



Media Mentions

April 18, - May 15, 2024

National

[FCC awarding FirstNet Authority spectrum license to 4.9 GHz would be 'unlawful,' CERCI-sponsored legal analysis claims](#)

04.18.2024 | (Urgent Communications)

A proposal calling for the FCC to grant the FirstNet Authority a nationwide license to the 4.9 GHz spectrum currently designated for public-safety use would be “unlawful,” according to a legal analysis filed this week with the FCC by an organization opposing the idea. Commissioned by the Coalition for Emergency Response and Critical Infrastructure (CERCI), the legal analysis was prepared by the law firm of Jenner & Block and submitted to the FCC on Monday as part of the ongoing 4.9 GHz proceeding. CERCI has stated its opposition to the notion of the FCC granting the FirstNet Authority a nationwide license to the 50 MHz of 4.9 GHz of spectrum—a proposal made by the Public Safety Spectrum Alliance (PSSA)—since the organization was established in November 2023.

[AST SpaceMobile streams an AT&T commercial from space to a smartphone](#)

04.16.2024 | (RCR Wireless News)

In the most recent of a series of ongoing tests with AT&T, AST SpaceMobile streamed one of the carrier’s commercials from space to a smartphone. The two companies are conducting tests via AST SpaceMobile’s BlueWalker 3 satellite, which is currently in orbit and which AST says is the largest-ever commercial communications array in low Earth orbit...However, even as AT&T and AST conduct additional direct-to-cellular testing using 10-megahertz blocks of FirstNet and 800 MHz spectrum in Texas and Hawaii, AST SpaceMobile said during its most recent quarterly call that those first five Bluebird satellites of its anticipated constellation have been delayed again due to supplier issues.

[Widespread 911 Outages Are Reported in Four States](#)

04.18.2024 | (The New York Times)

A large-scale outage on Wednesday affected residents’ ability to call the 911 emergency number in parts of Nebraska and Texas, the entire state of South Dakota and Las Vegas, according to local authorities. In Las Vegas, calls to 911 on landline phones and mobile phones were not connecting for about two hours before service was restored at about 9 p.m., the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said on social media. During the outage, dispatchers could see attempts to make calls from mobile phones and would call residents back, the police said, and all attempted calls had been answered. The outage also affected southern Nevada, the Nevada State Police said...In February, a widespread AT&T outage temporarily cut off connections for users across the United States for many hours, leaving FirstNet, the emergency communications network, out of service. Police forces like the New York Police Department were unable to make calls or send emails.

National

[Latest 3GPP standards-development work includes new classes of HPUE, progress on mission-critical services](#)

04.22.2024 | (Urgent Communications)

The 3GPP Plenary meetings took place March 18-22, 2024, in Maastricht, Netherlands. 3GPP Radio Access Network (RAN) and Core Terminal (CT) groups continued to focus on completing the work for Release 18 (R18). The specifications are functionally frozen (no new features will be added) and only minor exceptions remain. The specifications remain on track for completion by June 2024. The RAN group reported that initial work has started for Release 19 (R19). The 3GPP Service and System Aspects (SA) group reported activities continued to focus on R19 as well as planning for the 6G workshop in May 2025. The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and government agencies of other nations continue to represent public-safety interests.

[Sequans gets first Cat 1bis approval on AT&T and FirstNet in US](#)

04.23.2024 | (RCR Wireless News)

French IoT chipmaker Sequans Communications claims its Calliope 2 platform is the first Cat 1bis unit to be approved by AT&T in the US. The product, which combines the firm's Calliope 2 chip and GC02S1 module, is approved for interoperability and features for use on the FirstNet emergency services network, as well. The GC02S1 module has gained technical acceptance from AT&T's Lab, and the Calliope 2 chip has passed AT&T's ADAPT chipset verification scheme, said Sequans. FirstNet is the nationwide high-speed broadband communications network built by AT&T, in public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority, for America's first responders and the public safety community.

[Major 911 outages in 4 states leave millions without a way to contact local authorities](#)

04.18.2024 | (Yahoo! News)

Law enforcement agencies across four states were left scrambling following reports of major 911 outages that saw millions unable to contact authorities late Wednesday. Many of the outages — reported in Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota and Texas — were restored by the late evening, but the Federal Communications Commission on Thursday said its investigation is just getting started. An AT&T spokesperson said Thursday: "Our network is operating normally. There appeared to be an issue on another carrier's network that could have affected calls to 9-1-1." The carrier also said the disruption was "not a FirstNet issue," referring to the nationwide broadband network for public safety commissioned by the government and built by AT&T

National

[PSSA suggests a way for FCC to give FirstNet Authority access to 4.9 GHz, even with legal questions](#)

04.25.2024 | (Urgent Communications)

Public Safety Spectrum Alliance (PSSA) this week outlined a framework that would let the FCC provide access the FirstNet Authority to the 4.9 GHz band via a nationwide overlay license awarded to a separate nationwide band manager, thereby circumventing legal issues raised last week about the PSSA's previous proposal.

[AT&T's Stankey: We have an opportunity to win small- to medium-sized business customers](#)

04.25.2024 | (Lightwave)

AT&T's CEO John Stankey likes the telco's chances in small- to medium-sized businesses. The telco noted it has relationships with nearly 2.5 million business customers today and has an opportunity to win more small- to medium-sized business customers. Desroches pointed to FirstNet and AT&T Internet Air for Business. "A great example is FirstNet, where wireless connections grew about 320,000 sequentially," Desroches said. "We're also pleased with early demand for AT&T Internet Air for Business, which we expect to benefit results in the year's second half."

