FirstNet Meets with EMS Physicians
FirstNet Board Member Kevin MGinnis, Paramedic Chief (Ret.), and FirstNet Senior EMS Advisor Brent Williams met with emergency physicians attending the National EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) Annual Meeting in New Orleans in January.

“The NAEMSP meeting was invaluable for FirstNet and the EMS physicians to engage on the most important technical challenges of the emergency medical teams,” Kevin said. “We’ve been working together for some time, but the opportunity to sit face-to-face and talk about the latest trends and issues moves us that much closer to delivering the best broadband network for emergency medical teams.”

Emergency physicians look to FirstNet to deliver the kind of prioritized LTE spectrum needed to keep up with emerging technical applications in telemedicine and out-of-hospital emergency care, Brent said. “We look forward to moving into our customer service phase to meet all the needs of the emergency medical community,” he said.

Read more about FirstNet’s role at the NAEMSP annual meeting at FirstNet.gov

FirstNet-APC0 Collaborate on Applications
FirstNet’s applications group, based in Boulder, Colorado, has been working with the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International to foster emerging applications for public safety. Participants in APCO’s third technology workshop called for developers to create a tool for testing new apps for interoperability and cybersecurity on FirstNet’s network.

“The excitement surrounding FirstNet is not only in its broadband capabilities, which will be a game-changer, but also in the competition for public safety apps that we expect it to spark,” FirstNet Chief Technology Officer Jeff Bratcher said. “If FirstNet can help foster that kind of technical innovation, we will open up a new world in which first responders are more prepared, safer, and in better positions to serve the public based on the apps they will be able to access.”

Read more on APCO’s TabletopX Blog.

2017 State Plans Consultation
The new year brings a new phase for FirstNet’s Chief Customer Office (CCO), which has been focused on building relationships at the state, tribal, federal and local levels to hear about the technical and operational needs of public safety. “State Single Points of Contacts and public safety leaders have been heavily involved in learning more about consultation with FirstNet in their states,” said FirstNet Board Vice Chairman Jeff Johnson.

Following the contract award by FirstNet for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), FirstNet and its partner will work to deliver individual State Plans detailing the proposed network deployment in each state. Once delivered, the Governor will have 90 days to make a decision regarding the Radio Access Network (RAN) deployment.

“We want to take the plans as we’ve designed them, along with what the partner has proposed, and present those to the states,” he continued. “The consultation around that is going to be ahead of it, during, and after.”

See more on FirstNet’s website, “Key Factors for Governor Decision.”

When states and territories receive their customized State Plans in 2017, FirstNet will continue to work with the SPOCs to prepare them for the governors’ decisions. States are encouraged to stay updated on the latest FirstNet news and deployment plans by visiting FirstNet.gov and FirstNet’s YouTube channel to watch tutorials on FirstNet State Plans key considerations.
FirstNet Makes Public Safety Push at Technology Show
Las Vegas welcomed nearly 200,000 people to witness breakthrough technology debuted at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES 2017). FirstNet’s CEO Mike Poth and President TJ Kennedy carried the message to CES that many of these technologies can make a life-saving difference for public safety. By encouraging industry to think about how technology can benefit public safety, FirstNet aims to drive the advancement of communications tools for first responders.

Sensor technology and the world of connected things garnered much interest in the exhibit hall. Noticeably absent, though, was the idea of a “connected” first responder. This technology helps us to envision a day when paramedics could perhaps send a drone ahead of their arrival to gauge the severity of an incident. As they arrive they could use connected tools to take the vitals of injured people and send the data to the nearest hospital port, while responders hold a two-way video dialogue with emergency room staff who are standing by. When the FirstNet network is deployed, public safety users will have access to life saving technology. Read more on FirstNet.gov.

Vehicle Applications Expected to Reduce Crashes
Of all the new technology coming onto the market, one that is getting a lot of attention for those in public safety is vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) crash avoidance.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in December proposed a rule that would mandate V2V communication on light vehicles, allowing cars to communicate with each other to avoid crashes.

Once fully deployed, the crash avoidance applications could prevent hundreds of thousands of crashes every year by allowing vehicles to “communicate” with each other, NHTSA officials. Read more about vehicle safety applications NHTSA.gov.

EMS1 Predicts AED Improvements
EMS1 magazine has made some predictions about automated external defibrillators that would be life-saving.

In its Dec. 12 issue, EMS1 noted that studies have shown that pairing AEDs with compression-only CPR increases survival rates for patients with sudden cardiac arrest by about 41 percent.

New App Helps Response Time for Cardiac Arrest
Several California emergency services departments are using a new mobile app to help them treat cardiac arrest patients more quickly.

At least 14 agencies — including from Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena — that make up the Verdugo Fire Communications Center are part of a five-year contract to use a smartphone app, which sends notification when someone within a quarter mile is suffering cardiac arrest. The app could improve a patient’s chances of survival about 38 percent, officials said. Read more in EMS World.

Software Vendors Should Get More EMT Input on Electronic Patient Records, Survey Says
Software vendors need to work with EMS practitioners to improve their experiences using electronic patient care records, according to a new report commissioned by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians.

The 2017 National Survey on EMS ePCR Usability found that 3,160 respondents used 115 different ePCR software programs. The overall favorability score EMTs gave ePCRs was 4.5 out of 7.

The survey found that 87 percent of respondents had some training on their ePCR system. Those with the most training gave ePCRs the highest scores. See more about the survey at www.naemt.org.

Commerce Agency Offers $30 Million in Grants for First Responder Innovations
The National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Public Safety Communications Research Division (PSCR) has announced a $30 million grant funding opportunity, known as the Public Safety Innovation Accelerator Program. According to the funding opportunity announcement, eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, state and local governments, Indian tribes, hospitals, foreign public entities, and foreign governments. Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by Feb. 28.

Some of the Upcoming Events FirstNet Will Attend

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>2017 EMS Today JEMS Conference, Salt Lake City, UT</td>
<td>2/23/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina EMS Administrators Annual Conference, Wilmington, NC</td>
<td>3/9/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Public Safety Excellence Conference, Garden Grove, CA</td>
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Social Media

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