

FirstNet

devices and applications will ultimately change the way law enforcement officers, career and volunteer firefighters, EMTs and ambulance service personnel do their jobs.



INTEROPERABILITY & PRIORITY: The FirstNet network will enable a faster, better coordinated response. Have a clear, common channel of communication with other first responders and priority access on Band Class 14.

SHARE A COMMON PLATFORM: FirstNet subscribers will be able to share images & applications, and access databases to have a common operational picture as incidents unfold.

RELIABILITY & SECURITY: FirstNet's goal is to provide safety-grade reliability, security & extensive coverage so first responders can count on the network when they are on the job. Coverage solutions let you "take the network along" to your destination in certain geographies.

PREPARE FOR FUTURE TECHNOLOGY: When FirstNet launches it will provide high-speed data services to supplement the voice capabilities of today's Land Mobile Radio (LMR) networks. The network will be used for sending data, video, images and text.

What is FirstNet?

FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. In 2012, Congress signed into law the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act that created FirstNet.

The law gives FirstNet the duty to build, operate and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety entities.

FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for public safety communications.

To guide and prepare for FirstNet in this state, the Vermont Public Safety Broadband Commission was established by Executive Order in 2013. Nationally, FirstNet is governed by a 15-member board consisting of the Attorney General of the U.S., the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and 12 members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. One of these members is former VT Governor Jim Douglas. He is the Chair of the FirstNet Finance Committee and a key liaison to Governors across the country.

What is 4G LTE?

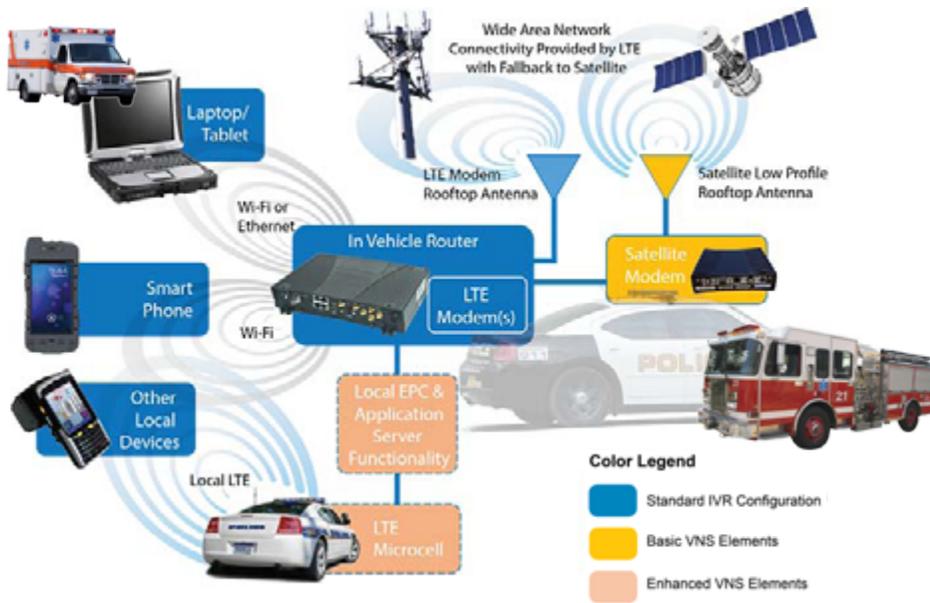
The term 4G refers to the fourth generation of data technology for cellular networks. LTE stands for Long Term Evolution and is short for a developing process for high-speed data for phone and other mobile devices. Mobile broadband is a phrase used to describe Internet access (wireless communication) that is obtained through a device such as a mobile phone. Wireless carriers typically use this term to describe their mobile Internet access service that uses the mobile phone infrastructure, or cellular network. A 4G LTE network offers faster downloads and uploads of information. FirstNet's ultimate goal is to provide a mission-critical voice over the 4G LTE network. The technology to do this is still under development. If someone currently has an LTE phone or tablet, voice calls are handled by other, parallel networks. FirstNet plans to offer cellular voice communications such as Voice over Long Term Evolution (VoLTE) or other alternatives.



FirstNet was made possible by public safety's successful fight for D-Block 700MHz spectrum, also known as Band Class 14.



Mobile Systems - A Part of the Solution



The FirstNet state plan must anticipate how to provide coverage to areas that are currently challenging to serve. Possible solutions? Imagine a briefcase-sized transmitter that can send a signal to a nearby cell tower or satellite or a microcell that creates a small mobile phone base station to connect the phone network via the Internet.

FirstNet Must Offer Compelling Value



FirstNet intends to offer services at a compelling and competitive cost to attract millions of public safety users and make FirstNet self-sustaining.



Despite coverage challenges, a survey of VT first responding agencies showed that 85% of law enforcement, 95% of fire, 92% of EMS, and 78% of other first responding agencies allowed use of personal mobile devices on the job.



A national survey showed that 75% of public safety agencies currently paid less than \$65 per device per month for service. FirstNet must be competitively priced.



Once operational, FirstNet's private partner will pay financial penalties if at least 70% of targeted public safety users do not subscribe in a given year.

Public safety users are NOT required to adopt FirstNet.



Goal - Network Substantially in Operation by 2022

Contact Your VT Team

Each state has a designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC). In Vermont, that person is Terry LaValley the Director of Radio Technology Services for the Vermont Department of Public Safety. You can reach Terry and the Vermont support team through the contact information below.

Terry LaValley

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What's Next?

Nov 2016

FirstNet selects national partner

Late 2016-Early 2017

State plans prepared & draft plans delivered
 VT PSBC reviews draft plan

Jan 2017

State plans delivered to Governors
 90 day opt-in/opt-out decision



FirstNet[®]