



## *National Public Safety Telecommunications Council*

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June 3, 2009

### NPSTC Invites Participation in National Discussion of Minimum Requirements for Regional Buildout of 700 MHz National Broadband Network

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) will host a national discussion of the minimum requirements for the 700 MHz national broadband network that would allow regions and cities to build their own systems but that would ensure national roaming and interoperability. The discussion will begin during NPSTC's Governing Board meeting held at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA, on June 10, 2009, at approximately 2:30 pm EST.

The NPSTC Technology Committee will begin discussions with an open forum and discussion. This discussion is a follow-up to a meeting on May 28, 2009, hosted by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials - International (APCO), of eight major public safety organizations 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 spectrum would be added to the current national Public Safety Broadband License (PSBL). 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.

"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 a consensus forum for public safety communications discussions and will serve in this capacity during the meeting. NPSTC was formed in 1997 to provide the organizations that are members a forum to discuss the diverse issues impacting public safety communications and to come to a nationwide consensus. NPSTC is the only fifteen-member volunteer forum that brings together the major public safety organizations for these discussions. Public safety stakeholders, federal liaisons, and commercial attendees participate in meetings and provide valuable perspectives supporting the NPSTC Board's decisionmaking process. NPSTC meetings are public and all who have an interest in public safety communications are encouraged to participate.

Meeting information and registration can be found at the [NPSTC meetings page](#). All documents are posted live during the NPSTC meetings, so if you cannot attend in person, check the meetings page for call-in information and documents.

If you have any further questions, contact Marilyn Ward at 803 960.4339.

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

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