



# FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECRUITMENT PROSPECTUS

# FIRSTNET



## The Vision

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In February 2012, Congress enacted The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the Act), containing landmark provisions to advance America's public safety capabilities. Title VI of the Act directs the establishment of a state-of-the-art nationwide, interoperable broadband network for use by America's first responders and other public safety workers. The Act provides 20 megahertz of spectrum and \$7 billion in funding to create the public safety broadband network that will ensure that the benefits of wireless broadband are available to first responders throughout the nation, as well as enable interoperability across jurisdictional boundaries. This network will enable first responders to perform activities such as:

- Receiving live video transmitted from security cameras or from a helicopter monitoring a scene from the air;
- Remotely accessing patient medical records and transmitting images while in an ambulance that is en route to a crisis, aiding an evaluation, or in the midst of delivering of medical care;
- Obtaining an emailed photo of a missing person at a police dispatch and disseminating it for immediate review by officers in the field;
- Using specialized applications that allow police to quickly identify criminal suspects and accident victims through technologies such as facial recognition, iris scanning, and fingerprint identification;
- Accessing video images of a crime in progress;
- Downloading the blueprint of a burning building to a handheld device;
- Connecting rapidly and securely with personnel from other towns and cities during a crisis; and
- Accessing databases containing a range of information (e.g., driver's licenses or other photos; and records of warrants, arrests, prison time, or history of violent behavior).

FIRSTNET WILL "FULFILL A PROMISE MADE TO FIRST RESPONDERS AFTER 9/11 THAT THEY WOULD HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY THEY NEED TO STAY SAFE AND DO THEIR JOBS."

VICE-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN,  
FEBRUARY 21, 2012

Today's public safety communication systems lack the capabilities of modern networks and commercial devices. Indeed, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly testified to Congress last year that "a 16-year-old with a smart phone has a more advanced communications capability than a police officer or deputy carrying a radio." Beyond the capability lag, public safety systems are also fragmented across thousands of Federal, State, and local jurisdictions. This fragmentation puts the responders—and the public—at risk in emergencies like 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina, when different public safety agencies could not communicate with one another. But beyond hampering the effectiveness of our public safety officials, this fragmentation also adds to the cost of communications systems.

Informed by the lessons learned from earlier public safety deployments, FirstNet will benefit from strong coordination and the catalyst of federal funds to overcome prior hurdles to interoperability. As a result, the Nation's first responders and public safety agencies will ultimately be safer and more effective. While the nationwide wireless broadband network for public safety will be most critical during severe emergencies, it will also improve public safety response on a day-to-day basis.

## FirstNet

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The Act creates the First Responder Network Authority or “FirstNet” and directs it to establish a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. FirstNet will be an independent authority organized within the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). FirstNet will hold the single spectrum license granted for wireless public safety broadband deployment.

To make the vision of a nationwide first responder broadband network a reality, FirstNet, through the leadership of its Board of Directors, will:

- Determine network policies and develop a single, national network architecture for the public safety network that evolves with technological advancements
- Issue competitive requests for proposals, and oversee awarded contracts for construction and operation of the network
- Develop a sustainable business model by encouraging the leveraging of existing commercial wireless infrastructure and negotiating roaming agreements with commercial network providers as appropriate
- Require substantial rural milestones with each phase of network deployment
- Ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the network, including protection against cyberattack
- Consult with Federal, State, tribal, and local public safety entities

“WE’VE NEVER BEEN CLOSER TO REALIZING OUR GOAL OF ENABLING PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS OF BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER

## The FirstNet Board of Directors

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For FirstNet to succeed in its mission to develop a nationwide interoperable broadband network, it must have an expert and dedicated Board. The FirstNet Board of Directors will be a team of 15 highly-skilled, highly motivated individuals with a cross-section of expertise who are committed to making the nationwide public safety broadband network a success.

The Act names the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as permanent members of the Board. The Secretary of Commerce selects the remaining 12 members. Under the Act, the Secretary must select the Board no later than August 20, 2012.

The Board will be responsible for making strategic decisions and ensuring the successful and sustainable day-to-day operation of the network. We are looking for executive-level leaders to pave the path forward for a successful public-private partnership. Members of the inaugural FirstNet Board can shape

this venture in new technology and innovative governance into a success. In the face of these challenges, the Board must exercise the leadership necessary to secure our nation and serve our first responders.

