



Responses to Questions

1 through 95

*Special Notice D15PS00295 – Nationwide Public
Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN)*

6/11/2015

Overview

This document contains answers to questions submitted to either the Contract Officer or to specialnoticequestions@firstnet.gov. This document does not represent all questions. Subsequent documents may be released to respond to additional questions.

Responses to Questions 1 through 95

1. In the Regional RAN Proposal (Category 2), what is the proposed acquisition approach for the nationwide core network? Is it a separate acquisition from the individual CLA-Regional RAN provider acquisition(s)? Please clarify and provide details. We are requesting that this answer be provided prior to or during Industry Day.

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 6 Section / Paragraph: 4.3.2

Answer:

The purpose of the Special Notice is to obtain feedback regarding the acquisition approach and strategy as it relates to Category One and Category Two. FirstNet has not made a determination as to the best possible strategy for meeting the objectives pertaining to a “nationwide” solution, and stakeholders are encouraged to offer feedback on or before July 27, 2015. However, as currently proposed in the Special Notice, the nationwide core network would be provided by the Category One offerors. Successful Category Two offers would have to be integrated into the nationwide core network by the successful Category One offeror.

Any details would be provided in a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) after FirstNet makes a determination.

2. When can we expect to receive Section 2 and Section 10?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

FirstNet assumes the references to “Section 2 and Section 10”, refer to the Statement of Objectives (SOO) Appendices C-2 (Service Level Agreement for RAN Integration) and C-10 (FirstNet Cyber Hardness). These documents were intentionally omitted, as stated in the amendment to Special Notice D15PS00295B posted on the Federal Business Opportunities website (FBO) on April 27, 2015 at 9:06 pm. These documents are still being developed in consultation with states, tribes, territories, public safety stakeholders, and market participants, and may be provided at a later date or in a subsequent RFP.

3. A Sources Sought\RFI was also released for FirstNet Program Management Support Services under # NT00000-15-000XX in November 2014 and does not appear to be referenced in the Background section of this RFI. Is this a separate requirement that will not be included under the scope of this future RFP and if so, could FirstNet please provide a status update on this possible effort?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 1 Section / Paragraph: 1

Answer:

The Sources Sought/Request for Information (RFI) # NT00000-15-000XX, was issued by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on behalf of NTIA/DOC (National Telecommunications and Information Administration / Department of Commerce) for program management support of the analysis of potential state opt out plans. Questions regarding the NIST Sources Sought/RFI should be directed to NIST. Information gathered in response to the NIST Sources Sought/RFI will not be included in the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) acquisition.

4. Does the agency anticipate issuing any additional RFIs for FirstNet?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 1 Section / Paragraph: 1

Answer:

No, FirstNet does not currently anticipate issuing any additional RFI's regarding the NPSBN acquisition. However, if FirstNet determines that additional information is needed, it will post some form of communication, which may include an RFI, on FBO.

5. Paragraph 1, Bullet 4 references the prior RFI released for the FirstNet Comprehensive Network Solution; is this new RFI to be treated as the more modern version of the prior RFI and replace the prior RFI?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 1 Section / Paragraph: 1

Answer:

The current document posted to FBO is not an RFI. It is a Special Notice that includes the release of draft RFP documents. This Special Notice does not replace any prior releases with regards to the NPSBN acquisition.

6. The agency outlines a period of performance in Paragraph 1 but does not comment on the number of contracts. How many awards are anticipated to be made from the future RFP?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 9 Section / Paragraph: 1

Answer:

The purpose of the Special Notice is to obtain feedback regarding FirstNet’s acquisition approach and strategy, helping inform FirstNet in its determination as to the potential number of awards.

Therefore, a determination with regard to the number of awards has not yet been made. FirstNet encourages stakeholders to submit feedback on or before July 27, 2015. Any additional information pertaining to the anticipated number of awards would be reflected in a subsequent RFP.

7. Has the agency established a contract type to be used for the resultant FirstNet award(s)?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

No, FirstNet has not yet made a determination regarding contract type, but will be reflected in a subsequent RFP.

8. Has an estimated award magnitude or project value been established for this effort regarding the value of an award made from a future RFP?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

Yes, as part of the acquisition process, in accordance with laws and regulations, an “independent government estimate” has been created for the NPSBN acquisition. However, that information will not be made public.

The “project value” should be identified as part of a potential offeror’s solutions. The proposed value should correlate to the technical solution being offered consistent with FirstNet’s proposed pricing methodology that would be reflected in a subsequent RFP.

Furthermore, the “project value” should be identified as part of a potential offeror’s solutions. The proposed value should correlate to the technical solution being offered.

9. Does the agency expect to set-aside part of this requirement for small businesses and if so, could you provide more detail about the set-aside type, segment of work, and number of awards?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

The purpose of the Special Notice is to obtain feedback regarding the acquisition approach and strategy, which will inform FirstNet’s determination as to any small business set-asides. FirstNet encourages stakeholders to offer feedback on or before July 27, 2015.

Therefore, a determination with regards to the potential for setting aside any portion of this acquisition has not yet been made. Any information pertaining to set-asides would be reflected in a subsequent RFP.

10. The agency referenced multiple RFIs issued for FirstNet market research in the Background section of this RFI. Does the agency anticipate issuing multiple RFPs for FirstNet or will one RFP be issued to encompass all of the needs identified from all of the prior RFIs?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 1 Section / Paragraph: 1

Answer:

The purpose of the Special Notice is to obtain feedback with regards to the acquisition approach and strategy, which will inform FirstNet’s determination as to the number of RFPs to be issued. FirstNet encourages stakeholders to provide feedback on or before July 27, 2015.

Therefore, a determination with regards to the number of RFPs has not yet been made.

11. Section 4.1.1 states “FirstNet seeks comments on all aspects of the acquisition strategy/approaches described in this notice, including feedback concerning FirstNet’s proposed pricing concepts and operational architecture principles. Comments shall be submitted via email on or before, but no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday July 27, 2015, utilizing the attached form.” Please confirm this is a separate requirement than the 50-page Capabilities Statements.

Also, the “attached form” for submitting the comments requested does not appear to be on FBO. Please clarify this requirement and advise what Form to utilize for the response.

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 3 Section / Paragraph: 4.1.1

Answer:

In confirmation of your first question, FirstNet’s request for comments on all aspects of the acquisition strategy/approaches described in the Special Notice, including feedback concerning FirstNet’s proposed pricing concepts and operational architecture principles, is separate from the capabilities statements.

12. This offeror assumes that the 50 page limit for the Capabilities Statement does not include front matter such as Cover, Cover Letter, Table of Contents, Glossary, and any indexes or cross references the offeror may provide for the evaluator’s convenience. Is this assumption correct? If not, please clarify specifically what material is included and not included in the 50 page limit.

