



NPSTC



Member Organizations

American Association of
State Highway and Transportation Officials
American Radio Relay League
American Red Cross
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Public Safety
Communications Officials-International
Forestry Conservation
Communications Association
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Association of
Emergency Managers
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Municipal Signal Association
National Association of State Chief
Information Officers
National Association of
State Emergency Medical Services
National Association of State Foresters
National Association of
State Telecommunications Directors

Liaison Organizations

Federal Communications Commission
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Telecommunications Industry Association
US Department of Agriculture
US Department of Justice
NIJ CommTech Program
US Department of Homeland Security
FEMA
SAFECOM Program
US Department of Interior

International Trade Commission Ruling on EV-DO Technology Will Have Serious Effect on Public Safety

A June 7, International Trade Commission (ITC) ruling will have a serious detrimental impact on public safety in the United States. In adjudicating a patent dispute between Broadcom and Qualcomm, the ITC issued an import ban on broadband technology that provides reliable high-speed communications that public safety needs for effective crisis management. The ITC decision will block EV-DO wireless technology from being imported into the United States.

EV-DO (Evolution Data Optimized) technology provides critical capability to public safety agencies. The technology is deployed in public safety radio equipment and is an important element in providing advance communications capability to emergency response services.

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11 and natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, a primary goal of the public safety community has been to deploy a robust, interoperable wireless broadband network to ensure communications both day-to-day and in times of emergencies. An import ban sets the clock back on deploying the technology necessary to respond quickly and effectively to an emergency or natural disaster, undermining much effort to achieve a reliable high-speed communications network. It dilutes considerably the competitive forces that promote innovation and lower costs.

EV DO technology allows the transmission of maps, data, photographs, and other information, including critical video messages in times of emergency. With this technology, alerts and warnings reach more people faster. An import ban on the technology effectively shuts down deployment of dedicated, public safety EV-DO networks. It also stunts the growth and innovation of Third Generation (3G) networks in the United States.

On March 22, public safety associations provided testimony to the ITC detailing the adverse effects that would result from barring the import of the technology. The remedy announced by the ITC rejected this position and creates an obstacle for first responders, including police, fire, and emergency medical personnel, who use the technology for broadband services. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) warned the ITC of the significant harm an import band would cause. This is especially true now as the FCC and the Congress are actively engaged in rulemaking and legislative actions focused on providing broadband services to the first responder community.

For Immediate Release
Contact: Marilyn Ward
866.807.4755
www.npstc.org



POSITION PAPER
6/20/2007

NPSTC

The import ban announced by the ITC will also seriously disrupt ongoing efforts to migrate mission-critical voice communications from one portion of the 800 MHz band to another to reduce interference currently experienced with some cellular carriers. It will also limit improvements underway to the Emergency Alert System (EAS). EAS provides warning and information to first responders and citizens during emergencies.

The underlying patent dispute between Broadcom and Qualcomm, on which NPSTC takes no position, should not be allowed to result in wide-ranging harm to the public interest.

Banning the importation of EV-DO technology jeopardizes the public safety and hurts America's disaster preparedness. It is an important resource for public safety officials responding to a citizen facing an emergency. President Bush should reject the remedy when it is presented for his review.

NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.