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Interim Report: FirstNet

Moderator and Speakers

➔ Moderator

- **Andrew M. Seybold**
- Andrew Seybold, Inc.
- Public Safety Advocate

➔ Panelists

- **Roman Kaluta**, JPS Interoperability Solutions
- **Mike Worrell**, FirstNet The Authority
- **Mary Doherty**, Motorola Solutions

What FirstNet Is

- FirstNet is a nationwide public safety broadband network
- Originated in February 2012 when signed into law
- RCA members have long history in the making of FirstNet
- First talked about by Morgan O'Brien at an IWCE conference
- Chief (Ret.) Harlin McEwen is Grandfather of FirstNet
- Many other RCA members took part in making FirstNet a reality
- FirstNet started out as an answer to 9/11 Commission that cited lack of communications interoperability as a major problem
 - Communications problems then evidenced in Katrina, Sandy, and other disasters
- Public safety set out to fix this problem
- Vision of FirstNet was to provide nationwide data and video, leaving push-to-talk voice on existing LMR systems and dial-up telephony on commercial networks

FirstNet Result of Lots of Hard Work!

- ➔ First iteration of FirstNet was when FCC granted nationwide broadband license for 10 MHz of 700-MHz spectrum to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) led by Chief McEwen
- ➔ Public safety community realized this would not be enough spectrum
- ➔ Public Safety Alliance (PSA) was formed and began talking to those in Congress, the FCC, and the Executive Branch
- ➔ Several early bills for allocating the “D” spectrum adjacent to the PSST spectrum garnered support in both the House and the Senate but not enough to pass standalone bills
- ➔ Finally, bill to create FirstNet was incorporated into the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2012 that was passed and signed by the President
- ➔ FirstNet became a reality but with only a board of directors

FirstNet a Private/Public Partnership

- Public safety agencies knew they would not be able to build this type of network
- Only \$7 billion in funding available in the law, and public safety required to return the T-Band (450-470 MHz in early 2020s)
- It took a number of years to staff FirstNet and start working with the states and public safety agencies
- A request for proposal was issued by FirstNet; there were three bidders
- Two were disqualified, leaving AT&T
 - AT&T had been an early supporter and stuck with public safety through it all
- One of the bidders took FirstNet to court but lost its challenge
 - Took valuable time from the project
- AT&T was finally awarded the contract in March 2017
- Network is well underway and being used by more than 3,600 departments

FirstNet Today

- Vision was to use Band 14 in the 700-MHz band for public safety priority network
- This was greenfield spectrum and RFP specified a 60-month build-out period
- AT&T's response was to include Band 14 *AND* all its existing LTE spectrum in FirstNet
- Promised and delivered on full pre-emption for public safety responders
- Built and delivered a public safety core with full encryption for the network
- States given a timeline to opt in or opt out
 - Opting out meant they would be responsible for their own portion of FirstNet
- Just before time ran out, all 50 states and 6 territories opted in
- The network was available sooner and in more areas of the nation than we ever expected it would be

FirstNet Build-Out Schedule: Band 14

Contract Awarded/Signed: March 30, 2017
Now in Month 20 of the Contract!

Timing/Area	IOC-1 6 months from award	IOC-2 12 months	IOC-3 24 months	IOC-4 36 months	IOC-5 48 months	FOC 60 months
G. Coverage and Capacity Solutions (State and Territory Task Orders)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of 20% of Contractor's proposed Band 14 coverage in non-rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of 60% of Contractor's proposed Band 14 coverage in non-rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of 80% of Contractor's proposed Band 14 coverage in non-rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of 95% of Contractor's proposed Band 14 coverage in non-rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of 100% of Contractor's proposed Band 14 coverage in non-rural areas

However, more than 60% coverage for ALL of AT&T's LTE spectrum



Bottom Line: Public safety has more FirstNet coverage today than if this had been a Band 14-only network!

FirstNet Is Now Two Entities

- ➔ First is FirstNet The Authority, which is the organization that oversees FirstNet
 - Reports to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which is part of the Department of Commerce
- ➔ The other is the network AT&T is building and operating, referred to as FirstNet (Built by AT&T)
- ➔ So far, this is the biggest and best example of a public/private partnership in the United States
- ➔ The final cost of FirstNet (Built by AT&T) won't be known, but it will approach the \$30 billion range
- ➔ The \$7 billion allocated by Congress and available from a spectrum auction was a starter kit for FirstNet
- ➔ FirstNet today has some coverage issues but is building sites quickly to ensure coverage reaches what public safety needs



TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM

One final point

FirstNet and LMR will both be around for a long time. FirstNet will not replace Land Mobile Radio systems for a long time, if ever.

**Now it is time to hear from our panelists!
Please hold questions until the end of the session.**