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 4 Section / Paragraph: 4.1.4

Answer:

The assumption is correct; the 50-page limit for the capabilities statement does not include a Cover, Cover Letter, Table of Contents, or cross references.

For clarification, the capabilities statements are not being evaluated. They are being reviewed as part of market research in order to make a determination regarding outstanding topics, as so noted in the Special Notice.

13. Paragraph 4.1.3 of the Special Notice states that Capabilities Statements are submitted via email, implying only an electronic copy is required. Paragraph 4.1.4 of the Special Notices states that hard copies are required in addition to the electronic copy. Please clarify whether both hard and electronic copies are required.

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 0 Section / Paragraph: 4.1.3,4.1.4

Answer:

As stated in Paragraph 4.1.4 of the Special Notice, capabilities statements must be submitted by both email and in hard copy. Also, as stated in the Special Notice:

“... timeliness of receipt of any submission will be determined by the date and time the capabilities statement is received via email submission to the point of contact for AQD ...”

14. The table implies FOC will be completed 60 months or 5 years from contract award. However, the descriptions on pages 4-10 for IOCs 1-5 state that “this phase will begin x years after the completion of” the previous IOC phase. Page 9 states that FOC will be completed 5 years post contract award. Can you please confirm the IOC start and finish dates for each IOC and FOC so we may better understand the time phasing of the program. We would like to confirm whether FOC is to be completed within 5 years of contract award or a much longer timeframe.

Document Reference: C-8 IOC / FOC Page 0

Answer:

The information contained in the SOO, Appendix C-8, IOC/FOC Target Timeline, table and Figure 1, IOC/FOC Timeline, is correct. The initial sentence in each section stating “this phase will begin x years

after the completion of “ the previous IOC is incorrect. The information issued in a subsequent RFP will be updated to reflect this correction.

15. Will the government please clarify the descriptions of the coverage objectives and milestones that are referenced throughout this section? We would greatly appreciate any descriptive information, even notional, that would clarify the objectives and milestones so the community can better size potential coverage and capacity modeling by project phase.

Document Reference: C-8 IOC / FOC Page 0

Answer:

The Government desires the most cost effective, best value solution. Therefore, it is up to the potential offerors to propose solutions based on available information, including, but not limited to, the SOO, Appendix C-1, Baseline Coverage Objective Maps.

Each potential offeror should propose necessary coverage and capacity, based on its solution, in order to support public safety use, including projected adoption and growth rates and planned excess capacity for each deployment phase of the network.

Also, refer to the SOO, Appendix C-1, Baseline Coverage Objective Maps.

16. Please provide coverage and throughput models for Hawaii and the Territories.

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1

Answer:

Coverage objective data was provided for Hawaii in Appendix C-1, Baseline Coverage Objective Maps, in the “shape_files”, see FBO attachment entitled “Coverage_objective_maps_-_Shape_Files”. The image file was inadvertently omitted from the April 27th FBO posting. The Special Notice was amended on May 13, 2015, on FBO to add the file, “(No Suggestions)”. (See Amendment No. 5 to the Special Notice.)

However, coverage objectives are still being developed for the US Territories as the same datasets aren’t currently available. Thus, available datasets in addition to inputs captured during Consultation will be used to develop coverage objectives for the Territories.

17. Document states, “Coverage is defined as having a minimum of 768 Kbps downlink and 256 Kbps uplink at the cell edge with 50% loading.” Is this per cell or per user?

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1

Answer:

The 768 Kbps downlink and 256 Kbps uplink is per user.

18. “Table 1 Coverage Throughput Per Sq Mi Definition”—is this per cell or per user?

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1

Answer:

Table 1 Coverage, contained in Appendix C-1, Baseline Coverage Objective Maps, will be deleted in a subsequent RFP. However, The current RFP documents do not specify “throughput”. This information is provided for purposes of coverage definition only. However, as FirstNet gathers additional information on eligible users and estimated usage through data collection efforts, more data may be provided on aggregate demand per grid to ensure the throughput minimums could be achieved by each user. (Also, see response to Special Notice Question #19.)

19. Section 1 states, “The non-color regions represent areas identified as needing on-demand temporary or extended range coverage and capacity solutions.” Please provide the minimum throughput requirements for these non-color areas.

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1

Answer:

For the purposes of defining coverage and as stated in Appendix C-1, Baseline Coverage Objective Maps, Section 1, Baseline Coverage Requirements, “Coverage is defined as having a minimum of 768Kbps downlink and 256 Kbps uplink at the cell edge with 50% loading. Each individual grid will be assessed for meeting the definition of coverage in the color-coded areas. Only those grid blocks that have more than 50% coverage will be considered acceptable. ” The current RFP documents do not specify “throughput”. This information is provided for purposes of coverage definition only. However, as FirstNet gathers additional information on eligible users and estimated usage through data collection efforts, more data may be provided on aggregate demand per grid to ensure the throughput minimums could be achieved by each user.

20. How does FirstNet envision providing coverage and capacity to the non-color regions via on-demand temporary or extended range solutions? In many cases, these areas are very large.

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1

Answer:

FirstNet’s objective is to provide nationwide coverage. In response to a subsequent RFP, offerors should explain their solution and may consider deployables, satellite, aerals, or other innovative technologies in providing coverage to non-color regions.

21. Please provide a description and definition of “on-demand temporary”.

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1

Answer:

“On-demand temporary” coverage is defined as NPSBN coverage which is available when needed for a short term to augment coverage or capacity unsupported by fixed permanent terrestrial coverage.

22. Please add deployables and MCUs into Figure 1 SV-1 NPSBN System Interfaces.

Document Reference: C-4 SV-1 and StdV-1 Page 2

Answer:

FirstNet will consider including this information. If changed, such information will be reflected in a subsequent RFP release.

23. Definition of the term MCU is inconsistent. In C-5 Section 9 MCU is Mobile Control Unit. In all other places in RFP MCU is Mobile Communications Unit. Please clarify.

Document Reference: General Page 0 Section / Paragraph: C-5 pg 1-12, C-8 pg2, 8, C-9 pg 3,4,44, Terms of Reference pg 4

Answer:

“MCU” means Mobile Communications Unit. SOO Appendix C-5 Standards View at FOC (StdV-2) will be updated accordingly.

24. What is the purpose/intent of the 2nd tab/worksheet in the comment form entitled “Report - FIRSNET Proposal.” Is the offeror required to do something with this part of the form? If so, please provide instructions.

Document Reference: General Page 0

Answer:

The “report tab” is a report of the functions by functional owner. No, the respondents are not required to do anything with this part of the form, it is for informational purposes only. Only the comment matrix should be completed by respondents.

