

The Public Safety Broadband Wireless Network:

*Interoperability Hinges on Competition and Multi-Sourcing
In the Product and Services Space*

June 16, 2011

- Harris Corporation Strongly Supports State 700 MHz Waiver Orders That Speed PSWBN Deployment and Spur Competition.
 - Interoperability must be viewed as interchangeability:
 - All devices and networks should be used together regardless of brand or network location.
 - Thus, a multi-sourced supply chain is imperative.
 - Without it, the economies of scale of the commercial networks, innovations, and a competitive environment are impossible.

- Harris County, Texas Sole-Sourced a Motorola Public Safety Network Contract.
 - \$10 million in federal funding implicated.
- Requiring the Waiver Request's Compliance with Commission Rules, the PSHSB Granted the Texas Waiver to Ensure \$10 Million in Federal Funds Preserved and Utilized for the Motorola Contract.

Petition for Clarification: Texas Waiver Order



- Texas Waiver Order: “...we also expect that constituent jurisdictions will work with the state to minimize duplicative expenses and facilities where appropriate, in order to limit the need for multiple system identifiers or other impediments to interoperability.”
 - This inadvertently implies a statewide mandate to build a network with the same vendor-specific technologies included in a local core network.

- This could lead to:
 - Lack of interoperability.
 - Perceived compulsion by states and regions to apply the sole sourcing models employed by a local entity.
 - Increased network build-out and operational costs.
 - Failure to reap interoperability and innovation benefits of multi-sourcing.
 - A statewide or regional monopoly by one vendor company.

Petition for Clarification: Texas Waiver Order



- Requested Clarifications:
 - Nothing in the Texas Waiver Order shall be interpreted as a requirement or recommendation that Harris County's sole sourcing practice serve as a model or requirement for any other public safety entity.
 - The PSHSB does not endorse or require any procurement model in building an interoperable broadband public safety network.
 - The PSHSB reiterates its commitment to speeding deployment of an interoperable public safety broadband network through competition and open standards.

- Determining how states should coordinate with individual public safety entities, local jurisdictions, the Commission, and the PSBL is vital to ensuring that the PSWBN meets the interoperability and operational needs of both the entire country and individual jurisdictions.
- Care must be taken to ensure that the operability requirements unique to individual State, Local, Federal, and Tribal organizations are also satisfied.
 - These stakeholders must have significant participation in the establishment process and operation of the governance structure.

- The Commission should designate states as regional entities that have the role of coordinating 700 MHz broadband interoperability within their individual state and among states.
- This governance model will compel a review of how the PSBL or other umbrella licensee functions.

Expedition of Rulemaking, State Waiver Requests



- The Most Efficient Path Toward Interoperability And Avoiding Proprietary System Deployment Is To Finalize Baseline Interoperability Rules Immediately.
- Additionally, granting Waiver requests As Soon as Possible Will Allow The Commission To Assess Effective Interoperable Network Models.
- There Is A Need To License, Test, Evaluate And Learn From Pilot Systems.

Thank You for Your Consideration.