



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR FIRST RESPONDER INTEROPERABILITY SUBMITS REPORT TO FCC

Washington, D.C. – This press release is issued on behalf of the Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability (Interoperability Board). The Interoperability Board was established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) pursuant to Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act). The Interoperability Board was required to develop recommendations for minimum technical requirements to ensure a nationwide level of interoperability for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and submit those recommendations to the FCC. The recommendations are to be ultimately submitted to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). Meeting its statutory requirements, the Interoperability Board formally submitted their recommendations to the FCC on May 22, 2012.

On March 22, 2012, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski appointed 14 members, who along with one non-voting member selected by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and established the Interoperability Board. Chairman, Charles L.K. Robinson and Vice Chairman, Kenneth C. Budka, were elected by the Board members. “The FCC assembled a very talented team of professionals to take on the challenge of developing these critical recommended requirements within a very compressed scheduled,” said Robinson.

The Interoperability Board worked in consultation with NTIA, the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and the Office of Emergency Communications of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Interoperability Board also used subject matter experts (SMEs), from both inside and outside the members’ organizations, which proved to be critical to the quality of the Board’s work. “The representatives of the Consulting Agencies have been thorough and forward thinking in helping the Interoperability Board meet its statutory requirement,” said Robinson. The Board’s commitment to seeking the broadest possible input within its constrained schedule aided them in developing a complete set of recommended minimum technical requirements within the scope of the Spectrum Act.

These requirements not only seek nationwide interoperability but set a minimal baseline that, if adhered to, can further an interoperable, multi-vendor network for first responders. “We [the



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Interoperability Board] are confident that this work is a solid foundation for the NPSBN,” says Robinson. Through the unique collaboration between all of the Interoperability Board members, many SMEs, the Consulting Agencies and the public, the Board was able to successfully achieve its legislative mandate within 60 days. With the requirement recommendations of the Board now released, the Board anticipates that the FCC will continue to move forward in developing its interoperability requirements for FirstNet focused on ensuring the interoperability of the NPSBN.”

For further information, contact Interoperability Board Chairman, Charles L. K. Robinson at (704)432-3539 or clrobinson@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

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