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Update to Technology Committee on Request for Information (RFI)

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Agenda

- RFI Introduction

- RFI and Acquisition Milestones

- RFI Purpose and Objectives

- RFI Structure

- Summary of RFI Technology Question Areas

- RFI Key Outcomes

Request For Information Introduction

- An RFI seeks input from interested parties regarding specific topics. It is a form of market research

- In this case, we will use the responses to:
  – Understand industry capabilities
  – Revise FirstNet's requirements in light of what industry can provide
  – Allow industry to provide meaningful input

- FirstNet has already issued several RFIs including:
  – May 2013 RFI on devices
  – July 2013 RFIs on, among other things, network partners, radio access network (RAN), and core network
  – November 2013 RFI on applications platforms
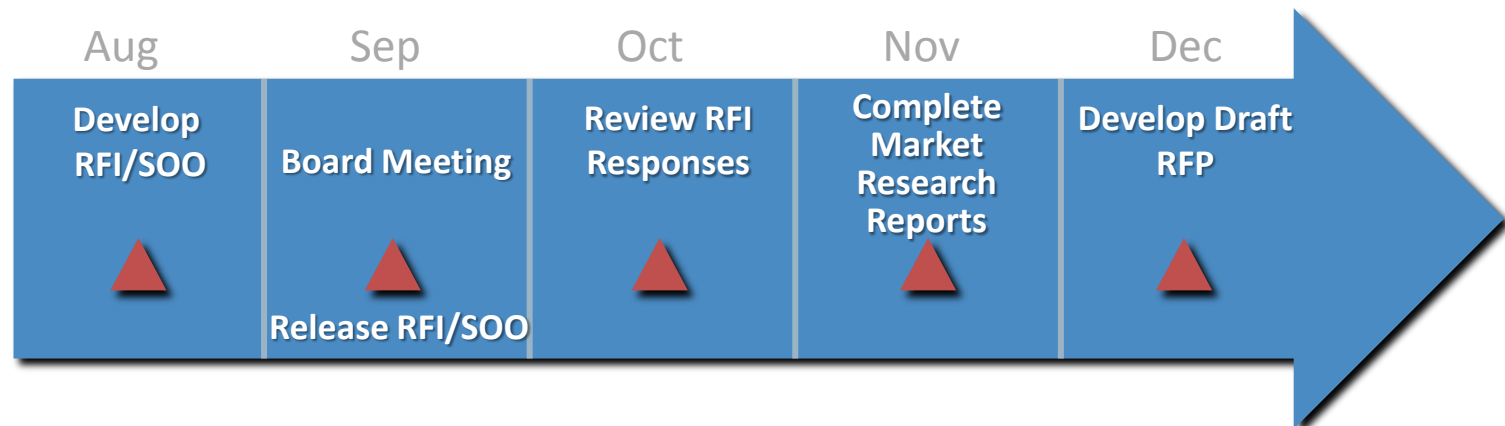
RFI Purpose and Objectives – Data Gathering

- An RFI is a recommended practice as detailed in the Defense Standardization Program's SD-5, *Market Research Gathering Information About Commercial Products and Services*
  - Collect and analyze information about capabilities within the market
  - Avoid wasted developmental time, expense, and rework
  - Recommended for high value acquisitions

- The information gathered in the RFI helps shape the acquisition strategy, inform the final Statement of Objectives (SOO) and RFP, and establish the direction for Industry Day(s)

- An RFI signals to public safety and industry our interest to obtain critical information in preparation for a solicitation

- An RFI demonstrates openness and transparency, a promise made by FirstNet

The RFI in the Acquisition Lifecycle

- Prior to the draft RFP issuance for a Comprehensive Network Solution, FirstNet will complete the following steps:
  - Draft RFI/SOO (August/September)
  - Review RFP approach at Board meeting and approve RFI/SOO (September)
  - Release RFI/SOO (September)
  - Review RFI responses; meet with respondents
  - Industry Day

Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Develop RFI/SOO	Board Meeting	Review RFI Responses	Complete Market Research Reports	Develop Draft RFP
	Release RFI/SOO			

RFI Structure

Outline of the RFI:
- Introduction
- Background
- Acquisition Approach
- Information Requested
- Questions Related to Certain Program Objectives
- Instructions to Respondents
- Appendix A - Glossary of Terms
- Appendix B - Draft SOO

Summary of RFI Technical Question Areas

- Build, Deploy, Operate, and Maintain the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

- Accelerate Speed to Market (Roll out)

- System Hardening

- Priority and Preemption

- Opt-Out RAN Integration

- System Reliability and Restoration

- Lifecycle Innovation

RFI Key Outcomes

- The RFI responses will support the development of a responsive and realistic (achievable) RFP

- The responses will help design a productive Industry Day closer to the release of the draft RFP

- The RFI may surface questions and answers that FirstNet hasn't asked or considered

- The RFI will contribute to the track record of a consultative, transparent, listening FirstNet

Thank You

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