

APCO Policy Update

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APCO International

Deploying the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

FirstNet is On Track

With FirstNet's historic announcement of its selection of AT&T as its partner, we are about to achieve the promise of a state-of-the-art, nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network.

- FirstNet will be based upon the most advanced wireless broadband communications technology available (including through the evolution to 5G technology and beyond).
- As Congress intended, this public-private partnership will leverage the experience and infrastructure of a commercial wireless provider.
- AT&T is immediately poised to offer quality of service, priority, and preemption.

This means we're also growing close to Governor decisions to embrace this opportunity.

The best way to achieve this vision is for the entire country to band together and support a single nationwide network led by FirstNet.

Opt-out is a false choice.

“There is simply no reason for any state to opt-out, which entails an arduous process and shifts the important responsibility to implement a radio access network (RAN) from FirstNet to the state. Compared to any state, FirstNet has significant advantages provided by Congress to achieve the best overall solution for the country. Yet a state that seeks to construct its own RAN introduces many serious risks to the communications capabilities of first responders within its own borders as well as those across the nation.”

- APCO International

- FirstNet has many advantages no state can match:
 - An expert team and partner with experience building a nationwide broadband network;
 - Rural coverage mandate;
 - Greater spectrum capacity;
 - National-level economies of scale and purchasing power; and
 - A special focus on establishing and maintaining a seamless, nationwide level of interoperability.
- Congress strongly discouraged opt-out, requiring a rigorous double-agency approval process and a spectrum lease agreement with FirstNet.
- State-specific needs already addressed during the consultation process.
- No recourse for a state that has opted out and faces a change in leadership or priorities that leads the RAN to falter or fail.
- Any notions that opt-out can lead to revenue-generating opportunities for a state are baseless.

How Opt-Out Will Harm Public Safety

- Adds unnecessary costs and complexity to FirstNet and the rest of the country, and delay for the state's first responders.
- Imperils nationwide interoperability.
- Introduces cybersecurity risks.

Achieving Next Generation 9-1-1

Avoid Historical Problems in Public Safety

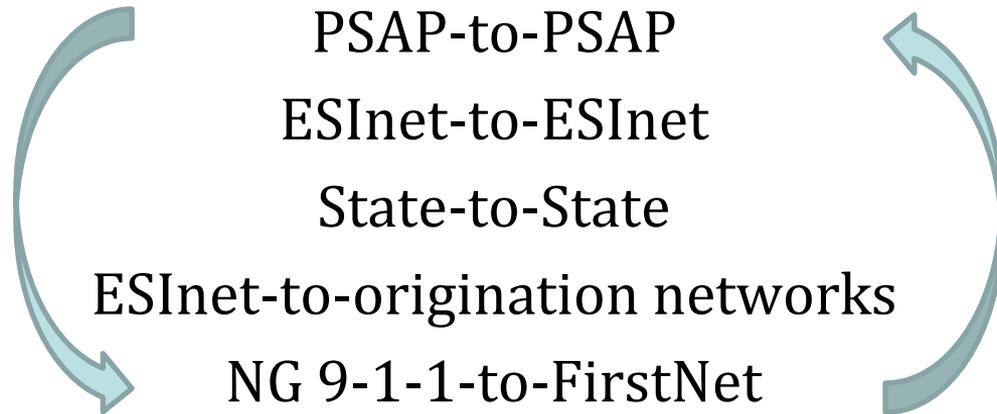
- Technology is costly, siloed, & proprietary.
- Small vendor community, little bargaining power, and few options.
- Interoperability is difficult and expensive to achieve, especially after-the-fact.
 - Growing concern for pre-NG 9-1-1 deployments.
- Limited innovation and disruptive upgrades.
- Disconnected from advances in consumer marketplace.
 - Consumer expectations far from reality.

Build Upon Existing Solutions

- Telecom networks and other industry sectors have already converted to digital, IP, broadband technology.
 - Smart cities, IoT, intelligent highways, are on the same path.
- What do they have in common?
 - ✓ Substantial range of companies innovating
 - ✓ Seamless interoperability and data sharing without the need for specialized interfaces
 - ✓ Consumers get excited for technology upgrades
 - ✓ World-wide economies of scale

NG 9-1-1 needs the same.

Achieve Interoperability



What's Needed: A Common Definition of "NG 9-1-1"

What do we gain? A definition that:

- Leads to comprehensive and uniform deployments nationwide.
- Accounts for network (IP) connectivity AND the functions and equipment necessary for broadband information to be received, processed and acted upon at the PSAP – an end-to-end system.
- Ensures that PSAPs modernize 9-1-1 in a manner that remains familiar to the public.
- Creates a shared understanding among all stakeholders of what is needed to accomplish NG 9-1-1.

What's Needed: The Right Kind of Standards

Widely deployed commercial standards are key to:

- ✓ Ensuring that all PSAPs have the technical capabilities for interoperability including for mutual aid,
- ✓ Increasing competition,
- ✓ Achieving worldwide economies of scale for the costs of equipment and services, and
- ✓ Enabling public safety to keep pace with advances in the commercial sector.

Recognizing Public Safety Telecommunicators for the Life-Saving Work They Perform

Reclassifying Public Safety Telecommunicators

- SOC is used for federal statistical purposes. No direct impact on costs, salaries, or benefits. Matter of recognition and respect for the “work performed” by 9-1-1 professionals.
- There has been substantial support for this common-sense change:
 - Thousands of public comments,
 - Bipartisan and bicameral letters from Congress, and
 - A petition to the White House signed by nearly 60,000.
- OMB’s interim decision (2016) provided limited explanation showing lack of understanding and unfair treatment.

www.apcointl.org/soc

QUESTIONS?

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