



**FirstNet™**

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# FirstNet Beginnings



# FirstNet Summary



- FirstNet was created by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012
- FirstNet is organized as an independent authority within NTIA with a Board of Directors
- FirstNet's mandate is to establish a nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) based on a single, national network architecture
- A central activity is to consult with the states and territories on public safety needs, available resources, the user community, population etc., culminating in an individual network plan for each state/territory
- Governors have the option to opt-in or opt-out
- Funding is available from NTIA to help states prepare

# Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012

Title VI – Public Safety Communications  
and Electromagnetic Spectrum Auctions



# The Act Creates the First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet



- FirstNet to establish a nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) based on a single, national network architecture
- Act establishes FirstNet as an independent authority within NTIA
  - Exempt from Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), Administrative Procedures Act (APA), and Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)
- Governed by a 15-Member Board
- Holds a single public safety 700 MHz wireless broadband license
- Takes all actions necessary to ensure the design, construction, deployment, and operations of the nationwide public safety network
- Ensures deployment phases with substantial rural coverage milestones



# FirstNet Makes Good on an Overdue Promise to our Nation's First Responders



- FirstNet grew out of a recommendation of the 9/11 Commission findings calling for interoperable communications for all first responders
- To enable this, the Act reallocates 700 MHz D Block spectrum to public safety
  - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant a single license to FirstNet for the use of both the 700 MHz D block and existing public safety broadband spectrum
- FirstNet is funded through proceeds of spectrum auctions through FY 2022
  - The network must be self-sustained over the long-term through user fees

# Funding FirstNet



- The Act grants NTIA borrowing authority not to exceed \$2B to implement Subtitle B – Governance of Public Safety Spectrum 
- The Act grants NTIA borrowing authority not to exceed \$135M to implement Section 6302 – State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) 
- In each case, NTIA borrows the initial funds from the general fund of the Treasury prior to the deposit of auction proceeds into the Public Safety Trust Fund (PSTF)

# Governance: The FirstNet Board



- The FirstNet Board shall consist of:
  - Secretary of Homeland Security (or designee)
  - Attorney General of United States (or designee)
  - Director of Office of Management and Budget (or designee)
  - 12 individuals to be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
  - The appointments shall have:
    - Not fewer than 3 individuals to represent collective interests of States, localities, tribes, and territories
    - Not fewer than 3 individuals who have served as public safety professionals
- The appointments shall:
  - Seek to ensure geographic and regional representation
  - Seek to ensure rural and urban representation



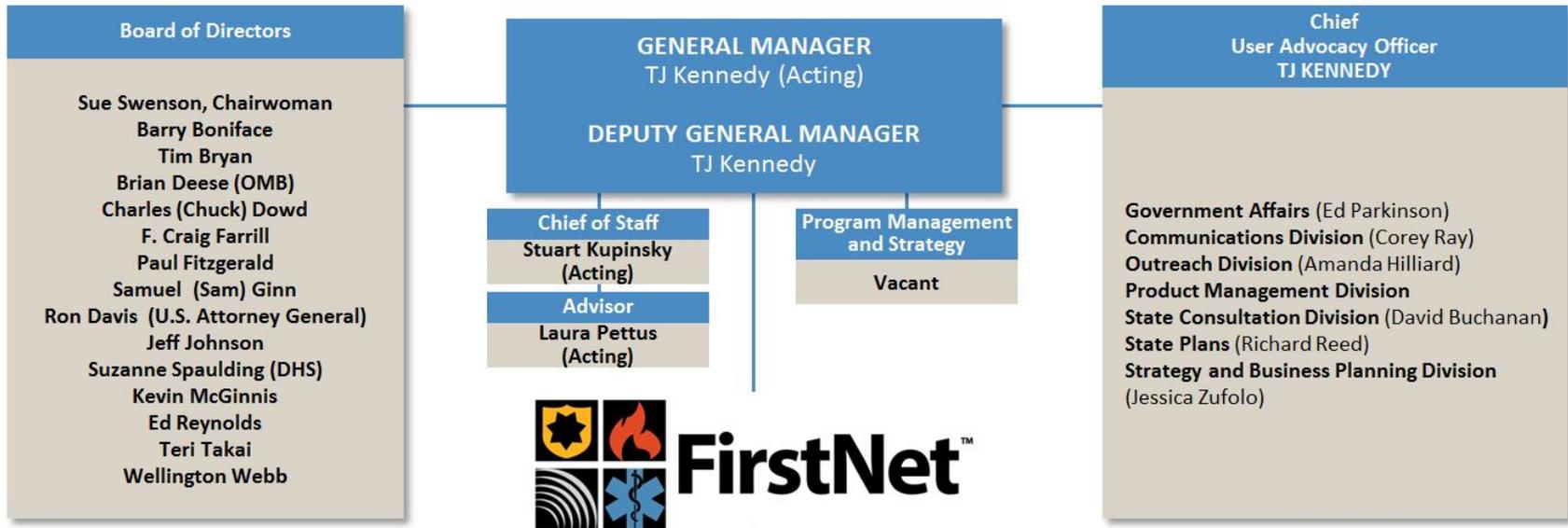
# The FirstNet Board



- Each Board member shall have at least 1 of the following qualifications:
  - Public safety experience – Knowledge and experience in Federal, State, local, or tribal public safety or emergency response
  - Technical expertise – Technical expertise and fluency regarding broadband communications, including public safety communications
  - Network expertise – Expertise in building, deploying, and operating commercial telecommunications networks
  - Financial expertise – Expertise in financing and funding telecommunications networks



