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## Things to Consider for Potential Users of FirstNet

The First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet) Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) will be a single, interoperable wireless network dedicated to public safety. It will provide high-speed data capabilities to first responders on a network separate from existing land mobile radio networks. Public safety organizations may want to consider the following information in anticipation of the NPSBN.

### What devices can be used with the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network?

To operate on the NPSBN, devices must be capable of operating on the spectrum licensed to FirstNet (Band Class 14). Several device manufacturers have begun producing Band Class 14 equipment, but the market for devices remains limited. In-vehicle devices, such as routers, modems, and mobile data computers, as well as portable devices such as smartphones and tablets, are increasingly advertised as compatible with Band Class 14. When planning for future device investments, consider that devices should offer multiple network connectivity options, such as compatibility with both commercial wireless providers and Band Class 14. Equipment should have multiple Ethernet or USB ports that can provide wireless connectivity for ancillary equipment such as cameras and computers.



### What can the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network do for you?

As you evaluate the potential uses of a high-speed wireless data network, think about how your organization currently accesses, uses, and shares text, images, videos, and other data through legacy programs and applications. The large block of dedicated spectrum that the NPSBN uses will allow first responders to use the next generation of communication devices to share real-time video, photos, and other data through a network dedicated for public safety that does not compete for bandwidth with commercial users. The NPSBN will enable interoperability within and among jurisdictions while directly supporting first responders' field operations. The NPSBN will further expand a common operating picture available to police and fire by enabling the sharing of real-time video or other data sources, such as vital signs of a firefighter or officer.



With the potential for millions of users on the NPSBN, the development of various public safety smart phone applications to support the needs of first responders is expected to increase. For more information about the benefits of the NPSBN visit <http://firstnet.gov/about/why>

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# Executive Summary: FirstNet and the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

## What is FirstNet?

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) was created by Congress in 2012 with the duty to build, deploy, and operate the first Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) dedicated to first responders. FirstNet is an independent authority within the US Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.



## What are the benefits of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network?

The NPSBN will be secure, reliable, and dedicated for public safety personnel. This single interoperable network will enhance communication capabilities for public safety personnel nationwide.

## Does the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Replace Land Mobile Radio Systems?

No. First responders currently use land mobile radio (LMR) networks for their mission-critical voice communications. Existing LMR systems will not be replaced by the NPSBN. The NPSBN is expected to initially provide high-speed data transmission, such as streaming video, to complement the use of LMR networks. FirstNet has stated its intention offer mission-critical voice services over the NPSBN in the future, but a timeframe to adopt and implement voice standards has yet to be announced by FirstNet.

## What are the costs to use the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network?

Funds to build the network have been appropriated by Congress. FirstNet intends to sustain and maintain the network through user fees paid by subscribing entities. The use of FirstNet is voluntary, and no public safety agency is forced to participate. FirstNet has stated its intention to offer services at a cost competitive with commercial providers, but costs for FirstNet services have not yet been released.

## What is next for Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network implementation?

FirstNet has stated its intention to present New Jersey with its implementation plan during 2017. FirstNet's implementation plan will reportedly include information about coverage, capacity, subscriber costs, and a deployment schedule. FirstNet's single point of contact for New Jersey is the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, which will facilitate the state plan review process.

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