

FirstNet Completes Successful Request for Information and Public Comment Period

FirstNet Press Releases By Corey Ray

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WASHINGTON, DC - The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) has closed the window for responses to its September 17 Request for Information (RFI). FirstNet also closed the comment period for a Public Notice that was published in the Federal Register on September 24. Both the RFI and the Public Notice allowed stakeholders, including public safety professionals, regional, state, tribal and local jurisdictions, and the vendor community, to provide input and ideas on the development of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN).

FirstNet received 122 responses to the RFI and 63 responses to the Public Notice. While the submissions to the RFI are not made available to the public, the comments to the Public Notice are posted online at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NTIA-2014-0001> .

“This was a success for both FirstNet and our stakeholders,” said TJ Kennedy, Acting General Manager for FirstNet. “Many of the items discussed in both the RFI and the Public Notice could have significant impact on the economics of the network and the various solutions proposed by vendors. FirstNet looks forward to thoroughly reviewing and evaluating the responses, as the information will play a significant role in the drafting of the comprehensive network RFP.”

The RFI and draft Statement of Objectives (SOO) sought input from industry and stakeholders on some of the key areas that FirstNet is considering before finalizing the draft comprehensive network RFP. The RFI included questions on network buildout; deployment; operations and maintenance; cost considerations and financial sustainability; system hardening; priority and preemption; and general compliance with its enabling legislation. FirstNet will use the responses it receives to the RFI and SOO to refine the acquisition approach and draft the comprehensive network RFP.

The Public Notice discussed and sought comment on key provisions of FirstNet’s enabling legislation , including core network, radio access network, the definition of a “public safety entity,” substantial rural milestones, and fees.

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