

## Call to Action

### Participation is Critical to the Successful Planning and Deployment of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

BY T.J. KENNEDY

With your help, FirstNet will plan, build, and operate the country's first nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety. To deploy this network, FirstNet will consult with regional, state, tribal and local jurisdictions to ensure that the network meets the needs of their first responders. FirstNet believes that every part of public safety is critical to the success of our organization and the planning and deployment of the network.

Over the last year, FirstNet has worked with state officials, legislators and public safety officials from law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies, as well as industry and other stakeholders to build the initial relationships necessary for effective consultation discussions in each state and territory. We have taken a transparent approach in communicating with the public safety community to enhance their understanding of FirstNet and the benefits of a nationwide public safety network.

Our early and continuing outreach has provided FirstNet with valuable insights. For instance, we are learning about the unique coverage needs in the 56 states and territories. We have also held several regional workshops that reinforced the value of one-on-one meetings with the public safety community to better understand user needs.

Recently, we delivered the initial consultation packages to all 56 states and territories. The FirstNet consultation process aims to increase our understanding of each state's unique needs in the development of the state's plan for FirstNet. As the consultation process ramps up, I would

encourage all members of the public safety community—firefighters, law enforcement and paramedics—to participate as much as they can in the process. This will ensure that your needs are taken into account as your state develops its plan for building the network.

FirstNet is working through each state's single point of contact (SPOC) to gather the requirements for network planning and development. You can participate in the state planning process by contacting your SPOC. For a list of state SPOCs, please visit our website: [www.firstnet.gov/consultation](http://www.firstnet.gov/consultation).

FirstNet conducted our first consultation meeting in the state of Maryland on July 29. We are enthusiastic about conducting in-person consultations with every state and territory. Through this highly collaborative process, we will engage with the states and territories to understand and support the needs of their public safety communities to develop state plans.

With your help, FirstNet will provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety. It will be built using long term evolution (LTE) technology.

Upon deployment, we expect the network to provide mission-critical, high-speed data services that supplement the

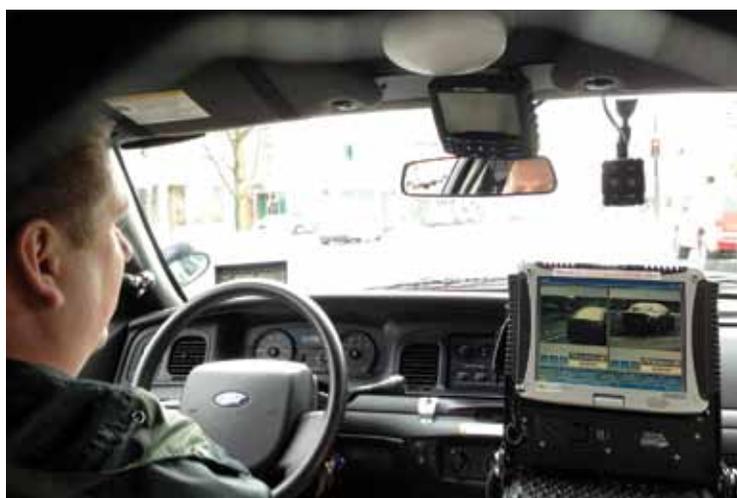


PHOTO COURTESY FIRSTNET

voice capabilities of today's land mobile radio (LMR) networks. Initially, the network will mainly be used for sending data, video, images and text among responders. FirstNet will also carry location information and eventually voice capabilities.

Public safety participation in the consultation process will support the deployment of a network that ensures priority access is available to all public safety emergency response personnel during large-scale disasters and every-day incidents. Just as smart mobile devices and modern communications networks have changed the way we communicate in our personal lives, the innovative services and applications that will ride over this public safety network will enhance the way our first responders communicate to save lives and property.

~T.J. KENNEDY is acting general manager of FirstNet

IF THIS IS  
THE ROAD TO  
YOUR TOWER,  
YOU DON'T  
WANT TO  
RETURN FOR  
PARTS.



Wattmeter slugs are easy to lose or forget, vulnerable to failure and costly to replace. That doesn't work when you're miles away at a remote tower location. Count on slug-free and durable Telewave wattmeters for always-ready service in frequency ranges up to 1000 MHz and like our antennas, filters, duplexers and combiners, built to endure the roughest field conditions in the most inaccessible locations.

See all our products at APCO, Booth 1013.



1-800-331-3396 | [www.telewave.com](http://www.telewave.com) | [sales@telewave.com](mailto:sales@telewave.com)



# The 25th Anniversary of Project 25 Recognizing the People, Processes & Technologies that Made P25 Possible

BY JOHN POWELL

For APCO, the effort that would become known as Project 25 began during the 1989 Annual Conference & Expo held at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nev. At the end of that conference, Immediate Past President Gary David Gray made a presentation to APCO's new Board of Directors. He noted that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had just released a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) regarding "advanced technologies, including digital."



Gray proposed that an ad hoc group be formed to develop an APCO response to the NOI, an effort that could turn into another APCO

Project 16, considering the importance envisioned for introducing digital technologies to the public safety land mobile radio (LMR) community,

especially considering the requirement for "interoperability." The APCO Board concurred and authorized Gray to develop, organize and host an exploratory meeting. While subsequently contacting other users to plan the meeting, it was found that the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors (NASTD; now known as the National Association of State Technology Directors) was also interested in developing additional competitive procurement sources for radio systems while enhancing interoperability, especially for a number of statewide public safety and public service systems that were then being considered. It was also discovered that the federal government had a committee that was considering standardizing digital radio technology for federal agencies. The major concern for all parties

quickly focused: Digital technology, especially for trunked LMR systems, must be developed pursuant to open standards to support, among other goals, competitive procurement and inter-product interoperability. On Oct. 13, 1989 technology experts from local, state and federal government agencies and organizations, along with members of academia, the FCC and the LMR manufacturing community, met in a conference room at the Herbert C. Hoover Building headquarters of the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. for an "Advanced Technology Seminar" to address the future of public safety communications. In addition to Past President Gray, APCO representatives in attendance included President George Murray, President-Elect Sam Gargaro, 2nd Vice President John Powell, Executive

Director Robert Tall and Regulatory Review Committee Chair Art McDole. Other APCO members also attended the October meeting, most on behalf of other organizations, including Past President Craig Jorgensen representing NASTD. This initial meeting would become the kickoff meeting for what would quickly become known as Project 25. For more on the birth of P25, see the Aug. 4 Show Daily e-newsletter. Come celebrate the anniversary at the APCO Pavilion on Monday Aug. 4 at 1:00 pm. **PSC** ~JOHN S. POWELL was APCO President from 1992-1993 and is a member of APCO's P25 Steering Committee. Past Presidents Gary David Gray, Craig Jorgensen and Steven Proctor, and P25 Steering Committee members Donald Pfohl and Robert Schlieman also contributed to this article.



Come see TCS at APCO 2014!

Stop by BOOTH 551 to view a demonstration of our Advanced Call Handling Solution™, Defender9-1-1™, and to see our Text to 911™ and Indoor Location Accuracy™ products!

TCS

www.911fromTCS.com

## The Next Generation of Public Safety Recording & Dispatcher Evaluation Solutions

capture911™ | quality911™

- Capture every interaction in the communications center
- Use over a dozen search options for instant retrieval
- Monitor dispatcher activities in real-time
- Report on a variety of performance metrics

Compatible with many types of communication devices



Come see us at APCO booth # 1018

HigherGround®