25. Paragraph 4.1.1 of the Special Notice states that comments are to be submitted on the “attached form”, assumed to be file “D15PS00295_C-7_Operational_Architecture_Comments_Form.xlsx”. Must all comments be submitted on this form, or may the offeror provide a separate document for more lengthy comments that may not work well with the form?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 3 Section / Paragraph: 4.1.1

Answer:

The form for submitting questions and comments is titled “Special Notice Attachment - Question or Comment Template”. There is a link to it from D15PS00295 on FBO. There is no limit to the length of the cell in the template. The file D15PS00295_C-7_Operational_Architecture_Comments_Form.xlsx is strictly for commenting on the Operational Architecture. However, FirstNet requests comments to be limited to one page (front and back) which can be submitted with the template form with a cross walk to any attached page. This limitation ensures the comments can be reviewed in an expedited manner for inclusion into the acquisition process without causing delay.

26. Paragraph 4.1.4 of the Special Notice states that the offeror is to send the hardcopies of the Capabilities Statement to the provided address, which implies shipping. May these hardcopies be hand delivered? If so, please provide delivery instructions.

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 5 Section / Paragraph: 4.1.4

Answer:

Yes, the capabilities statements may be hand delivered to the address identified in the Special Notice. The AQD facility is a secured facility and the guard will contact Ms. Callahan upon a delivery.

27. I am having trouble accessing the zip files for the coverage objective maps – shape files because my firm does not have the software that supports the various different extensions for the files. Would it be possible to send or post them in a different format, such as pdf, excel or windows viewer?

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps

Answer:

The coverage objective maps have been provided in two formats – a shape file and an image file. The .png image files can be opened by most image viewers.

28. With a significant number of RFPs expected to be needed for a Category 2 Acquisition Approach, what is the expected IOC timeline for a Category 2 deployment?

Document Reference: C-8 IOC / FOC Page 0 Section / Paragraph: 2

Answer:

The purpose of the Special Notice is to obtain feedback regarding the acquisition approach and strategy which would also include a determination as to the potential number of RFPs released as well as number of subsequent awards. FirstNet welcomes stakeholders to submit questions and/or comments in accordance with the instructions stated in the Special Notice.

FirstNet does not anticipate any of those determinations would have an impact on the IOC Timeline as reflected in the current draft Appendix C-8 IOC FOC Target Timeline. However, any change in information would be reflected in a subsequent RFP.

29. Please provide the passwords to unlock this spreadsheet, so I can better manipulate the data.

It would make my job much easier and I would be able to work smarter and more quickly

Document Reference: C-7 Operational Architecture

Answer:

Thank you for your request. However, the spread sheet fields have been locked for a reason and the information needs to be populated as instructed. If you having difficulty completing the spread sheet please submit a question asking for additional details and/or instructions specific to your problem so that it may be disseminated to all per the instructions contained in the Special Notice.

30.

Will you please add this email address to your distribution list for FirstNet updates and procurement document distribution?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

FirstNet does not maintain an email distribution list for procurement-related notices and documents because FBO is the designated as the Government Point of Entry, in accordance with FAR 2.101 and 5.102, for federal agencies publicizing procurement-related notices and actions. Any and all documents released regarding FirstNet's NPSBN acquisition will be made available on FBO at www.fbo.gov. Please ensure you check the site frequently. You can search for either FirstNet or D15PS00295.

31. We are very interested in opportunities to partner with you as you develop the Broadband initiative.

Is there a chance that we may meet briefly to get better acquainted?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

Vendors who are interested in meeting with FirstNet should complete the FirstNet Vendor Meeting Request Form, found on www.FirstNet.gov, and submit it to FirstNetIndustryLiaison@firstnet.gov. FirstNet reserves the right to request additional information and/or clarification on the submission in order to make a determination regarding sessions and potential participants. Once the determination has been made to conduct a session, the FirstNet Industry Liaison will contact the requesting party to schedule the meeting.

32. Our expertise can assist your agency in expanding the coverage and reach of meetings using a variety of video applications and production/distribution techniques. How might we arrange a presentation of our capabilities?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

Vendors who are interested in meeting with FirstNet should complete the FirstNet Vendor Meeting Request Form, found on www.FirstNet.gov, and submit it to FirstNetIndustryLiaison@firstnet.gov. FirstNet reserves the right to request additional information and/or clarification on the submission in order to make a determination regarding sessions and potential participants. Once the determination has been made to conduct a session, the FirstNet Industry Liaison will contact the requesting party to schedule the meeting.

33. Please advise of the status of correction this error. States that ‘end-to-end availability of 99.9% as defined in Section C-6, Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan’. On page 27 of C-6 Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan, for the Metric ‘Availability’ the Acceptable Performance Level’ is defined as ‘99.99% availability’. Therefore, the C.5.7 objective in the SOO document should be ‘end-to-end availability of 99.99%’ instead of the 99.9%.

Document Reference: C - SOO

Answer:

As noted in the User Service Availability Objective 7, the service availability figure “includes the reliability effects of all network components (core, gateways, eNodeBs, and backhaul) as well as the environmental survivability of the infrastructure and the benefits derived from deployable units.”

As of the release of the draft RFP, the SOO reliability figure of 99.9% is correct; based upon comments the government receives, the draft RFP is subject to change.

34. Could you please clarify the due date for Vendor Capabilities Statements for vendors wishing to partner and/or subcontract?

Also, is there a template for the Capabilities Statement response (other than page limits and font size) or is template up to the vendor?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

Vendors are free to partner or contract among themselves. As a courtesy, FirstNet will compile a list of those offerors that wish to be incorporated on a list and are interested in subcontracting and partnering opportunities with other potential offerors. If interested, please submit the business name and size and point of contact (name, e-mail address, phone number, etc.) to the Contracting Officer via email at Terrie_Callahan@ibc.doi.gov. All e-mail inquiries shall have “Teaming List – Reference # D15PS00295” included in the subject line. This information will be made available to all potential offerors via posting through the FirstNet website at www.firstnet.gov. It is not required to be listed on the teaming list in order to submit a proposal to any resultant RFP. This is optional and solely intended to be an avenue to facilitate potential subcontracting and partnering opportunities and FirstNet accepts no liability for any resultant outcomes.

FirstNet requests the submission of capabilities statements on or before, but no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday July 27, 2015. Please send a signed original and two hard copies, and one CD, to DOI-IBC-AQD, 381 Elden Street, 4th Floor, Herndon, VA 20170-4817, Attn: Terrie L. Callahan, Contracting Officer. The electronic copy shall be sent via email to Terrie_Callahan@ibc.doi.gov.

