

September 20, 2017

EX PARTE NOTICE

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Procedures for Commission Review of State Opt-Out Requests from the FirstNet Radio Access Network*, PS Docket No. 16-269

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Rivada Networks, LLC (“Rivada”), pursuant to section 1.1206(b)(2)(iv) of the Commission’s rules,¹ notes that Co-Chief Executive Officer Joe Euteneuer, Chief Counsel Joe Titlebaum, and John Nakahata and Tricia Paoletta of Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP met with Commissioner Brendan Carr and Acting Wireless Advisor Kevin Holmes on September 18, 2017 to update the Commissioner on discussions Rivada has had with States that are interested in opting-out of FirstNet operating the in-state portion of the nationwide public safety broadband network.

Mr. Euteneuer noted that Rivada plans to operate as a wholesaler, and decided to pursue this business plan because doing so allows it to prioritize its public safety customers and deliver public-safety grade network and services. Moreover, as a new entrant run by executives with deep industry experience, Rivada does not have to manage legacy 2G or 3G networks, but will be able to offer state-of-the-art services over a purpose-built network. At the same time, Rivada is assisting public safety to manage the transition from Land Mobile Radio to LTE. Mr. Euteneuer described Rivada’s pioneering work in ruthless preemption to Commissioner Carr and Mr. Holmes, which will help first responders better manage their disaster recovery communications.

Rivada reviewed the benefits of a state operating its own in-state core, to connect to FirstNet’s nationwide core. Given the LTE interoperability standards, Congress’ requirement that the nationwide network be based on LTE, and the Commission’s agreement that opt-out states deploy FirstNet’s Access Point Names, a stand-alone state core can easily interoperate with the nationwide core. Rivada noted that a state operating its own core within its state can provide it better real-time control over authentication and the addition and removal of credentialed users on the network.

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2)(iv).

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

September 20, 2017

Page 2 of 2

In closing, Rivada reiterated that the congressionally-provided right to opt-out importantly provides a market-based check on the offers that FirstNet's commercial partner will make to States, and ensures that States benefit from a competitive environment. A competitive prod from the opt-out States will best ensure that the FirstNet network will continue to evolve technologically, as Congress directed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Nakahata".

John T. Nakahata

Counsel to Rivada Networks, LLC

cc: Zenji Nakazawa
Daudeline Meme
Erin McGrath
Kevin Holmes
Jeremy Greenberg
David Furth
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