

# TELEVATE



## Minnesota Department of Public Safety Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project

### **Request for Statement of Interest: Public-Private Partnerships**

#### MN-SWIFT 70680, Phase 1-Additional Projects

August 19, 2014

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## SUBMITTING RESPONSES

### Submission Instructions

Submit all responses via email directly to Brandon Abley at [babley@televate.com](mailto:babley@televate.com).  
You will receive written confirmation of receipt.

**Due date for responses:** September 2, 2014

**Maximum response length:** 750 words

**Format:**

1. Company Profile
2. Answers to Questions
3. References/Appendices

Respondents are requested to submit their responses in an editable format, preferably as a Microsoft Word-compatible Office Open XML document (.docx). However, the state will **not** reject non-editable formats or documents that have been locked for editing.

Responses should not be longer than 750 words in length, excluding cover and reference pages, but inclusive of the company profile and complete response. The State will **not** reject longer responses.

Responses are due **September 2, 2014**. Responses received after that date might not be considered.

Respondents are not required to respond to every question; they are required to respond only to the questions that apply to them. The state requests that respondents address each question that applies to them succinctly and completely.

### Estimated Effort

The State envisions that responses to this request should not take the respondent more than 3-4 hours to fully complete.

### Public Data

All responses to this request will be considered public information per Minnesota Government Data Practices Statute<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=13>

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## RESPONSE CONTENT

### Company Profile

Each respondent should complete a brief profile, including:

1. Name of the organization
2. Nature of the organization (e.g., government entity, non-profit company, for-profit company)
3. Sector (e.g., law enforcement, public utility, telecommunications carrier)
4. Organizational purpose and mission (under 50 words)
5. Contact for followup regarding Firstnet and/or this request

### Questions

Respondents are encouraged to answer only the questions that apply to them. Respondents are not required to answer all questions. Respondents may supplement their answers with graphics and figures, charts, tables and/or other supporting data.

**1. What is the nature of the partnership that the respondent proposes?**

- a. What value and benefits does the respondent seek to gain from the partnership?
- b. Meaning, which resources does the respondent seek to utilize, and how?
- c. What value does the respondent seek to offer to the public safety community, to the State, and to FirstNet from use of the network? Meaning, which resources does the respondent seek to contribute (i.e., subscribers, tower and backhaul assets, others)?

**2. Does the respondent seek access to FirstNet spectrum?**

- a. If so, how does the respondent seek to utilize and assign the spectrum?
- b. If so, how does the respondent propose assigning and managing priority access to the network or to the spectrum?

**3. Does the respondent seek to contribute to the network buildout?**

- a. If so, how does the respondent seek to contribute to the network buildout? For example, does the respondent offer:
  - i. Infrastructure (towers, backhaul, switching or data center facilities)?
  - ii. Financial resources (financing, capital funds)?
  - iii. Users or devices?
  - iv. Any other resources?

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4. **Does the responder consider any of its personnel "first responders"?**
    - a. If so, which personnel and under which circumstances?
    - b. If so, would the organization consider these personnel "primary" first responders, or "secondary" first responders?
    - c. How does the respondent seek to allocate priority and access to the network?
  5. **Does the respondent perceive any legal or regulatory challenges to public-private partnerships for the NPSBN?**
  6. **What unique business relationship considerations to forge the private-public partnership with FirstNet are envisioned?**
  7. **Does the respondent envision any unique application or device considerations that would be essential to a successful partnership?**
  8. Assuming FirstNet charges a per-device fee in a manner similar to a major cellular carrier, **does the respondent envision that a special pricing schedule would apply to its particular unique use-case?**
    - a. Does the respondent envision that its partnership may be supported by franchising or leasing FirstNet spectrum, in whole or in part?
    - b. If so, does the respondent see any unique business, legal, or regulatory challenges in franchising or leasing the spectrum?
  9. Minnesota plans to publish an extensive, formal RFI later in the year regarding FirstNet, NPSBN implementation and in particular public-private partnerships. **Does the respondent have any suggestions that the State may consider supporting this future RFI?**

## BACKGROUND

### Purpose of this Request

The State of Minnesota, acting through the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Communication Networks, is seeking statement of interest for Public-Private Partnership in development of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network in Minnesota from qualified partners and interested stakeholders.

The purpose of this request is to secure a formal statement of interest in public-private partnerships with the State of Minnesota ("the State") and/or the First Responder Network Authority ("FirstNet"). The State will primarily utilize information collected from this request for three initiatives:

1. To prepare the State to describe to FirstNet, in general terms, which potential private partners exist to document a preliminary statement of partnership requirements, and to define what each party may have to offer the other.
2. To educate the State and its stakeholders, and in particular the Statewide Emergency Communications Board<sup>2</sup>.
3. To support the development of a comprehensive, detailed Request for Information (RFI) to be published in Q4 2014.

This request is motivated primarily by the Minnesota-FirstNet Initial Consultation Meeting currently planned for September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This meeting is the first official interaction between the State and FirstNet in the state's consultation process. It is the State's objective to have a complete report summarizing the findings of this inquiry prior to Initial Consultation meeting.

### Who May Respond

While anyone may respond to this request, the State *in particular*, is seeking responses from the following:

- Public Utilities
- Telecommunications Companies and Carriers
- Tribal Nations
- Non-Public Safety Entities

Others that are encouraged to respond include but are not limited to:

- Public safety organizations
- Units of state and local government
- Other government organizations
- Trade associations

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<sup>2</sup> More information available at <https://dps.mn.gov/entity/srb/Pages/default.aspx>.

