

WI FirstNet



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Issue 2

2nd State FirstNet Consultation

On September 24th, Minnesota became the second state (following Maryland) to go through the initial consultation process with FirstNet.

Dave Buchanan, FirstNet Director of State Consultation, had this to say on his blog, located [here](#):
“The meeting was productive from a planning standpoint for the state, as well as for helping FirstNet prepare for future consultation meetings.”
The first four initial consultation meetings are considered “beta tests” and will guide FirstNet as it

moves forward. The full report from Minnesota Emergency Communications Networks (ECN) can be found [here](#).



Dozens of Minnesota state and local public safety representatives attended the Initial Consultation Meeting in MN.

Inside this issue:

MN FirstNet Consultation	1
New Announcements	1
Adams County	2
Interactive Map	2
Contact Information	3
Message	3

Announcements from FirstNet

-Next consultation meetings:

- Oregon, October 8
- Washington, October 16
- Montana, October 29
- Utah, November 6
- Iowa, November 18
- Florida, December 12

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Adams County, CO LTE Network Update

Dispatchers in the field had access to everything in the CAD as if they were sitting in the 911 center.

In the first newsletter, we introduced Adams County, Colorado being the first area in the country to deploy a leased band 14 Radio Access Network. It is a great way to test what works and what doesn't in the real world, and provide tangible ideas as the nation moves forward with FirstNet planning. Recently, the network proved valuable at a concert in Denver. During the three day event August 29-31 at Dick's

Sporting Goods Park, communications from dispatchers to first responders on scene were vastly improved from recent years. In the past, responders were unable to access key databases during events like this due to saturation of commercial carrier systems. This year, a deployed band 14 system connected responders in unprecedented ways. Dispatchers in the field

had access to everything in the CAD as if they were sitting in the 911 center. Some applications used at the event were: automated license plate reading, social media analytics, and data mining.

One of the most astonishing things is the data rate the LTE devices at the event were able to achieve: 45-60 MB/s. The full article can be found [here](#).

FirstNet Testbeds Interactive Map

These early adopters will provide an abundance of lessons learned for their partners nationwide.

See the FirstNet Testbeds Interactive Map [here](#). You can see the location, current status, and other information about the BTOP networks around the United States. The original jurisdictions were: Adams County, CO, Charlotte, NC, LA-RICS, BayRICS, New Jersey, New Mexico, and

Texas.

Harris County, Texas, has been operating its Band 14 network for two years under special temporary authority from the FCC, but in August, they finally signed a spectrum manager lease agreement with FirstNet, giving Texas and Harris County long-term

certainty of the network's sustainability. These early adopters will provide an abundance of lessons learned for their partners nationwide.

Full text of this story can be found [here](#).

LTE Mission Critical Applications

[3GPP](#) (mobile standards group) created a Working Group in September, tasked with developing standards for mission critical LTE communications. The first priority of the group is to focus on mission critical push to talk (MCPTT). Most

stakeholders are aware that mission critical voice is not a feature to expect in the initial rollout of FirstNet; however, this development means it's likely only a matter of time before MCPTT is a standard feature of public safety LTE devices and the network.



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FAQs

How much will it cost?

We don't know at this point, but FirstNet's official position is to provide a competitive pricing model.

How is this different from WISCOM?

I've received this question several times. WISCOM is a narrow-band, voice only, trunking radio network. Think

of FirstNet as high-speed mobile data access with dedicated priority to First Responders.

Will a user from Wisconsin be able to take his FirstNet compatible device to another state?

Yes. FirstNet will be interoperable everywhere it is deployed.

I have a suggestion or request about FirstNet in Wisconsin. How can I get involved?

Pass it along to any of the contacts listed above. We will ensure it is brought up at the Wisconsin-FirstNet initial consultation in 2015 (date TBD).

Also, if you have a question you would like to see included on this FAQ, email Terek Taillon.

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