The FirstNet Board will be responsible for:

- Creating the over-arching strategic framework for the public safety network
- Ensuring nationwide standards for use and access to the network based on commercial standards
- Working to deliver economies of scale for public safety;
- Maximizing opportunities for long-term cost savings and improved functionality
- Integrating federal first responders and public-safety-related uses to maximize the efficiency of the new network
- Formulating a fee collection system that reflects market reality and ensures FirstNet self-sustainability

The term of a FirstNet Board member is three years. However, the terms of inaugural FirstNet Board members will be staggered: four members will serve three years; four members will serve two years; and four members will serve one year. Board membership is limited to two consecutive full three-year terms.

The FirstNet Board will meet at the call of the Chair, who will be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, at least once each quarter. We expect the FirstNet Board to meet more frequently as its activities begin, and candidates should expect to devote considerable time to FirstNet duties outside actual Board meetings. Overall, we expect FirstNet Board members to spend less than 60 days per year working on FirstNet activities.

### Qualifications

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We are seeking candidates for the FirstNet Board who are national leaders in public safety, technology, network operations, and finance to ensure that this network is state-of-the-art, highly resilient and secure, and financially sustainable.

The work will be challenging, but offers those who are willing to serve their country the opportunity to create a network of national importance and local utility.

Under the Act, each Board member must have expertise in at least one of the following areas:

- **Public safety**– Knowledge and experience in Federal, State, local, and tribal public safety or emergency response

TODAY, THERE ARE OVER 2.8  
MILLION FIRST RESPONDERS

... MORE THAN 1.1 MILLION  
FIREFIGHTERS

... OVER 830,000 LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

...840,000 EMS PERSONNEL

... AROUND 100,000 FEDERAL  
PROTECTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES

AND NUMEROUS OTHER PUBLIC  
SAFETY WORKERS

- **Technical**– Technical expertise and fluency regarding broadband communications, including public safety communications
- **Network**– Expertise in building, deploying, and operating commercial telecommunications networks
- **Financial**– Expertise in financing and funding telecommunications networks

EACH FIRSTNET BOARD MEMBER MUST DEMONSTRATE PUBLIC SAFETY, TECHNICAL, NETWORK, OR FINANCIAL EXPERTISE

In addition to the substantive skills requirements, the Act imposes these additional requirements on the FirstNet Board:

- Three Board members must represent the collective interests of States, localities, tribes, and territories
- Three Board members must have served as public safety professionals
- The overall makeup of the Board should reflect geographical and regional diversity, as well as rural and urban representation.

Finally, each Board member must meet certain general requirements. Specifically, each Board member must be a United States citizen, cannot be a registered lobbyist, and cannot be employed by, or receive payments from, a foreign government.

### Other Considerations

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FirstNet Board members will be considered government employees and will be subject to the following requirements:

- **Compensation.** For each day worked, FirstNet Board members will be compensated at the daily rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule (approximately \$155,500 per year).
- **Financial Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest.** FirstNet Board members will be required to comply with certain federal conflict of interest statutes and ethics regulations, including some financial disclosure requirements. In limited cases, we may be able to waive certain conflicts but, in general, FirstNet Board members will be prohibited from participating on any particular matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on his or her personal financial interests or on the interests of the appointee’s spouse, minor children, or non-Federal employer.
- **Ethics.** FirstNet Board members must adhere to the Department of Commerce’s general ethics standards for government officials. These standards include restrictions on gifts between employees and from outside sources and the requirement for impartiality in performing official FirstNet duties.

## **Selection Process**

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FirstNet Board candidates will be selected by the Secretary of Commerce based upon the statutory requirements and input and recommendations from NTIA. NTIA will conduct the majority of outreach and due diligence for FirstNet Board members, and may request information and/or seek interviews with prospective Board members. Board candidates will be evaluated for their ability to contribute to the goals and objectives of FirstNet set forth in the Act. Board candidates will be vetted through the Department of Commerce and may be subject to a background check for appropriate security clearance.

## **More Information**

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For more information about FirstNet and the FirstNet Board of Directors, please contact NTIA at [FirstNetBoard@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:FirstNetBoard@ntia.doc.gov) or (202) 482-1840.

### **Useful links:**

#### **FirstNet web site:**

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/public-safety>

#### **Special Government Employee guidance:**

[http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/sge\\_summary\\_of\\_ethics\\_rules\\_2012\\_1.pdf](http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/sge_summary_of_ethics_rules_2012_1.pdf)

#### **Financial Disclosure Form:**

[http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/oge\\_from\\_450.pdf](http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/oge_from_450.pdf)