35. FirstNet has mandated its next generation solution support mission critical availability. Both FirstNet, and industry have acknowledged that achieving mission critical availability starts with security being built into any solution from its inception, and not as an after the fact consideration/requirement.

Referencing Public Law 112-96 (“ensures the safety, security, and resiliency of the network, including requirements for protecting and monitoring the network to protect against cyberattack”) and FirstNet’s own statements confirming the importance of security in any proposed solution, when can industry expect to receive the Appendix C-10, FirstNet Cyber Hardness Requirements to ensure security is incorporated into any proposed solution from its inception?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

Appendix C-10, FirstNet Cyber Hardness Requirements, will be included in a subsequent RFP and may be released in a draft form at FirstNet's discretion. Appendix C-10 was intentionally omitted, as stated in the amendment to the Special Notice D15PS00295B posted on FBO on April 27, 2015 at 9:06 pm. Appendix C-10 is still being developed in consultation with states, tribes, territories, public safety stakeholders, and market participants, and may be provided at a later date or in a subsequent RFP.

36. Please also provide the email address where we can send vendor capabilities list.

- Will it be possible to obtain copies of technical presentation given by CTO, program manager and Dir. State planning ?

- We would also like to request a meeting to discuss service we can provide (also submitted earlier) with the technical team leaders

Document Reference: General

Answer:

FirstNet requests the submission of capabilities statements, including a signed original, two hard copies, and one CD, to DOI-IBC-AQD, 381 Elden Street, 4th Floor, Herndon, VA 20170-4817, Attn: Terrie L. Callahan, Contracting Officer. The electronic copy shall be sent via email to Terrie_Callahan@ibc.doi.gov.

Copies of presentations from Industry Day are available via <http://www.firstnet.gov/about/doing-business-FirstNet>.

Vendors who are interested in meeting with FirstNet should complete the FirstNet Vendor Meeting Request Form, found on www.FirstNet.gov, and submit it to FirstNetIndustryLiaison@firstnet.gov. FirstNet reserves the right to request additional information and/or clarification on the submission in

order to make a determination regarding sessions and potential participants. Once the determination has been made to conduct a session, the FirstNet Industry Liaison will contact the requesting party to schedule the meeting.

37. “Location Services. “ A.7.1.10 is missing from all C-7 Appendices re Operational Architecture Functional Descriptions.

Document Reference: C-9 Use Cases Page 0 Section / Paragraph: A.7.1.10

Answer:

References to “Location Services A.7.1.10” in Appendix C-9 are incorrect. They should be replaced with “A.7.1.2, Location Services Product Life Cycle Management”. This will be corrected in a subsequent RFP.

38. “Location Services. “ A.7.1.10 is missing from all C-7 Appendices re Operational Architecture Functional Descriptions.

Document Reference: C-9 Use Cases Page 0 Section / Paragraph: A.7.1.10

Answer:

References to “Location Services A.7.1.10” in Appendix C-9 are incorrect. They should be replaced with “A.7.1.2, Location Services Product Life Cycle Management”. This will be corrected in a subsequent RFP

39. Our company is interested in partnering with other companies and we would like to added to your list of companies interested in partnering. How do we go about getting on your list?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

Please submit the business name and size and point of contact (name, e-mail address, phone number, etc.) to the Contracting Officer via email at Terrie_Callahan@ibc.doi.gov. All e-mail inquiries shall have “Teaming List – Reference # D15PS00295” included in the subject line. This information will be made available to all potential offerors via posting through the FirstNet website at www.firstnet.gov. It is not required to be listed on the teaming list in order to submit a proposal to any resultant RFP. This is optional and solely intended to be an avenue to facilitate potential subcontracting and partnering opportunities and FirstNet accepts no liability for any resultant outcomes.

40. Can you explain the requirement to be financially sustainable outlined in the Special Notice and FirstNet’s financial model presentation from Industry day and how excess revenue is to be used?

Answer:

The Special Notice, and the Industry Day presentation, demonstrated FirstNet’s conceptual model for becoming financially sustainable. In addition to up to \$6.5 billion in cash, offeror(s) could receive revenue from public safety user fees as well as any value derived from using excess network capacity, depending on whether the offeror was operating under Category One or Category Two. In return, offerors would propose a solution consistent with the objectives provided in the Special Notice. For example, SOO Objective 13, Lifecycle Innovation, suggests ongoing reinvestment into the network by requiring an evolution of the NPSBN to stay current with 3GPP standards as well as those unique public safety features noted in Appendix C-8, IOC-FOC Timeline.

In addition, FirstNet requests that offeror(s) propose regular fixed payments to FirstNet to support ongoing program costs, such as costs associated with maintaining FirstNet headquarters. Those fixed payments would be determined as part of offerors’ proposals and would allow FirstNet to become financially sustainable by providing resources to support activities not provided for within the scope of the contract(s) discussed in the Special Notice. Actual revenue collections from public safety user fees or from use of excess network capacity, whether higher or lower than initial expectations, would not change the fixed payment to FirstNet or offerors’ obligation to meet the objectives of the acquisition. After meeting FirstNet’s stated objectives in the RFP and the subsequent award(s), Offerors’ profits from excess revenues received need not be re-invested in the network.

41. I understand we cannot have discussions with FirstNet staff other than as directed through the contracting officer. With those restrictions, how do we get technical questions answered?

Answer:

Submit a question as noted in the Special Notice, and the answers will be published to all potential offerors. The form for submitting questions is titled “Special Notice Attachment - Question or Comment Template”. There is a link to it from D15PS00295 on FBO.

42. It appears that FirstNet has changed its coverage moto from “every square meter” to something more affordable but still focused on where public safety needs coverage. Can you explain that in more detail?

Answer:

The maps that FirstNet released show the coverage objectives and serve as a tool to create dialogue on what is important for public safety for a given state or territory. The maps will be updated through the

consultation process. The RFP will be based upon the updated maps. In addition, FirstNet anticipates use of temporary on-demand coverage as outlined in the SOO.

43. With the recent emphasis on situational awareness from the public, i.e., social media, is there an interest within FirstNet to include gathering situational awareness directly from the public and having that information distributed directly to First Responders?

Answer:

Situational awareness is likely to be a valuable application of which public safety will make much use. However, the details of which applications are adopted and their specific functionality is an operational detail that will be decided on by public safety entity users as the network matures. At the moment, it is FirstNet's intent to create a network, and an applications ecosystem, that is capable of implementing any number of applications.

44. Your financial sustainability appears to be contingent upon the size of the user base. You mentioned a number ranging from 4 million to more than 10 million. Could you explain how you came up with those numbers and why there is such a wide range?

