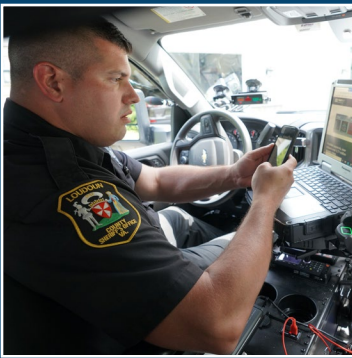


# FirstNet Authority: Federal oversight and validation of the FirstNet network



The First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet Authority, was established in 2012 to oversee the creation and delivery of a nationwide public safety broadband network. The public safety community advocated for a dedicated network after the September 11th terrorist attacks highlighted gaps in the nation's emergency communications. The FirstNet Authority has made significant progress to realize public safety's vision for the network.

## A network designed for public safety

Through the founding legislation, the FirstNet Authority was charged with several responsibilities, including:

- Planning for the network in consultation with public safety officials
- Executing an open, fair, competitive bid process to select a network partner
- Overseeing key elements of the network once operational, including network availability, performance, and enhancements
- Directing investments back into the network based on public safety's needs

Following extensive consultation and planning with public safety, the FirstNet Authority entered into a public-private partnership with AT&T in 2017. Under the indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity services contract, AT&T must build, operate, maintain, and enhance the network for 25 years while achieving public safety user adoption targets and maintaining a minimum number of devices connected to the network. The contract also guarantees the FirstNet Authority's continued financial sustainability over the life of the contract through annual payments from AT&T to the FirstNet Authority, making the FirstNet Authority self-sustaining.

The unique requirements of this contract provide incentives for the network contractor to continue to grow and strengthen the network over the life of the contract. It also holds the network contractor accountable by instituting penalties and corrective actions when contract requirements are not met. This arrangement ensures the FirstNet network meets the rigorous communication needs of our nation's first responders and continues to evolve to meet their changing requirements.

## Contract Task Orders

### TASK ORDER 1

- Develop a web-based mechanism for delivering State Plans

### TASK ORDER 2

- Deliver State Plans for each of the 56 states and territories

### TASK ORDER 3

- Deploy, operate, and maintain the network's core and its functions

### TASK ORDER 4

- Deploy the network's Band 14 coverage, including radio access networks that connect to the core

### TASK ORDER 5

- Connect and equip the Boulder FirstNet Lab

### TASK ORDER 6

- Expand and optimize capacity of the existing FirstNet-dedicated deployable fleet

### TASK ORDER 7

- Deliver Phase 1 technology upgrades to bring the network's core towards 5G capabilities

### TASK ORDER 8

- New technology feasibility assessments

### TASK ORDER 9

- Agency Deployed RAN Extension Services



## Federal oversight strengthens FirstNet

The FirstNet Authority's role has changed over time as the network has transitioned from concept to reality. Today, the FirstNet Authority is focused on ensuring that AT&T delivers on the terms of its contract to create a network designed for public safety. **This function is unique to FirstNet; no other carrier gives public safety the same level of assurances and government oversight.**

The FirstNet Authority monitors AT&T's performance through several approaches. Our team relies on more than 100 recurring deliverables and over 40 key performance indicators to assess AT&T's performance and progress against more than 1,000 contract objectives and requirements. Some of the notable deliverable categories include:

- Network build and deployment progress
- Network coverage and capacity stats
- FirstNet user adoption figures
- Application and device ecosystem details
- State- and territory-specific commitments

If deliverables are missed, performance lags, or contract requirements are not met, the contract provides paths for corrective actions and recourse.

To provide further assurances to the public safety community, the FirstNet Authority's contract oversight function is regularly audited by government entities, including the Office of the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, providing a high standard for contract administration.

FirstNet is different than other solutions. Through our meticulous oversight process and a team of dedicated experts and contract specialists, we make sure first responders get the network they need.



### FirstNet Authority

The FirstNet Authority oversees the creation and delivery of FirstNet. An independent entity within the Department of Commerce, the FirstNet Authority ensures AT&T delivers on the terms of its contract and deploys a network that meets the needs of public safety now and into the future.



### FirstNet: The Network

FirstNet is a nationwide wireless broadband network for first responders being built and deployed across all 50 states, 5 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. FirstNet offers public safety a communications network built and customized to meet their needs.



### AT&T

AT&T is building, operating, maintaining, and enhancing the FirstNet network in accordance with a 25-year contract with the FirstNet Authority. As part of this agreement, AT&T gains access to 20 MHz of federally owned spectrum licensed to the FirstNet Authority and \$6.5 billion in initial funding, and it will invest about \$40 billion over the life of the contract in the network.

