

FirstNet hires CTO

Fierce Wireless Tech By Molly Bernhart Walker April 29, 2014

Ali Afrashteh is the newest executive to join FirstNet, the independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration tasked with building a nationwide wireless broadband network for public safety. Afrashteh will serve as the organization's chief technology officer.

Afrashteh will manage planning and deployment of FirstNet's technology programs as well as consult on strategic wireless technology and network operational planning,

[says](#)

an April 28 blog post. A wireless industry veteran, Afrashteh worked most recently as an international wireless network planning consultant.

The hiring of Afrashteh fills another opening in FirstNet's C-suite. More than two years into its creation and slow to staff up, FirstNet is finally rounding out its executive leadership.

According to the organizational structure revealed in [March meeting documents](#), there are seven officers who report to the FirstNet general manager. Afrashteh becomes number five on the staff. In addition to remaining vacancies in the chief operating officer and chief of staff positions, FirstNet lacks a general manager to oversee the organization.

On April 14 [Bill D'Agostino resigned](#) from his position as FirstNet general manager citing personal and family reasons. Deputy General Manager TJ Kennedy has assumed his role until a new GM is hired.

[Link to Article](#)

[Link to Fierce News Articles](#)