Answer:

Much of the information regarding the number of public safety users in various categories is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government data sources. The range is based on FirstNet's Public Notice that sought comments on the preliminary definition and scope of the term "public safety entity" from FirstNet's enabling legislation, as well as independent market research data. The more restrictive the definition, the lower the user base, and the more inclusive the definition, the larger the potential user base, subject in both cases to the anticipated priority and preemption functionality of the network. FirstNet continues to seek feedback regarding the definition of "public safety entity."

45. Will FirstNet allow non-FirstNet handset to use the FirstNet network?

Answer:

The devices team is examining whether non-FirstNet handsets will be allowed to use the FirstNet network. Obviously, any device will require band 14 within the device to access the FirstNet network. As noted in FirstNet's Second Public Notice, published in the Federal Register on March 13, 2015, seeking comment on Further Proposed Interpretations of Parts of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, and as required by the Act, FirstNet is required to promote competition in the equipment market, including devices for public safety communications, by requiring, among other things, that equipment for use on the network be built to open, non-proprietary, commercially available standards. The Second Notice, FirstNet preliminarily concluded that such requirement applies only to

connectivity to the network and is not intended to restrict the operating systems upon which handsets operate. FirstNet is continuing to seek feedback and complete its analysis of this requirement.

46. As you get more granularity in your business case and you get through to consultation efforts will you be providing more detail regarding your business model?

Answer:

To the extent additional information becomes available that would aid FirstNet in acquiring the best possible solution for public safety, FirstNet will make such additional information available either by updating the draft RFP documents, issuing future public notices, or via the forthcoming RFP release.

47. If the network will be utilizing existing buildings were towers, who will be signing the lease on behalf of FirstNet? Who will be determining rent amounts?

Answer:

Under the framework proposed in the Special Notice, FirstNet’s assumption is that ownership of leases will be determined as part of the solution proposed to FirstNet. Offerors will propose solutions that meet the structures laid out in either Category One or Category Two, including any equipment and infrastructure required to meet FirstNet’s stated objectives.

48. There has been discussion in the past suggesting that agencies might receive “user fee credits” in exchange for making assets available for FirstNet’s use. Is this still a consideration

Answer:

FirstNet will leverage, to the maximum extent economically desirable, existing commercial, state, tribal, and local infrastructure . It is unclear, at this time, exactly how, or if, existing infrastructure will be leveraged in the solution. It is unlikely, however, that FirstNet will provide credits for the use of infrastructure, which is currently anticipated to be provided by offerors as part of their proposed solutions.

49. The network is going to be quite complex and will include base stations, towers, backhaul, a centralized core, and probably and applications server in a data center somewhere. When something doesn’t work who has the responsibility of isolating the problem and correcting the issues?

Answer:

The Operational Architecture (SOO Appendix C-7) that was included in the draft RFP release defines tasks that must be accomplished in order to make the NPSBN operational, and it defines who has ownership of each individual task. FirstNet has defined responsibility for a small number of these but is

soliciting input as to the most efficient way to allocate responsibility and accountability and ensure an operating network.

50. How is FirstNet, and how are potential offerors, to make use of existing public and private assets and how will FirstNet ensure that we do not overbuild where assets exist today?

Answer:

FirstNet anticipates that offerors will provide nationwide or regional solutions using infrastructure that they own, infrastructure that they have access to through existing partnerships, or entirely new infrastructure. As additional sites and other infrastructure are required, offerors would have the responsibility of negotiating new leases or initiating new construction. FirstNet anticipates that the cost of existing infrastructure use, and that of obtaining new infrastructure via lease or construction, would be included in an offeror's proposal to FirstNet.

51. Could you talk about the difference in the deployment process within states that opt in versus states that opt out?

Answer:

When a state seeks to opt-out of the awarded FirstNet Radio Access Network (RAN) deployment, that state is accepting responsibility for building and maintaining the RAN in such state and ensuring that its connection to the FirstNet core remains operational and compliant with FirstNet interface requirements and network policies. Prior to a state being authorized to deploy the RAN in its state, the state must go through a process inclusive of a number of steps and approvals. This process is outlined in Section 6302(e) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 , and has been discussed in detail in FirstNet's Notice and Request for Comments published on the Federal Register (<https://federalregister.gov>) on March 13, 2015. The process includes at high level, among other things, the following steps:

- The Governor must provide notice of the state's intention to deploy the RAN within its state within 90 days of receiving the proposed plan for the build out of the network in that state from FirstNet; If no notice is provided within 90 days, the deployment will proceed pursuant to FirstNet's proposed plan;
- The state is then required to develop its own requests for proposal and deliver an alternate plan to the FCC, all within 180 days of the Governor's decision;
- The FCC will either approve or deny the request to implement the alternate plan based on interoperability criteria in the Act;
- If denied, the deployment will proceed pursuant to FirstNet's proposed plan;

- If approved, the state may apply to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) for a grant to help with construction of the RAN, and must apply to NTIA for approval to enter into a spectrum capacity lease with FirstNet, both based on approval criteria set forth in the Act;
- If approved to enter into a spectrum capacity lease, the state must then negotiate the terms of the lease with FirstNet and enter into the lease with FirstNet;
- Only at that point, may the construction and deployment of the RAN by the state commence.

52. Should offerors supply chain management and logistics capabilities relative site acquisition be included in the capability statements that are due on July 27?

Answer:

Yes, offerors should provide this information in capabilities statements. Details about what information should be provided in the capabilities statement is found in Section 4.1.3 of the Special Notice.

53. During the course of your presentation at Industry Day you said that it is important for us to begin to form partnerships now. Can you give us any guidance on what smaller entities should be doing now to build these relationships?

Answer:

There are a lot of pieces to this and nearly all will require partners in order to provide what FirstNet requires. You should ensure that you understand the FirstNet objectives and what competencies and products you can provide and work to find partners who need what you can offer. FirstNet will post a list of those companies interested in teaming on FBO. If you wish to be added to the teaming list, please submit the business name and size and point of contact (name, e-mail address, phone number, etc.) to the Contracting Officer via email at Terrie_Callahan@ibc.doi.gov. All e-mail inquiries shall have “Teaming List – Reference # D15PS00295” included in the subject line. This information will be made available to all potential offerors via posting through the FirstNet website at www.firstnet.gov. It is not required to be listed on the teaming list in order to submit a proposal to any resultant RFP. This is optional and solely intended to be an avenue to facilitate potential subcontracting and partnering opportunities and FirstNet accepts no liability for any resultant outcomes.

