



National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

Press Release

July 31, 2009

WHAT: NPSTC 700 MHz Broadband Network Requirements Task Force Meeting
WHERE: APCO Conference, Ballroom G
WHEN: Wednesday, August 19, 9:30am- 11:30am
WHY: To Finalize Requirements for Public Safety 700 MHz Broadband Network

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) 700 MHz Broadband Network Requirement Task Force (BBTF) will meet at APCO International's 75th Annual Conference and Exposition to finalize its work.

The BBTF developed after eight major public safety organizations met to discuss the future of the nationwide interoperable broadband network in 700 MHz, where they substantially agreed to petition Congress to reallocate the D Block, rather than auctioning it, creating a single 20 MHz block of broadband spectrum for public safety. The group also agreed to support approval of waiver requests for use of 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum and early build out in those areas requesting the waivers.

In June the 15 organizations of the NPSTC federation appointed this task force to define requirements for state and local networks that will ensure interoperability in a system of systems approach to a national broadband network. Under a regional model, it is the expectation that any region deploying its own system will define the requirements to provide operability for that respective area.

The BBTF is committed to receiving input from any public safety agency that wants to participate. There will not be a chance for comment for public safety agencies after the BBTF report is complete and submitted to NPSTC's Governing Board for their approval to forward the report to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) and to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Cities or regions could then sublicense the spectrum for local networks subject to minimum national requirements that would allow each regional or city network to interoperate, said Harlin McEwen, Chairman, PSST. "The states, regions, or cities that want to build their own systems would have most of the same rights as the national licensee with the conditions that they would have to be interoperable and in harmony with a national plan so there can be nationwide roaming," Chief McEwen said.

NPSTC is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate, Command, Control & Interoperability Division (DHS/S&T/CCI) and their technical support organization at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The Task Force is requesting the member associations of NPSTC to reach out to their membership and give their members the opportunity to provide guidance on the minimum requirements necessary to allow regional broadband networks to be built that are compatible with the Nationwide Broadband Network in the 700 MHz band. Anyone wishing to comment or participate can sign up at

www.npstc.org or plan to attend the meeting at APCO for a report on the progress of the Task Force.

NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership .

Attend the NPSTC Panel Wednesday, 2:15 p.m.

NPSTC's Chair Ralph Haller will moderate a panel to discuss the latest developments in public safety telecommunications including a report of the 700 MHz Broadband Requirements Task Force, FCC filings, OEC updates, COML training, NPSTC's new PSWAC Follow On Working Group, the P25 CAP program, and 900 MHz alerting.

Please attend and make your voice part of the discussion of public safety telecommunications.

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials | American Radio Relay League | Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies | Association of Public Safety Communications Officials | Forestry Conservation Communications Association | International Association of Chiefs of Police | International Associate of Emergency Managers | International Association of Fire Chiefs | International Municipal Signal Association | National Association of State Chief Information Officers | National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials | National Association of State Foresters | National Association of State Technology Directors | National Sheriffs' Association | National Emergency Number Association

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