



State Consultation Task Teams Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

WHAT IS THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY (FIRSTNET)?

Signed into law on February 22, 2012, the **Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (Act)** created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The law gives FirstNet the mission to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety data communications. FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. FirstNet is governed by a 15-member Board consisting of representatives from public safety; local, state and federal government; and the wireless industry.

WHAT IS THE 2016 FIRSTNET STATE CONSULTATION PROGRAM?

FirstNet's 2016 state consultation program is a four pronged approach, designed to guide 2016 state consultation activities. The goals of 2016 state consultation include expanding outreach and education, obtaining input from local, states, territories, tribal and federal stakeholders, and preparing key decision makers for State Plan delivery and network deployment. To achieve these, FirstNet will carry out the following primary activities:

- State and territory single point of contact (SPOC) engagement meetings
- Governance body meetings
- Consultation task teams (CTTs)
- Executive consultation meetings

WHAT ARE THE STATE CONSULTATION TASK TEAMS (CTTs)?

The CTTs are state and territory task teams formed around subjects on which FirstNet is seeking further stakeholder input. Each team will be established for a specific topic and meet over a short period of time. The state and territory SPOC should identify subject matter experts, such as those with operational and technical experience, to participate on the CTT. The CTT will provide critical input to FirstNet that will inform network planning and implementation.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CTTs?

The CTTs provide a formal opportunity for stakeholders in each state and territory across all levels of government, ranging in discipline and jurisdiction, to provide meaningful input to inform FirstNet network policies and operations.

WHAT IS THE FIRST TOPIC FOR THE CTTs TO ADDRESS?

The first CTT will be on Quality of Service, Priority and Preemption (QPP), leveraging earlier work of FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC).

WHAT IS THE QPP?

Quality of Service, Priority and Preemption concepts define the user's interaction with the FirstNet network, namely in terms of receiving prioritized access to network resources, maintaining a secure communication link, and a guaranteed level of service performance. QPP policies are essential requirements for FirstNet's mission critical users, and are most impacted when network traffic levels rise and precious wireless resources become strained.

WHAT IS THE QPP FRAMEWORK?

The conceptual QPP framework was developed by FirstNet, in partnership with the PSAC, as our current vision for how to ensure that the FirstNet network provides public safety users with the mission critical broadband resources they need to safely execute their jobs. This framework:

- Establishes and manages, both statically and dynamically, QPP capabilities within the FirstNet network
- Allows public safety users to have different services, applications, and usage profiles
- Allows public safety users to have default QPP properties
- Allows the modification of those properties, as needed



WILL THE QPP FRAMEWORK BE IMPLEMENTED?

The QPP framework is conceptual. FirstNet, through its Request for Proposal (RFP), will identify a partner to deploy and operate the FirstNet network. Until the partner is identified and provides a solution that establishes QPP for public safety users, FirstNet will not know for sure how the QPP will be executed on the network.

WILL THE QPP CTT INFORM THE SELECTION OF A PARTNER?

No, the QPP CTT will not affect the outcome of the RFP. However, it will inform the FirstNet network policies and procedures.

WHAT VALUE WILL THE QPP CTT PROVIDE?

The QPP CTT will give its representatives the opportunity to provide feedback on the conceptual QPP framework, and give their opinions on whether it adequately identifies the necessary components and elements to allow first responder traffic to be properly prioritized on the FirstNet network. As mentioned above, this input will inform network policies and procedures.

WHEN WILL THE QPP CTT LAUNCH?

FirstNet is set to launch the QPP CTT in April 2016 at the Spring SPOC Meeting. There will be a QPP breakout which will include a briefing and discussion of the conceptual QPP Framework. After the meeting, FirstNet will send the SPOCs, for distribution to its CTT members, background information, including a video of the QPP presentation and an online QPP survey.

WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN THE QPP CTTs EXPECT TO COMPLETE?

After the SPOC identifies the QPP CTT members (See below for your SPOC's contact information), the CTTs will be asked to complete the following between April and August of 2016:

- QPP CTT members read and view the FirstNet background materials
- QPP CTT members complete the online survey, specifically designed to be taken after having reviewed the QPP background materials. (It will close on August 31, 2016.)
- QPP CTT members convene to discuss the QPP Framework and provide additional feedback
- Representatives of the QPP CTT participate in two FirstNet regional QPP CTT webinars



WHAT SUPPORT WILL FIRSTNET PROVIDE THE QPP CTTs?

FirstNet will send background materials to explain QPP and the conceptual QPP framework. It will then convene two regional webinars for each of the ten regions. The first will be near the beginning of the QPP CTT formation to discuss the CTT process and any other QPP CTT questions. The second will be towards the end of the QPP CTT to discuss any additional feedback on the conceptual QPP framework and the survey. Any state/territory that wishes to have additional FirstNet support should have their SPOC contact the FirstNet Regional Lead.

HOW WILL THE CTTs LEARN THE QPP SURVEY RESULTS?

FirstNet will provide an overview of the QPP survey results by taking advantage of meetings, such as the Fall SPOC Meeting and the State Executive Consultation.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE ON THE QPP CTT?

FirstNet recommends that SPOCs select a wide range of knowledgeable and dedicated stakeholders as CTT members. Stakeholders who should be considered for the CTT include:

- Front line responders, incident commanders, and leadership across all public safety disciplines
- Local, state/territory, tribal, and federal government officials
- Telecommunications experts, with strong technical and/or operational backgrounds
- Individuals with a deep interest in QPP

WILL THERE BE OTHER CTTs?

Once FirstNet ensures it has the best process for gathering input from CTTs on critical issues, it expects to roll out additional CTTs which may run concurrently or consecutively, depending on the topics. SPOCs will have an opportunity to suggest future topics and shape the direction of CTTs.

For questions on the CTTs and their activities, please contact your SPOC, whose contact information is at <http://firstnet.gov/consultation>, or FirstNet at FirstNet.Consultation@firstnet.gov.