

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the matter of )  
 )  
Requests for Waiver of Various )  
Petitioners to Allow the Establishment ) PS Docket No. 06-229  
of 700 MHz Interoperable Public Safety )  
Wireless Broadband Networks )

**Submitted: July 18, 2011**

**QUARTERLY REPORT #5 OF THE STATE OF TEXAS PUBLIC SAFETY LTE BROADBAND NETWORK**

The State of Texas (“State”) hereby submits to the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) this quarterly report as required by both the Commission’s *Waiver Order*<sup>1</sup> and the *Texas Waiver*.<sup>2</sup> The State was granted a waiver by the Commission for early deployment of a public safety broadband Long Term Evolution (“LTE”) network in the 700 MHz spectrum. This report provides the Commission and PSST with a status update on its efforts to deploy a Public Safety LTE (“PS LTE”) network in the State of Texas. This Quarterly Report has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST). Although this is the first time Texas has submitted a Quarterly Report, we have been directed to use the reporting schedule of the other 20 waiver entities and therefore have titled this report “Quarterly Report #5” to conform with the submissions of the other waiver entities.

The State of Texas will deploy a 700 MHz interoperable public safety wireless broadband LTE network which complies with FCC orders, and will implement the statewide network in phases, beginning

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<sup>1</sup> See “*Waiver Order*” FCC 10-79, at ¶63-64, PS Docket No. 06-229, released May 12, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> See “*Texas Waiver*” DA 11-863, ¶63-64, PS Docket No. 06-229, released May 12, 2011.

with the BIG-Net project as the first phase being implemented for the Houston metropolitan and coastal region. As a state which has historically led the nation in annual federally-declared disaster declarations, Texas is dedicated and committed to statewide cooperation and a collaborative effort in building and operating public safety LTE infrastructure to provide the highest level of prevention, protection, response, and recovery from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events in the State and nation.

Additional background and detail are provided in the recently submitted *State of Texas Public Safety LTE Interoperability Showing*, submitted to the Commission on July 11, 2011 and therefore are not repeated here. Please reference this document for additional information.<sup>3</sup>

## **I. PLANNING**

The State has not yet developed or received any specific date information regarding the issuing of RFI/RFPs, however tremendous focus has been dedicated to providing agency entities within the State with the guidance and code of practice information needed to begin RFI/RFP development. The State has initiated a series of projects, forums and a network architecture working group so that the State and its agency partners can develop the expertise and knowledge needed to develop cohesive RFI/RFP and planning documents that ensure future PS LTE deployments support the state, regional and national objectives for openness, cost effectiveness, functionality and interoperability.

In examining the challenges associated with achieving the goals stated above, the State of Texas realized that a vitally important endeavor would be to bring together the leading equipment manufacturers into a forum that would enable the State to achieve their objectives. To this end, the State of Texas announced that it would be hosting a series of Region VI Public Safety LTE Interoperability Forums (“Forums”) expressly for the purpose of addressing the issues associated with achieving an early and multi-vendor PS LTE deployment in the State. The first Forum, held in Austin May 23, 2011 presented a clear view of the some of the most important questions to ask. Subsequent Forum sessions along with

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<sup>3</sup> The Texas Interoperability Showing can be found on the FCC website: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=6016827164>

sponsored working groups will pursue answering those questions, enabling the State to tackle the key issues and challenges most effectively.

In order to maintain momentum toward achieving the overall goals stated, the State of Texas recently announced the date and location of the next Region VI Public Safety LTE Interoperability Forum to be held in Albuquerque, NM on July 21, 2011, reflecting the State's intention to work directly with regional partners such as New Mexico.

As part of the planning process, the State routinely engages in productive dialog and coordination with the City of San Antonio, another 700 MHz waiver recipient, and who has the State's full support. In addition to the regular dialog, the City of San Antonio leaders have participated in a number of key sessions such as the Region VI Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working group (RECCWG) Summit held on April 26, 2011 and the May 23, 2011 Public Safety LTE Interoperability Forum, described above.

To help facilitate open dialog and sharing among interested parties across the nation, the LTE Forum has an established a DHS First Responder Communities of Practice website, enabling the State to efficiently share information, ask questions and communicate with our stakeholders.

## **II. FUNDING**

The State of Texas is in the process of developing build-out plans and associated funding strategies for its PS LTE network. The initial BIG-Net system deployment is being funded through a DHS FY 2006 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) award of \$7.6 million received by Harris County and which has a performance period ending in August of 2011. The State of Texas has also received a \$750K Regional Catastrophic Planning grant with an additional \$250K of matching funds provided by the State. Harris County applied for a round two NTIA Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant, but Harris County did not receive a grant award.

## **III. DEPLOYMENT**

As of the date of this document, Harris County is working to prepare for the initial BIG-Net, Phase 1.0 testing. The initial Phase 1.0 deployment consists of an LTE Evolved Packet Core (EPC), six

eNodeB sites and approximately 15 test devices. The milestones for that deployment are summarized below and are pending approval from the Commission to commence operation:

BIG-Net Trial Phase 1.0 - Deploy 6 sites	Target Date: 7/31/2011
BIG-Net Trial Phase 1.1 - Deploy 1 Mobile site, total of 7 sites	Target Date: 8/19/2011
BIG-Net Trial Phase 1.2 - Deploy 25 sites, total of 30 sites	Target Date: 6/1/2012

The initial phases of BIG-Net build-out will be comprised of 30 to 31 eNodeB sites and as of the date of this document, no obstacles or inhibitors, such as obtaining rights of way or equipment delivery delays, have been identified which could delay deployment.

The initial deployment includes the following applications which will be further refined as the needs and requirements of the end users are gathered and compiled. The initial phase of BIG-Net will, at a minimum, support: internet access, authorized VPN access, status/information “splash” homepage, ICS access and database queries.

As of the date of this document, no specific plans or purchases have been made for upgrading the initial PS LTE equipment being deployed. As the strategic plan for the State is developed these plans will be articulated and communicated in updates to the Quarterly Reports and Interoperability Showings.

Finally, the State of Texas confirms that all eligible public safety entities within the State of Texas will be offered service and access to the Public Safety LTE network.

Respectfully Submitted for the State of Texas,

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