54. Will there only be one application vendor chosen to deliver the IMS infrastructure for FirstNet?

Answer:

As outlined in the SOO, Objective #5, FirstNet is seeking an applications ecosystem that would enable a vibrant community of application developers. As currently proposed in the Special Notice, FirstNet does not anticipate direct involvement in the selection of any application vendor(s). FirstNet is seeking feedback on its proposed acquisition approach in response to the Special Notice.

55. You have articulated two categories of proposals that you are prepared to receive: Category 1, a single nationwide provider of all services, and Category 2, a regional RAN and CLA solution. Would you consider other alternatives, perhaps a Category 3, that divides the assets and responsibilities up a little differently?

Answer:

Through the Special Notice, FirstNet seeks feedback and comments, and this type of information is welcome. FirstNet has put forth its notional concept, but if you see something that may be a better value to FirstNet’s mission, then please submit it for consideration as strategies and approaches are finalized.

56. Appendix C-1 does not indicate the degree of indoor versus outdoor coverage objectives. Is the intent to leave those details until the release of the final RFP?

Answer:

As part of FirstNet’s outreach effort, FirstNet personnel are engaging in dialogue with stakeholders about coverage objectives. Specific in-building coverage requirements will be a part of that discussion and will lead FirstNet to the coverage objectives and updated maps that will be released as part of the RFP.

57. Do you have a definition of a “sustainable business model?”

Answer:

A sustainable business model for FirstNet is one where broadband capabilities are made available to public safety entities, consistent with FirstNet’s objectives, direct expenditures from FirstNet to achieve the objectives and support FirstNet program overhead costs do not exceed \$7 billion provided by Congress.

58. Will there be a small business target or any mandatory contracting with small businesses?

Answer:

The FAR requires that an acquisition of this size have a small business subcontracting plan. The purpose of the Special Notice is to obtain feedback regarding the acquisition approach and strategy, which will inform FirstNet’s determination as to any small business set-asides. FirstNet encourages stakeholders to offer feedback on or before July 27, 2015. Any information pertaining to set-asides would be reflected in a subsequent RFP.

59. State opt-out decisions are likely to affect your financial sustainability picture and the “pricing” of proposals that you get from offerors. How are you going to manage that given that the timing of opt-out decisions could likely occur after the RFP release and initial responses?

Answer:

The timing is quite difficult and FirstNet does understand that approved opt-out decisions may change the financial picture. It is FirstNet’s intent to seek an “all opt-in solution” with associated proposals and pricing. If opt-out decisions occur, FirstNet has a number of mechanisms it can use to allow scope and price changes to offerors’ proposals if they are required.

60. The recent incident of Baltimore brings to mind the need for interoperability among agencies. The Maryland National Guard was activated, they are using their network along with their own devices. The state and city policy are also there. How does FirstNet envision all of this coming together into one interoperable network?

Answer:

FirstNet’s vision is to offer a compelling and competitive service so that all of these entities, including the National Guard, become subscribers to FirstNet. SOO Objective #1 outlines the need for a nationwide, interoperable, public safety broadband data network that leverages commercial standards.

FirstNet has dedicated state, tribal, and federal outreach liaisons that are coordinating across all of our potential stakeholder agencies.

61. With respect to traditional data center applications such as CAD systems and cloud services, do you anticipate a single source solution, or various public safety enterprises deploying their own solution?

Answer:

FirstNet has not made any final determinations on the applications ecosystem architecture. Either scenario could be a possibility, and more detail is expected to be outlined in the final RFP.

62. In the draft RP, you talk about base roaming agreement prior to the NPSBN coming online. Could you elaborate a bit more on that?

Answer:

The intent is to show the possibility of deploying a mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) solution quite quickly after contract award to speed initial deployment to public safety, and all of the potential interfaces that might be affected. The details will be determined by the offeror’s solution that best meets FirstNet’s objectives.

63. You have talked about cloud services being an offering that you are pursuing. Have you solicited input, during your outreach, as to the level of interest from public safety in using cloud services?

Answer:

Yes, FirstNet is consulting with public safety about the applications that are being used today, and the type of applications that may generate interest in the future. FirstNet has not specifically pursued the cloud question, but it is something for consideration.

64. This section refers to offerors providing Band 14 enabled devices. However, it is the State’s opinion that FirstNet’s approach was to encourage a broad device “ecosystem” without limiting the number of device suppliers. Can FirstNet please clarify if they are requesting that the RFP respondents are to offer Band 14 devices or if they are to encourage and develop a broad device ecosystem?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 4 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.1.3.2

Answer:

FirstNet seeks feedback on how best to maximize the offerings and capabilities of Band 14 enabled devices. Potential offerors should explain how their offering, and that of their partners, will meet FirstNet’s objectives for devices as stated in the SOO Section C.5.4.

65. FirstNet refers to offerors having access to the Band 14 Excess Network Capacity. Where does FirstNet request the offeror to explain how it will provide the priority to public safety in the event of an emergency?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 7 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.5

Answer:

FirstNet’s objectives regarding priority and preemption are outlined in the Statement of Objectives, section C.5.10, Priority Services.

66. Will a draft version of Appendix C-2 be made available?

Document Reference: C - SOO Page 6 Section / Paragraph: Table 1

Answer:

SOO Appendix C-2, Service Level Agreement for Radio Access Network (RAN) Integration, may be provided at a later date or in a subsequent RFP. However, FirstNet is looking for feedback on the obligations necessary to achieve seamless operation of the network if a state chooses to take responsibility for building, maintaining, operating its own RAN.

67. Will a draft version of Appendix C-10 be made available?

Document Reference: C - SOO Page 6 Section / Paragraph: Table 1

Answer:

FirstNet expects to release SOO Appendix C-10, FirstNet Cyber Hardness Requirements, in a subsequent RFP.

68. Listed metrics in the table do not specifically reference SOO Objectives 3 (Pricing), 4 (Devices, although there are specific device metrics), 11 (Integration of Opt-Out RANs), 12 (Integration of existing infrastructure), 13 (Lifecycle Innovation), 16 (Compliance with the Act). Will other performance metrics be established to cover these objectives?

Document Reference: C-6 QASP Page 21 Section / Paragraph: Appendix C-6

Answer:

Page 1 of the QASP states “[t]he Surveillance Matrix, below, lists a sampling of representative metrics and surveillance methods that FirstNet anticipates using in its validation of SOO compliance. FirstNet seeks comment on this approach in general as well as specific comments regarding metrics and/or surveillance methods.” FirstNet anticipates that the QASP released as part of the RFP will have additional information, including performance metrics.

69. When will the Government release a draft of the evaluation criteria, since the criteria significantly influence the manner in which Contractors respond to solicitations from a technical and pricing perspective?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

FirstNet anticipates issuing the evaluation criteria (Section M) in the subsequent RFP. Once the RFP has been released, FirstNet will ensure sufficient time for any questions with regards to all sections of the RFP, including any evaluation criteria for the NPSBN acquisition.

