



Dina McKenna, Chair
Thomas Lampe, Vice-Chair

April 9, 2012

Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20002

Quarterly Report #8 by 700 MHz Waiver Recipient – Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB)

By FCC Waiver Order 10-79, 700 MHz waiver recipients are required to file quarterly reports advising the FCC of progress in build-out of a conditionally approved 700 MHz public safety wireless broadband system. Therefore, ISICSB reports as follows:

I. Planning

A. The ISICSB applied for, but was not awarded a BTOP grant. That factor substantially set-back Iowa's planned build-out of a 700 MHz public safety broadband network. Now, with the passage and signing of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act) legislation in February, 2012 creating the structure and process for a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), Iowa is monitoring and submitting with the other waiver recipients, input to the FCC Technical Advisory Board (TAB), NTIA, and will do the same with FirstNet, for the successful build-out of the NPSBN.

B. Planning activities have included:

- The ISICSB has been an active member of the PSST-OAC (Public Safety Spectrum Trust-Operators Advisory Committee), and active in discussions with the FCC, PSCR (Public Safety Communications Research), BTOP Grant recipients, NTIA, DHS/OEC (Office of Emergency Communications), National Governors Association, NCSWIC (National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators), (and others in promoting the development and refinement of rules, regulations, requirements, and developments in this new and evolving technology and now the NPSBN;
- Accumulating industry information related to the required technology and architecture;
- The ISICSB issued an RFI (Request for Information) on July 1, 2011 to explore our build-out options given the complexity of this project. The ISICSB's

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Master Plan (2009) is to build-out a public safety 700 MHz. land-mobile radio statewide backbone. With this broadband waiver, issued in 2010, the ISICSB desires to build-out a complementary 700 MHz. public safety broadband network. The RFI sought information on both components to update our plan with this new waiver capability and hopefully lead to a funding strategy and the build-out of that plan.

- Communicating with public safety officials and industry representatives at national meetings as well as within Iowa.
- ISICSB has attended every meeting involving the waiver recipients hosted by the PSCR in Boulder, CO;
- ISICSB representatives will be attending the APCO Broadband Summit in Washington, DC in May, 2012 as part of its planning activities;
- ISICSB is exploring a broadband ‘Demonstration Project’ using LTE technology in Iowa for 2012 as a follow-up to the above RFI that was issued;

The ISICSB believes that it is essential that the FCC transitions its Waiver to FirstNet to allow it to continue planning as described above for the successful deployment of a NPSBN.

II. Funding

- A. As previously advised, the ISICSB applied for BTOP grant funds to provide the much needed catalyst for a build-out of a wireless broadband public safety project under the re-opening of Round 2, June 1-July 1, 2010. Iowa was not awarded any BTOP funds. Build-out and funding options are being explored during this 2012 legislative session and as any upcoming grant opportunities present themselves.
- B. As a result of not receiving BTOP grant funds, the ISICSB and officials in Iowa are re-examining funding solutions, as noted above, and in connection with the RFI. Additionally, the ISICSB also held a statewide funding strategies workshop in January, 2012 to involve public safety and elected officials to explore funding mechanisms for LMR and broadband build-outs.
- C. The Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) continues to meet with the Board’s legislative members to try to develop a funding strategy and seek multi-year funding for a comprehensive statewide public safety network. In 2011, this was not successful due to the substantial shortfall in state revenues, the economy, and the focus on the December 31, 2012 FCC narrowbanding mandate. The FCC mandate remains with a deadline of this year-end. It is hoped that as the economy and state revenues improve and the narrowbanding mandate is addressed, appropriate funds can be found in the 2012 or 2013 legislative session. Additionally, should funds become available through grants or legislation in connection with the NPSBN, the ISICSB would apply for any such funding.



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- D. Clearly the amount of funding required will depend on the final NPSBN model developed by FirstNet.

III. Deployment

- A. Any deployment timetable will depend now on the NPSBN network, as developed by FirstNet. The ISICSB is actively engaged in the activities of the PSST-OAC and awaits the outcome of the FirstNet network design.
- B. On January 9, 2012, the FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) issued the PLMN ID Order (*See Requests for Waiver of Various Petitioners to Allow the Establishment of 700 MHz Interoperable Public Safety Wireless Broadband Networks, PS Docket 06-229, Order, DA12-25, (PSHSB rel. Jan. 9, 2012) (PLMN ID Order)*), requiring Waiver Recipients to submit their choice of numbering administrator for approval and, provided that the Bureau approves the submission, complete the development of a numbering scheme by March 31, 2012.

On February 8, 2012, all twenty-one Waiver Recipients filed a joint request asking the Bureau to approve the selection of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) as the numbering administrator.

On March 16, 2012, the Bureau issued an Order (*See Requests for Waiver of Various Petitioners to Allow the Establishment of 700 MHz Interoperable Public Safety Wireless Broadband Networks, PS Docket 06-229, Order, DA12-423, (PSHSB rel. March 16, 2012)*), approving SAIC to serve as the common numbering administrator.

The Waiver Recipients, through the Operator Advisory Committee, diligently worked with SAIC on the development of the numbering scheme.

The ISICSB verifies that it completed the development the numbering scheme by the March 31, 2012 deadline as required by the PLMN ID Order.

The ISICSB also verifies that there is no new information regarding SAIC's licenses or affiliations that might call into question its ability to serve as a fair and impartial administrator.

- C. In the *Waiver Order*, the Commission required that Waiver Recipients be capable of supporting roaming on all other Waiver Recipients' systems, as well as public safety systems deployed in the future.¹ Further, the Commission has required that technical roaming capability, for both

¹ *See, Requests for Waiver of Various Petitioners to Allow the Establishment of 700 MHz Interoperable Public Safety Wireless Broadband Networks, PS Docket 06-229, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 5145 (2010) (Waiver Order).*



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home-routed traffic and local breakout traffic, be available on the date that a Petitioner's network achieves service availability.²

Consistent with the *Further Order's* requirement that each Waiver Recipient certify its compliance with this condition in its quarterly report that follows its date of service availability, this is to certify that the ISICSB complies with the Commission's condition. Specifically, the ISICSB and other waiver recipients created a working group of industry proposals to develop a methodology for technical roaming capability. Ultimately, the Waiver Recipients jointly elected a methodology that provides for a centralized service to provide such roaming capability, provided by an IPX Service Provider.³

Site development, including use of existing towers

- A. This planning is on hold pending the outcome of the NPSBN, as developed by FirstNet. No additional site acquisitions or developments are planned until FirstNet issues its NPSBN plan.

Deployments and upgrades (commencement and completion), including site information and location

- B. Projected deployment timelines will be better known after FirstNet issues its network plan.
- C. The ISICSB did not submit an Interoperability Showing as it is not in a position for immediate build-out, as explained above.

Applications in development or in use

- A. None at present time.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bogner
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² See, Requests for Waiver of Various Petitioners to Allow the Establishment of 700 MHz Interoperable Public Safety Wireless Broadband Networks, PS Docket 06-229, *Order*, 25 FCC Rcd 17156 (2010)(*Further Order*), at para. 9.

³ Additional technical information is available from the Waiver Recipients upon request.