

FirstNet Authority and FirstNet, Built with AT&T FY 2023 Report to the Virginia SIEC

- The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) announced on March 10 that Joseph M. Wassel was named Executive Director and CEO. He joined the FirstNet Authority after serving in senior executive positions at the Department of Defense, where he oversaw global technology and communications systems during his 34-year career.
- On May 26, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) renewed the FirstNet Authority's Band 14 spectrum license, in accordance with requirements laid out in the Spectrum Act. Renewal of the license is necessary for the continued operation of FirstNet.
- The FirstNet Authority announced on June 15 that Renee Gordon was appointed Vice Chair of the FirstNet Authority Board, effective immediately. Gordon is the Director of the Department of Emergency and Customer Communications in the City of Alexandria, VA and has been a member of the FirstNet Authority Board since November 2022.
- AT&T reported that FirstNet had more than 26,000 public safety agencies and organizations, totaling more than five million connections, on the network as of June 2023. Also, as of that date, the network provided more than 2.91 million square miles of network coverage.
- In July the FirstNet Authority published the [Public Safety Aviation and Maritime Case Study](#), outlining public safety's broadband-related needs for aerial and maritime operations. The study involved dozens of interviews with responders who operate aviation assets, uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS), and maritime vessels.
- The 2023 edition of the [FirstNet Emergency Management Resource Guide](#) was published in September on the FirstNet Authority's website. It's a great resource for all first responders to learn about the tools, applications, and capabilities of the network.
- The latest version of the [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\) List of Certified Devices](#) (version 65.00) updated on September 29, 2023.
 - Thirty-nine new devices — including smartphones, routers, modems, laptops, and Internet of Things devices — were added to the list.
 - The total number of certified devices is now 821, with 730 of those devices supporting Band 14.
- Thanks to public safety feedback the FirstNet Authority has invested in a device called a [Cell Booster Pro](#) to improve FirstNet coverage indoors. With this program, [public safety agencies can receive up to 50 devices](#)—at no cost to the agency—to boost FirstNet inside critical buildings. Free installation is also available for eligible agencies.