# FirstNet Organization



## FirstNet Offices and Divisions

Chief Administrative Officer FRANK FREEMAN	Chief Financial Officer RANDY LYON	Office of Chief Counsel STUART KUPINSKY	Chief Technical Officer ALI AFRASHTEH	Chief Information Officer JIM GWINN
<b>Human Resources</b> (Jamesa Moore) Recruitment & Staffing Payroll & Benefits Workforce Development <b>Facilities Management</b> (Derrek Sanks) Emergency Mgmt & COOP <b>Operations Support</b> Records Management & Training (Saleah Tinsley) Travel Operations (Teryl Smith)	<b>Deputy CFO</b> (David Socolof) <b>Budget and Finance</b> Budget Operations & Controls (Alice Suh) Finance & Accounting <b>Deputy CFO for Strategic Planning</b> (John Quinlan) <b>Performance Measurement &amp; Risk Management</b> (Lea-Ann Bigelow)	<b>General Law</b> (Jason Karp, Uzoma Onyeije, Eli Veenendaal, Natasha Coates) <b>NEPA</b> (Genevieve Walker, Amanda Pereira) <b>Regulatory Strategy</b>	<b>Deputy CTO</b> (Jeff Bratcher) <b>RAN</b> <b>CORE</b> <b>Applications</b> <b>Devices</b> <b>Performance</b> <b>Budget</b> <b>Technology Planning &amp; Dev.</b> <b>Standards</b> <b>Operations</b> <b>Deployment</b> <b>FirstNet Labs</b>	<b>IT Services</b> (Vacant) <b>Office Systems</b> (Vacant) Desktop Telecom Peripheral

As of July 2014

# State and Local Consultation



- FirstNet must consult with regional, state, tribal, and local jurisdictions regarding the distribution and expenditures of any amounts required to carry out certain responsibilities, including:
  - Construction of a core network and any radio access network build out
  - Placement of towers
  - Coverage areas of the network, whether at the regional, State, tribal, or local levels
  - Adequacy of hardening, security, reliability, and resiliency requirements
  - Assignment of priority to local users
  - Assignment of priority and selection of entities seeking access to or use of the nationwide interoperable NPSBN
  - Training needs of local users
  
- FirstNet consultation must occur through the designated single point of contact (SPOC) officer or governmental body designated by each state



- SLIGP was created under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012
  - SLIGP is a three-year, formula-based grants program requiring 20% matching funds
  - Funding is to help recipients plan and prepare for the forthcoming NPSBN
  - To date NTIA has awarded \$116.2M in grants to 54 states and territories



# State Network Design and Proposal Process – Opt-In and Opt-Out



- FirstNet will conduct a Request For Proposal (RFP) process for the construction, operation, maintenance, and improvements of the NPSBN
- Upon completion of the RFP process, and following extensive state consultation, FirstNet will present the governor of each state (or his/her designee) of:
  - Completion of the RFP process;
  - Details of the proposed plan for buildout of the NPSBN in the state; and
  - Funding level for the state
- No later than 90 days after being notified by FirstNet, each governor must choose whether his/her state will:
  - Participate in the deployment of the NPSBN as proposed by FirstNet; or
  - Conduct its own deployment of a radio access network (RAN) in the state



# State Network Design and Proposal Process – Opt-In and Opt-Out



- If state decides to opt out, the governor must notify FirstNet, NTIA, and the FCC
- The state then has 180 days to develop and complete its own RFPs for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the RAN within the state
- The state shall submit an alternate plan for the construction, maintenance, and operations of the RAN within the state to the FCC and the plan must demonstrate:
  - Compliance with the minimum technical interoperability requirements
  - Interoperability with the nationwide public safety broadband network
- FCC shall review and either approve or disapprove the plan



# State Network Design and Proposal Process – Construction Grants



- If the FCC approves the plan:
  - State may apply to NTIA for a grant to construct (not operate and maintain) the RAN within the state
  - State shall apply to NTIA to lease spectrum capacity from FirstNet
  
- In order to obtain a grant and lease, the state must demonstrate:
  - Technical capability to operate, and the funding to support, the state radio access network
  - Ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with the NPSBN
  - Ability to complete the project within the specified comparable timelines specific to the state
  - Cost-effectiveness of the state plan
  - Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to that of the FirstNet NPSBN



# State Network Design and Proposal Process - FCC Disapproval



- If the FCC disapproves the plan:
  - The construction, maintenance, operation, and improvements of the network within the state shall proceed in accordance with the plan proposed by FirstNet
  - U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has exclusive jurisdiction to review the FCC's disapproval of a state plan
  - Additional State Network Items:
  - If a state chooses to build its own RAN, the state shall pay any user fees associated with the state use of elements of the NPSBN, such as the core network



# Thank You



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