70. When will the Government release further requirements or minimum standards related to ancillary technologies such as deployables, satellite communications, etc.

Document Reference: General Page 0

Answer:

FirstNet is seeking feedback pertaining to ancillary technologies as they pertain to Category One and/or Category Two of the Special Notice and Statement of Objectives, objective seven.

71. How will coverage and throughputs be demonstrated by the offeror? We assume that industry standard propagation maps would be used to determine coverage. Is that correct?

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1 Section / Paragraph: Section 1

Answer:

Any instructions with regard to submission of proposal information will be specified in Section L of the subsequent RFP. Also, the final RFP (Section M) will define FirstNet's methodology for how offerors will be assessed in this area. Once the RFP has been released, FirstNet will ensure sufficient time for any questions with regard to all sections of the RFP, including any evaluation criteria for the NPSBN acquisition.

72. How should the offeror interpret the throughput requirement that defines coverage? Is it up to the offeror to define the outdoor link budget that will achieve the required throughput?

Document Reference: C-1 Coverage Objective Maps Page 1 Section / Paragraph: Section 1, Table 1

Answer:

Yes, it is up to the offeror to define the radio design. FirstNet will provide coverage requirements and criteria for assessment in the RFP.

73. Will any non-compliance with “SHALL” statements immediate preclude the offeror from consideration? Does the offeror have the option to indicate where they comply or do not comply with the minimum technical standards?

Document Reference: C-3 FCC Tab Page 0

Answer:

During the evaluation of the proposed solution, if the offeror's solution failed to demonstrate compliance with any required term and/or condition as stated in the RFP, they could potentially be removed from further consideration.

74. When FirstNet references “SHALL” compliance with a particular specification, how should this be interpreted with regards to both the mandatory and optional aspects of the specification?

Document Reference: C-3 FCC Tab Page 0

Answer:

The RFP will clearly identify those terms and conditions that must (shall) be compliant and those that are optional.

75. Since requirements are different for Category 1 and Category 2 offerors, can FirstNet indicate the requirements for each category (or show them in separate documents)?

Document Reference: C-3 FCC Tab Page 0

Answer:

The purpose of the Special Notice is to obtain feedback in order to better understand industry’s capabilities, analyze the recommendations and alternative approaches, and determine how to best leverage existing capabilities and best practices in order to meet public safety needs. This includes a determination with regards to Category One, Category Two, and/or any other viable approaches. FirstNet may provide additional information regarding such requirements in a subsequent RFP.

76. MOCN is not mentioned as a possible network architecture. Is it up to the offeror to determine the network architecture that is best suited for the job? Does FirstNet have a preference on how RAN sharing occurs?

Document Reference: C-4 SV-1 and StdV-1 Page 0

Answer:

FirstNet seeks feedback on the concepts included in the Special Notice, and the network architecture options that best enable a comprehensive nationwide network solution. Offerors would propose a solution in response to the subsequent RFP.

77. Can you explain the Green FirstNet cloud around yellow functional elements? What is meant by the FirstNet cloud from an implementation standpoint?

Document Reference: C-4 SV-1 and StdV-1 Page 2 Section / Paragraph: Figure 1

Answer:

The green cloud represents organizational ownership from a governance perspective. While the offeror has ownership of the yellow functions/systems in the diagram, FirstNet has overall ownership of the collection of functions within the green cloud. The colors pertain to the legend for the operational architecture in the SOO Appendix C-7, Operational Architecture, for which FirstNet seeks feedback.

78. In C-4, Figure 1 there is an MVNO box connecting to multiple commercial carriers. Can you clarify this architecture and purpose? Depending on the desired functionality (e.g., if public safety users can utilize the commercial network) it may be better to have offerors propose a solution versus predetermining that the solution is an MVNO. Who is the MVNO? What is the use case for the MVNO box? Is there an intent to migrate off of this as the NPSBN gets built?

Document Reference: C-4 SV-1 and StdV-1 Page 2 Section / Paragraph: Figure 1

Answer:

FirstNet seeks feedback on early service offerings, including non-Band 14 deployment in accordance with SOO Objective 6, including an MVNO solution as specified in Appendix C-8, the IOC/FOC Target Timeline.

79. What are the expectations for IOC1 commercial network usage? Will it be all MVNO? Will it include just branding or other elements, as well?

Document Reference: C-8 IOC / FOC Page 4 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.1.1

Answer:

FirstNet seeks feedback on early service offerings, including non-Band 14 deployment in accordance with SOO Objective 6, including an MVNO solution as specified in Appendix C-8, the IOC/FOC Target Timeline.

80. Assuming only one Category 1 bidder will be awarded, are subcontractors for category 1 bidders permitted to have an agreement with more than one Category 1 bidder?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 0 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.3

Answer:

From the Government's perspective, yes, a company can be a subcontractor to as many Prime Category One offerors as they choose.

81. Should there be a “Category 3” that enables an offeror to respond on all the “not Category 2” functions, i.e., non-RAN functions? Would this better enable integration of opt out states (i.e., Category 3 bidders would not be affected by opt in/out since they do not include RAN functions)?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 0 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.3

Answer:

FirstNet seeks feedback on the acquisition approach and welcomes suggestions regarding alternatives that meet FirstNet’s stated objectives.

82. If there is no separate category as defined in [81] above (i.e., a Category 3 that only provides some or all non-RAN functions), who will perform Category 1 tasks, e.g., device procurement and application ecosystem, if a Category 2 approach is selected?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 0 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.3

Answer:

FirstNet envisions that the Category 1 provider will provide non-RAN functions in a Category 2 region. Under the Special Notice, Category 2 is limited to the RAN and Covered Leasing Agreement high level functions only. Respondents are encouraged to provide feedback on this approach.

83. Can a Category 1 or 2 bidder piece together a network in the state from others (e.g., subcontractors, partners)? Corollary: can a network carrier just sign up as a subcontractor to build a subset of a state’s geography?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 0 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.3

Answer:

Yes, a Category One or Two offeror can encompass network offerings from one or more firms (e.g., subcontractors) as long as the proposed approach would best meet FirstNet’s stated objectives which include nationwide coverage.

84. Does failure to bid directly in the RFP or not being part of a bidding team exclude an entity from being used as a subcontractor (i.e., do all national, regional, and local partners need to be defined in the bid or can they be developed over time)?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 0 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.3

Answer:

No, not being included in the proposed solution, as a teaming partner and/or subcontractor, would not exclude an entity from being proposed and potentially “added” after award.

