

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness**
State of Louisiana

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Louisiana Opts in for FirstNet Communications System for First Responders

Baton Rouge (September 27, 2017)- Louisiana will soon have a specialized wireless broadband network specifically for first responders now that Governor John Bel Edwards has opted in to FirstNet. With this decision, **FirstNet and AT&T*** will deliver the network to Louisiana's public safety community. Louisiana is the 24th state or territory in the country to approve this resource for first responders, providing them with advanced technologies that will save lives and protect communities.

AT&T, in a public-private partnership with FirstNet, will build, operate and maintain a highly secure, wireless broadband communications network for Louisiana's public safety community at no cost to the state. The FirstNet network will drive innovation and create an entire system of modernized devices, apps and tools for first responders.

"The entire State of Louisiana will benefit from this decision," said Governor John Bel Edwards. "From natural disasters like flooding and hurricanes, to other planned events like Mardi Gras, hosting Super Bowls or other large sporting events, Louisiana has many unique times when communications systems can become strained. We will be working with our partners at FirstNet and AT&T on this communications network which means deploying a true interoperable nationwide system for public safety. The sharing of instant information will only become more critical in the future. There is a lot to be done, but the system will ultimately help protect our citizens and first responders." The FirstNet network will transform the way Louisiana's fire, police, EMS and other public safety personnel communicate and share information. Specifically, FirstNet and AT&T will:

- Connect first responder subscribers to the critical information they need in a highly secure manner when handling day-to-day operations, responding to emergencies and supporting large events, like football games in the Superdome that draw tens of thousands of fans.
- Create an efficient communications experience for public safety personnel in agencies and jurisdictions across the state during natural disasters including severe weather, flash floods and storms related to tropical events.
- Enhance network coverage in rural areas. This will benefit first responders and residents throughout Louisiana's diverse landscape, as well as those who service and visit the state's popular parks.
- Drive infrastructure investments and create jobs across the state.
- Usher in a new wave of innovation that first responders can depend on. This will create an ever-evolving set of life-saving tools for public safety, including public safety apps, specialized devices and Internet of Things technologies. It also carries the potential for future integration with NextGen 9-1-1 networks and Smart Cities' infrastructure.

The FirstNet system that will be built in Louisiana was designed with direct input from the state's public safety community. FirstNet has hosted meetings across the state with elected officials and the public safety community to address their communications needs. This includes:

- Strengthening coverage for large outdoor events, holiday events and festivals.
- Strengthening coverage in and around state prison facilities.
- Bring first responders access to innovative solutions that will help solve their daily communications issues.
- Getting public safety personnel access to features and capabilities they need

"FirstNet is honored to serve Louisiana's public safety community," said FirstNet CEO Mike Poth. "Governor Edward's decision will deliver modern communication technology to first responders throughout the Pelican State, making communities safer and secure. FirstNet will continue to work with the state to ensure the network delivers the coverage, services, and innovation that public safety needs."

The decision enables FirstNet and AT&T to begin creating an entirely new wireless ecosystem for public safety communications. Louisiana's first responder subscribers will have immediate access to priority to voice and data across the existing nationwide AT&T LTE network.

Preemption for primary users over the AT&T LTE network is expected by December 2017. This means fire, police, EMS and other public safety workers will have dedicated access to the network when and where they need.

For more information on FirstNet, please visit FirstNet.gov/mediakit and att.com/FirstResponderNews. For more about the value FirstNet will bring to public safety, please visit FirstNet.com.

About FirstNet

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce, overseen by a 15 member Board. Chartered in 2012, its mission is to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities. Learn more at FirstNet.gov/mediakit and follow FirstNet (@FirstNetGov) on Facebook and Twitter for updates.

***About AT&T**

AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) helps millions around the globe connect with leading entertainment, business, mobile and high speed internet services. We offer the nation's best data network** and the best global coverage of any U.S. wireless provider. We're one of the world's largest providers of pay TV. We have TV customers in the U.S. and 11 Latin American countries. Nearly 3.5 million companies, from small to large businesses around the globe, turn to AT&T for our highly secure smart solutions. AT&T products and services are provided or offered by subsidiaries and affiliates of AT&T Inc. under the AT&T brand and not by AT&T Inc. Additional information about AT&T products and services is available at about.att.com. Follow our news on Twitter at @ATT, on Facebook at facebook.com/att and on YouTube at youtube.com/att. © 2017 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the Globe logo and other marks are trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

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