



June 27, 2013

## **FirstNet Approves Resolutions on Spectrum Lease Agreement with LA-RICS and Personnel Acquisition Strategy**

**Washington, D.C.** - The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) today voted to approve an agreement with Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Authority (LA-RICS) allowing the project to lease access to FirstNet's spectrum. The agreement is the first such agreement between FirstNet and one of the seven public safety Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grantees, whose funding was partially suspended following enactment of the law creating FirstNet.

The agreement between FirstNet and LA-RICS is the first step in the process towards lifting the project's suspension. Next, LA-RICS must submit a request to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to lift the suspension. FirstNet will then submit a letter in support of that action. NTIA has the final decision as to whether to allow the project to resume construction.

"I'm very pleased that we were able to reach a spectrum lease agreement with LA-RICS, and hope that agreements with other pilot projects will be reached soon," said FirstNet Board Chairman Sam Ginn. "These projects will provide FirstNet with a substantial opportunity to gather key information and enable us to share these lessons learned with other projects and public safety."

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Tax Relief Act), signed into law in February 2012, created FirstNet, an independent entity within NTIA. The law charges FirstNet with developing and operating a nationwide public safety broadband network, which is to be based on a single, nationwide network architecture, and directed that FirstNet hold the single license for the public safety broadband spectrum in the 700 MHz band. That new law dramatically changed the

assumptions on which NTIA awarded the seven public safety BTOP projects in 2010.

Read the full article at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2013/firstnet-approves-resolutions-spectrum-lease-agreement-la-rics-and-personnel-acqu>

*A copy of the Resolution and lease agreement are here:*

[http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/firstnet\\_resolution\\_33\\_approving\\_smla\\_with\\_la-rics.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/firstnet_resolution_33_approving_smla_with_la-rics.pdf)

*All Board documents from today's meeting are available here:*

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2013/06272013-firstnet-board-special-meeting-documents>