85. What are the exact requirements for small business awards of work? How is a small business defined? If a Category 1 or 2 offeror subcontracts work to a small business, does that satisfy the small business requirements?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 0 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.3

Answer:

The requirement will be in accordance with FAR Subpart 19.7, with respect to small business subcontracting goals identified as they relate to the Department of Commerce’s (DoC) overall total acquisitions. These are the overall goals for all acquisitions awarded for/by DoC for the current fiscal year and are not intended to be goals for a subsequent award only. The proposed plan would have to: (i) identify a statement of the total dollars planned to be subcontracted and a statement of the total dollars planned to be subcontracted to small business within the various socio-economic areas; (ii) describe the efforts the offeror will make to ensure that small business concerns have an equitable opportunity to compete for subcontracts; and (iii) describe potential for further subcontracting opportunities with small businesses. The small business size standard defines the largest that a business concern, including all of its affiliates, may be and yet qualify as a small business concern for federal programs. For the size standard applicable to the NPSBN acquisition, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code will be included in the subsequent RFP.

86. Section 4.1.1 states “FirstNet seeks comments on all aspects of the acquisition strategy/approaches described in this notice, including feedback concerning FirstNet’s proposed pricing concepts and operational architecture principles. Comments shall be submitted via email on or before, but no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday July 27, 2015, utilizing the attached form.” Please confirm this is a separate requirement than the 50-page Capabilities Statements. Also, the “attached form” for submitting the comments requested does not appear on FBO. Please clarify this requirement and provide the Form referenced on FBO.

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 3 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.1.1

Answer:

Yes, the submission of comments is a separate submission from the 50-page limited Capabilities Statements. The form to be utilized for submission of comments is the “Q & A Template” on FBO.

87. Will FirstNet allow hand delivery of the 2 hard copies and 1 CD of the Capabilities Statements response on or before the 12:00pm ET July 27, 2014 due date?

Document Reference: Special Notice Page 4 Section / Paragraph: Section 4.1.4

Answer:

Yes, hand delivered submissions are permissible at the address identified in the Special Notice in Section 4.1.4, Capabilities Statements Response Due Date. However, please be advised this location is a secured facility. Therefore, if any submissions are hand delivered, please instruct the guard to contact the Contracting Officer, Terrie Callahan, or Randy Artz, for pick up.

88. When will drafts of Appendix C-2, Service Level Agreement for Radio Access Network (RAN) Integration, and Appendix C-10, FirstNet Cyber Hardness Requirements, be published?

Document Reference: C - SOO Page 7

Answer:

SOO Appendix C-2, Service Level Agreement for Radio Access Network (RAN) Integration, may be provided at a later date or in a subsequent RFP. However, FirstNet is looking for feedback on the obligations necessary to achieve seamless operation of the network if a state chooses to take responsibility for building, maintaining, operating its own RAN. FirstNet expects to release SOO Appendix C-10, FirstNet Cyber Hardness Requirements, in a subsequent RFP.

89. Section L and M were not included in the Special Notice. When does the Government expect to publish a draft of Section L and M?

Document Reference: General

Answer:

FirstNet anticipates issuing Sections L and M in the subsequent RFP. Once the RFP has been released, FirstNet will ensure sufficient time for any questions with regards to all sections of the RFP, including any evaluation criteria and/or instructions for the NPSBN acquisition.

90. With respect to 9-1-1 Services, FirstNet makes reference to “the public” (e.g., A.7.2.5.2.1.1. – Text to 911 Service Management). We assume that “the public” in this context refers to Secondary Use (i.e., commercial) use of the NPSBN under a CLA. If that assumption is incorrect, what is the intended scope of this functional description?

Document Reference: C-7 Operational Architecture Page 80

Answer:

The scope of "the public" includes all Band 14 users within the NPSBN coverage area. This can include secondary users under a Covered Leasing Agreement (CLA) as well as public safety users who may be first or secondary responders.

91. Section 4.4.6.3 of the Interoperability Board Report states that NG911 is “not completely defined” and that “ FN “must ensure that its network interoperates and interconnects with NG 911 systems to meet the expectations of consumers.” Accordingly, when or where in the Target Timeline does FirstNet intend for the LTE Console as set forth in NPSTC’s Public Safety Broadband Console Requirements to be integrated into the NPSBN?

Document Reference: C-8 IOC / FOC Page 0

Answer:

FirstNet is seeking input on the time required to implement the console. FirstNet requests that your feedback include an understanding of console integration and the timing dependencies on 3GPP standards work, vendor certification of the product, vendor general availability of the product and the implementation timing of the console into a live environment.

92. Section 4.4.6.3 of the Interoperability Board Report states that “[c]onsumers rightly and reasonably expect to be able to send data (pictures, video, and text messages) to 9-1-1 call centers.” Does FN expect the NPSBN to natively provide this functionality; to rely on the ESI-net to provide this functionality or both?

Document Reference: C-8 IOC / FOC Page 0

Answer:

FirstNet has not determined the implementation mechanism of NG 9-1-1 services. FirstNet’s assumption is that design and implementation of services such as a NG 9-1-1 will be determined as part of an offeror's solution proposed to FirstNet.

93. Are there likely to be specific requirements for Cyber Security related protections and monitoring for the connections between FirstNet and State & Local Agencies? Is there an intention that there will be traffic shaping and separation of agency data and commercial traffic of the CLA provider (i.e., private APN, encryption)?

Document Reference: C - SOO Page 4 Section / Paragraph: C-5-9, Cyber Security

Answer:

FirstNet’s objective 10, Priority Services, seeks QoS and priority and preemption. FirstNet is seeking feedback on how to implement the framework that would support QoS and higher priority and preemption over commercial services. Appendix C-10, FirstNet Cyber Hardness Requirements, have not been included in the Special Notice, as these documents are still being developed in consultation with states, tribes, territories, public safety stakeholders, and market participants, and will be included in the subsequent RFP.

94. The term “FEDERATION” in the term “Federation of ICAM” may have specific implications to implementation. Can FirstNet clarify the proposed ICAM approaches that are acceptable?

Document Reference: C-4 SV-1 and StdV-1 Page 10 Section / Paragraph: SV-1, 4.2.7, Federated Identity Management

Answer:

FirstNet has not committed itself to any specific standard and is actively investigating emerging ICAM standards. FirstNet is open to proposed implementation solutions from offerors for identity management that enable the federation of user identities and credentials from across the full range of public safety entities.

95. Does FirstNet anticipate taking a position on a possible FCC mandate that public safety agencies eventually move off their LMR frequencies under a published schedule.

Document Reference: C-8 IOC / FOC Section / Paragraph: Timeline chart

Answer:

Currently FirstNet does not anticipate taking a position on this FCC issue.