's network.



"The excitement surrounding FirstNet is not only in its broadband capabilities, which will be a game-changer, but also in the competition for public safety apps that we expect it to spark," FirstNet Chief Technology Officer Jeff Bratcher said. "If FirstNet can help foster that kind of technical innovation, we will open up a new world in which first responders are more prepared, safer, and in better positions to serve the public based on the apps they will be able to access." Read more on APCO's TabletopX Blog.

2017 State Plans Consultation



The new year brings a new phase for FirstNet's Chief Customer Office (CCO), which has been focused on building relationships at the state, tribal, federal and local levels to hear about the technical and operational needs of public safety. "State Single Points of Contacts and public safety leaders have been heavily involved in learning more about consultation with FirstNet in their states," said FirstNet Board Vice Chairman Jeff Johnson.

Following the contract award by FirstNet for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), FirstNet and its partner will work to deliver individual State Plans detailing the proposed network deployment. Once delivered, the Governor will have 90 days to make a decision regarding the Radio Access Network (RAN) deployment.

"We want to take the plans as we've designed them, along with what the partner has proposed, and present those to the states," he continued. "The consultation around that is going to be ahead of it, during, and after."

(See more on FirstNet's website, "[Key Factors for Governor Decision](#)")

When states and territories receive their customized State Plans in 2017, FirstNet will continue to work with the SPOCs to prepare them for the governors' decisions. States are encouraged to stay updated on the latest FirstNet news and deployment plans by visiting FirstNet.gov and FirstNet's [YouTube channel](#) to watch tutorials on FirstNet State Plans key considerations.

FirstNet Visits Alaska

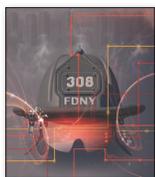
FirstNet was in Juneau last week to brief the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Leadership Summit, covering the history of FirstNet, the FirstNet value proposition, rural coverage, and applications of mobile broadband data in the fire service. Attendees were interested in the communications capabilities FirstNet will bring and look forward to a network that will provide reliable coverage for public safety in Alaska.



Commerce Agency Offers \$30 Million in Grants for First Responder Innovations

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Public Safety Communications Research Division (PSCR) has announced a [\\$30 million grant funding opportunity](#) known as the Public Safety Innovation Accelerator Program.

According to the [funding opportunity announcement](#), eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, state and local governments, Indian tribes, hospitals, foreign public entities, and foreign governments. Applications must be submitted to [Grants.gov](#) by Feb. 28.



Source by: NFPA

Vehicle Applications Expected to Reduce Crashes

Of all the new technology coming onto the market, one that is getting a lot of attention for those in public safety is

vehicle-to-vehicle crash avoidance.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in December proposed a rule that would mandate V2V communication on vehicles, allowing cars to communicate with each other to avoid crashes.

Once fully deployed, the crash avoidance applications could prevent hundreds of thousands of crashes every year by allowing vehicles to "communicate" with each other, NHTSA officials.

Separately, the Federal Highway Administration has indicated it will soon issue guidance for vehicle-to-infrastructure communications, an application that is expected to improve driver communications at traffic lights, stop signs and in work zones, among others, to reduce congestion and improve safety.

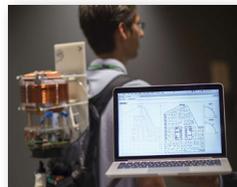
The V2V and V2I applications are expected to reduce or mitigate as much as 80 percent of non-impaired crashes, officials said. Read more about vehicle safety applications from [NHTSA.gov](#).



New Technology May Save Firefighters Indoors

A research team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, California, has developed a tracking system to prevent responders from being lost in disasters.

The system, called POINTER (Precision Outdoor and Indoor Navigation and Tracking for Emergency Responders), aims to solve



the problem of how to track responders indoors, especially in smoke-filled rooms where firefighters can become incapacitated and undetected.

The system uses electromagnetic fields in a technological breakthrough in place of radio waves, which are stationary and can't get around walls and other barriers, according to a [NASA press release](#).

The system, which has been tested by the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, could also help in search and rescue efforts.

Data-Sharing Catches on in the Firefighting Community

The idea of big data – sharing large volumes of digital information – is catching on throughout emergency services, and firefighting is no difference. See what a [Forbes magazine](#) contributor says about the vital role data-sharing will play in the future of firefighting.

Some Upcoming Events FirstNet Will Attend

Event	Date
Fire Chiefs Massachusetts Professional Development Conference (Worcester), MA	2/28/17
APCO Emerging Technology Forum (Raleigh), NC	2/28/17
Tennessee Broadband Conferences (Jackson, Nashville, Knoxville), TN	3/7/17
International Fire Engineers (Orange), CA	3/20/17
International Association of Fire Chiefs, Wildland Urban Interface Conference (Reno), NV	3/22/17
International Wireless Communications Expo (Las Vegas), NV	3/27/17
Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) Conference (Tulsa), OK	3/29/17

Social Media

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

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

 <https://twitter.com/FirstNetGov>

 <https://firstnetgov.tumblr.com/>

 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/firstnetgov/albums>

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