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# **24<sup>th</sup> Annual CTA Winter Meeting**

## **FIRSTNET: AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONWIDE, PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK**

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# Roadmap

- Brief History and Snapshot of Public Safety
- ‘Game Changing’ Public Safety Legislation
- First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Will Lead Way
- Partnerships Critical to FirstNet Success
- State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)
- Takeaways

# APCO International: Who We Are

- ▣ World's largest organization of public safety communications professionals
  - ▣ Members include state and local employees of law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service departments, as well as 9-1-1 public safety answering points and emergency operations centers
- ***APCO members will be the FirstNet users***

# Snapshot: Public Safety Today

- Public Safety uses reliable, but limited LMR technology to communicate
- Radios built to operate on very specific portions of spectrum allocated to public safety
- Often, radios from one jurisdiction can't communicate with radios in an another nearby jurisdiction
- Challenges seen during 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, etc.
- Many first responders use commercial services

# Public Safety Needs

- Three major components:
  - Additional spectrum
  - Funding
  - Strong Governance Model
- Public Safety Alliance (PSA)
  - Leadership from national public safety organizations coalesced behind need for advanced public safety communications capabilities

# First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

# Public Safety Broadband Legislation

- ❖ H.R. 3630 enacted February 2012; now [PL 112—96](#)
  - ⌘ Spectrum: 10 additional MHz in 700 MHz band
    - ⌘ Adjacent to other public safety spectrum
  - ⌘ Funding: \$7B
    - ⌘ \$2 billion upfront; not a grant program
  - ⌘ Single governance body: FirstNet
    - ⌘ [15 member board](#); 3 Federal and 12 appointed

# Requirements of FirstNet Board

- ☞ Ensure deployment and operation of a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network based on a national network architecture.
- ☞ Leverage existing commercial wireless infrastructure to the maximum extent economically desirable
- ☞ Ensure nationwide standards for use and access of the network
- ☞ Ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the network, including against cyberattack
- ☞ Significant state and local and tribal input mechanism
- ☞ Represent public safety before standards-setting bodies



# FirstNet's Charge in Network Deployment

- Issue requests for proposals
- Implement, execute and manage contracts
- Require substantial rural coverage milestones
- Develop technical and operational network requirements
- Ensure network maintenance and improvement
- Build public/private partnerships including spectrum and infrastructure sharing
- Negotiate roaming agreements with commercial network providers

# Inherent FirstNet Advantages

- Sustainable (technical, financial, secure) network design
  - Maintenance
  - Coordinated upgrades
- National-level bargaining power and synergies with potential partners
- National-level economies of scale in network and device equipment costs
- Attract competitive, diverse, multiple vendor ecosystem
- Establish and maintain nationwide interoperability

# FirstNet Board: Tangible Progress

- 3 meetings to date; last one on February 12, 2013
  - BTOP Path Forward
  - Public Safety Advisory Committee
  - General Manager Recruitment
  - Apps Drive [Public Safety](#)
    - APCO [Position](#) on [Apps](#)
  - NOI on “Straw Man” [Network Architecture](#)
  - Planned Outreach
  - State and Local Implementation Grant Program



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# State and Local Implementation Grant Program

# State and Local Input is Critical

- Grant program to state, regional, tribal and local jurisdictions (\$135M)
- NTIA announced Federal Funding Opportunity with specific requirements
- For efficient and effective use and integration of existing infrastructure
- To satisfy wireless data communications needs of specific jurisdiction, particularly coverage & siting
- States must establish single officer or governmental body as a point of contact (POC) for FirstNet
- FirstNet must consult with state POC on Radio Access Network (RAN) design, RFPs, network policies

# State and Local Input is Critical (Cont'd)

- ⌘ Must consult with state, local and tribal public safety entities when ensuring the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide public safety broadband network
- ⌘ FirstNet “[s]hall require deployment phases with substantial rural coverage milestones as part of each phase of the construction and deployment of the network. [§6206(b)(3)]

# The Role of Telecommunication Providers

- Work with the state POCs and local officials to determine what government and private partner assets can be leveraged for deployment of nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network:
  - Tower sites, fiber, backhaul
- Help identify local network requirements, such as special vulnerabilities, access priorities, etc.
- In many cases, rural communications service providers will be the only partnership opportunity available to FirstNet
  - Access to spectrum through Covered Leasing Agreements
- State and Local Implementation Grant Program

# State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)

“The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the First Responder Network Authority, shall take such action as is necessary to establish a grant program to make grants to States to assist State, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions to identify, plan, and implement the most efficient and effective way for such jurisdictions to utilize and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the nationwide public safety broadband network to satisfy the wireless communications and data services needs of that jurisdiction, including with regards to coverage, siting, and other needs.” [§6302(a)]



# SLIGP – Continued

- NTIA released the [requirements](#) under which it will award \$121.5 Million for SLIGP on February 6, 2013. Applications due [March 19, 2013](#).
- All 56 states and territories are eligible.
- Two Phases:
  - Phase 1 (50% of money): planning, consulting, and development activities in preparation for consultations with FirstNet, including strategy and timeline development, meetings, governance planning, and outreach and education efforts
  - Phase 2 (50% of money): will cover States' needs in preparing for additional consultation with FirstNet and planning to undertake data collection activities

# SLIGP – Continued

- Evaluation criteria for application includes specific priorities:
  - Rural coverage
  - Existing Infrastructure
  - Network users
  - Education and outreach
- Each State must designate officer or governmental body to serve as the coordinator of implementation of the SLIGP grant funds

# Summary

- \$7 billion is a lot of money, but also not a lot
- FirstNet Board tasked with implementation of nationwide, public safety broadband network, but is up to challenge
- Partnerships are key
- State, local and Tribal leaders can assist FirstNet now through SLIGP
- FirstNet success = success for all

# Questions?

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