- Private companies
- Non-profit entities
- Public utilities
- Members of the public

## The Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project

The Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation Project (MnFCP) is a Statewide Emergency Communications Board sponsored project to prepare the state of Minnesota to consult with FirstNet and to develop a sustainable business case for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) in the state. The ultimate objective of this project is to ensure that the NPSBN is deployed in Minnesota.

More information about this project is available at:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ecn/Pages/broadband.aspx>

## The Consultation Process

Under Federal law, FirstNet is required to consult with each state before beginning construction of the public safety broadband network with in that state. At the end of the consultation process, FirstNet will submit a plan to each governor for approval. The governor will then either 1) approve of the plan, permitting FirstNet to begin construction or 2) opt-out of FirstNet's plan and submit to FCC an alternate plan for an independent state-led buildout.

More information on the consultation process is available at: <http://www.firstnet.gov/consultation><sup>3</sup>

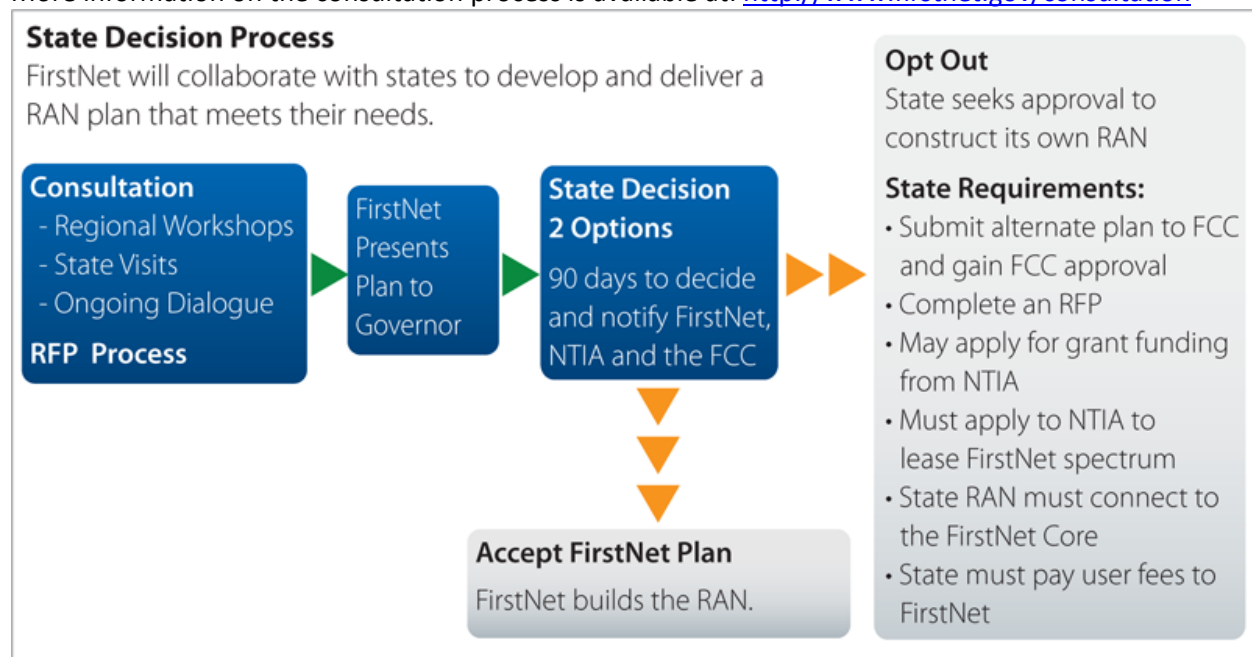


Figure 1: FirstNet Consultation Process<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The RAN is the Radio Access Network (RAN), which constitutes the wireless communications subsystem of the 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) network.

## Key Parties

### About ECN

Emergency Communication Networks (ECN) is a division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. It's primary responsibilities include managing the statewide 9-1-1 telecommunications backbone, administering the 9-1-1 fund, implementing the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER), statewide communications interoperability initiatives, Statewide Emergency Communications Board standards and projects, and consulting with FirstNet to implement the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network in Minnesota.

More information is available at <https://ecn.dps.mn.gov>.

### About FirstNet

The landmark Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 established FirstNet, an independent Federal entity tasked with building a nationwide private cellular network exclusive to public safety. In building its business case for the network, FirstNet is required to consult with each state and, ultimately, to secure consent from the governor of each state before operating in that state.

More information is available at <http://firstnet.gov>.

### About the Statewide Emergency Communications Board

The Statewide Emergency Communications Board was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 2004 to implement the Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Radio and Communication System Plan.

Since then, the SECB's responsibilities have expanded to include governance over public safety communications in the state from a holistic perspective, including interoperable radio communications, Next-Generation 911 governance, and the consultation with FirstNet. The SECB is supported by seven emergency communications regions across the state to represent regionalized communications interests across the state.

The SECB is widely-respected in the public safety community and is considered a model for public safety governance in the nation and worldwide.

More information about the SECB is available at: <https://dps.mn.gov/entity/srb/Pages/default.aspx>



Figure 2: Minnesota Interoperable Communications Regions

<sup>4</sup> From <http://firstnet.gov/consultation>



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## CONTACT

DPS, ECN, or the Minnesota-FirstNet Consultation project:

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