



February 5, 2013

Mr. Samuel "Sam" Ginn,
Chairman, First Responder Network Authority
c/o National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sam:

The Telecommunications Industry Association ("TIA") and our member companies strongly support the important mission of the First Responder Network Authority. The establishment of a National Public Safety Broadband Network can help assure access for public safety entities across the country to these much-needed enhanced communications capabilities, resulting in the most effective use of resources and saved lives. TIA and our members are eager to furnish any support to you in your important work.

TIA's hundreds of member companies provide, develop, manufacture, and supply information and communications technology (ICT) products and services, including all components of the planned national public safety broadband network. A robust FirstNet network, built utilizing a competitive vendor ecosystem that encourages all qualified parties to engage in FirstNet's proposal process, can give emergency responders access to new video and data applications that are not currently available.

We appreciate the very significant challenges FirstNet faces in reaching this important objective. Not the least of these hurdles are estimates by the Government Accountability Office ("GAO") and others that the \$7 billion available for funding may provide less than half of the capital required, separate and apart from the funds needed for recurring operations and maintenance costs. Success depends upon the development of a sustainable technical and operational model that makes it easy for existing technology resources to be integrated into the network being deployed. We are further aware that the GAO has cited the need to ensure interoperability and required voice capabilities, including "talk around" capabilities.

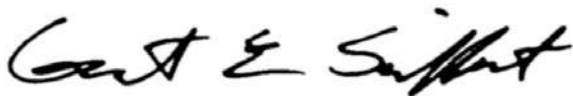
To accomplish this vital goal, users and manufacturers are co-operating under the auspices of an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited in voluntary, consensus communications standards setting processes. TIA and the Alliance for Telecommunications Solutions (ATIS), have also delivered several important standards initiatives:

- We are working jointly with ATIS to develop a generic standards based solution that will provide Public Safety Mission Critical Push-to-Talk (PTT) voice service interoperation between subscriber units operating on traditional Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems (those defined by TIA-603, TIA-102 (P25)) and subscriber units operating on Public Safety Long Term Evolution (LTE) systems. Specifically, the work shall provide interoperation of all person-to-person and group communication capabilities and console functions provided by the TIA-102 suite of standards;
- TIA is working on additional standards to enhance the integration of Public Safety Mission Critical Push-to-Talk (PTT) with Public Safety broadband networks;
- A joint ATIS/TIA solution is envisioned without a third-party relay function and without redesigning the existing SMS architecture. The service that results from this collaboration is an interim solution while the long-term Next Generation 9-1-1 solution continues to be developed in ATIS and 3GPP for Multimedia Messaging Emergency Services in the next technology generation.

FirstNet can benefit greatly from leveraging these existing public safety communications standards resources to build a robust, well-featured Public Safety Broadband Network. For many years, TIA standards bodies have had broad participation from the vendor community, and, more importantly, public safety constituents from local, state, and federal organizations. The standards for mission-critical-PTT-over-broadband leverage the knowledge acquired over decades of work on TIA-603 and TIA-102 standards that are used by first responders across the US every day. These standards articulate the many nuances of public safety communications that need to be considered. In view of the financial constraints that the state and local partners must operate, we offer to provide FirstNet with our insight and experience in this area to the extent that you deem appropriate.

I thank you for your service on the FirstNet board and welcome future opportunities to support you in your important deliberations.

Sincerely,



Grant Seiffert
President
Telecommunications Industry Association