



National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

Press Release

January 11, 2010

NPSTC Commends PSCR's Public Safety Broadband Demonstration Network

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council commends the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program's plans to address a critical need as a public safety broadband network moves closer to reality.

A proposed public safety broadband network would allow public safety agencies to communicate with nationwide roaming and enhanced interoperability and offer access to advanced communications technologies including video, mapping, and GPS applications, and more. But, there are currently no independent laboratory facilities to test and demonstrate the public safety specific behaviors of this yet-to-be-deployed 700 MHz network and the applications that could run on top of it.

The PSCR, based in Boulder, CO, a program of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will begin building a Public Safety Broadband Demonstration Network to provide manufacturers with a site for early deployment of their systems, an opportunity to evaluate them in a multi-vendor environment, and create integration opportunities for commercial service providers.

"This project will provide an opportunity to test a variety of public safety communications needs and assure that such capabilities are in the final technology standard," says Ralph Haller, NPSTC Chair. "This should significantly speed the development of the nationwide broadband network."

The new system will provide a common site for manufacturers, carriers, and public safety agencies to test and evaluate advanced broadband communications equipment and software tailored specifically to the needs of emergency first responders. Emergency responders, vendors, carriers, academia, and other pertinent stakeholders also will be able to access the demonstration network.

This demonstration network is currently in the preliminary planning stages and is expected to go live in mid-2010. Interested industry and public safety representatives can contact Orr at (303) 497-5400, dereck.orr@nist.gov, or Jeff Bratcher at (303) 497-4610, jbratcher@its.bldrdoc.gov, for information on how to get involved.

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

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