Regional

[Presque Isle State Park, AT&T reach deal. How it will benefit visitors, park services](#)

04.26.2024 | (Erie Times-News)

Whether you're a parent at Presque Isle State Park trying to upload a video of your kid building a sand castle or a peninsula visitor in need of emergency services, officials announced a public-private partnership that could benefit you. Park rangers will join others already using FirstNet, the AT&T service for first responders, Greene said. In an emergency, he said, that would give first responders priority on the service. The added coverage and capacity will also be a boon to some but not all of the more than 4 million everyday visitors who go to Presque Isle each year.

[Wildcat Rotorfest doubles in size in second year](#)

04.26.2024 | (Pennsylvania College of Technology)

The second annual Wildcat Rotorfest, held recently at Pennsylvania College of Technology by the emergency management & homeland security major, doubled in attendance and participants. The interactive career exploration day was attended by nearly 500 K-12 students from 23 schools across the state. Emergency response units participating in the day were: U.S. Coast Guard, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, Pennsylvania State Police, Williamsport Bureau of Police, Williamsport Bureau of Fire, Penn College Police, North Central Task Force, North Central Pennsylvania Unmanned Emergency Services, Clearview Asset Protection and FirstNet Communications.

National

[FirstNet Releases Spanish Language Edition of Resource Guide](#)

05.2.2024 | (Communications Daily)

The FirstNet Authority announced on Wednesday its Emergency Management Resource Guide is now available in Spanish. The guide provides information on "the products, services, and capabilities available with FirstNet," the authority said.

[FirstNet Authority releases Emergency Management Resource Guide in Spanish](#)

05.1.2024 | (Police1)

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) announced today its Emergency Management Resource Guide is now available in Spanish. The guide is a reference tool for emergency managers and first responders interested in learning about the products, services, and capabilities available with FirstNet, the nationwide public safety broadband network. This Spanish language version was created to expand the guide's effectiveness for public safety officials who are bilingual or whose jurisdictions are predominantly Spanish-speaking.

Regional

[AT&T upgrading network across Texas](#)

04.29.2024 | (Odessa American)

With an investment of more than \$12.6 billion from 2019-2023, AT&T has expanded wireless connectivity, increased access to high-speed broadband, and enhanced the first responders network across the state — FirstNet. That includes nearly \$210 million in Midland and Odessa, a news release said.

National

[AT&T offers a 'Turbo' boost for user experience, for \\$7 per month](#)

05.2.2024 | (RCR Wireless News)

AT&T has debuted a new service option that will enable customers to buy better network performance for an extra \$7 per month, and indicated that the new capability is a first step that will be expanded upon...The Mobile Report, citing a leaked image and video, has reported that Turbo allows AT&T customers to bump their Quality-of-Service Class Identifier, or QCI, to a tier with higher priority—though not as high as that of first responders on AT&T's FirstNet.

[Verizon hosts tailgate party for first responders](#)

05.3.2024 | (Fierce Network)

Verizon went big for its Frontline first responder event in Detroit last week. Despite AT&T winning the right to build out the FirstNet 700 MHz 4G LTE network in 2017, forming the first nationwide broadband interoperable public safety network, Verizon has continued to hammer its public safety message home, with discounts for first responders and an array of public safety vehicles and network assets on display in the motor city. AT&T's broad nationwide outage Feb. 22, which also affected FirstNet, didn't hurt Verizon's messaging. FirstNet CEO Joe Wassel said after the event that the outage lasted "about 3 hours" for some FirstNet users across the country.

Regional

[AT&T Concludes \\$1.6 Billion Investment in Pennsylvania](#)

05.3.2024 | (Nutfield News)

AT&T, one of the leading cellular providers in the United States, has completed a significant \$1.6 billion investment in Pennsylvania. This massive investment spans from 2019 to 2023 and encompasses various regions across the Commonwealth, aiming to enhance broadband internet access and strengthen network reliability and capacity...Additionally, AT&T is extending access to FirstNet, a service designed to connect first responders, by deploying their Band 14 service on over 2,200 sites throughout Pennsylvania. This initiative aims to provide enhanced communication capabilities for first responders in approximately 700 communities across the state.

[Willis Knighton's Brian Crawford to deliver LSUS commencement address](#)

05.2.2024 | (Bossier Press-Tribune)

Crawford will share nuggets of his journey as part of the commencement message at LSUS's graduation on May 10 at Brookshire Grocery Arena...It's not just through his formal roles that Crawford has cared for, and about, his community...He also serves on the national Department of Commerce NTIA's First Responder Network Authority Board of Directors and is a past vice chair of the Louisiana State Police Commission.

Regional

[Kzoo Co. sheriff: Communications network is 'force multiplier'](#)

05.3.2024 | (WOOD-TV)

Public safety in Kalamazoo County gathered Friday morning to showcase vital communications equipment. "We've been very fortunate to be able to utilize FirstNet as a force multiplier. When you have the technology at our fingertips, like we do, you can do so much more than having to call somebody else out to have to help you with research on something," he said. "Or you can be able to take the photographs that we're taking with our body cameras or even the interaction we have with a person alongside the road and transmit that image or that sound and everything that's going on to a command officer in another location."

[Kalamazoo County showcases FirstNet communication tech for first responders](#)

05.3.2024 | (WWMT-TV)

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office and the Road Commission joined forces Friday morning to highlight technology that has provided efficient communication between first responders. The sheriff's office received "priority access" to AT&T FirstNet's tools and capabilities. Sheriff deputies in Kalamazoo County are using FirstNet on their department-issued smartphones and tablets, and in their vehicles and frontline apparatuses. "Our system is set up in a way that in an emergency we take priority, so say at a large event football games, things like that, where everyone's on their cell phone, ultimately being hooked up to the FirstNet system gives our phones and mobile devices in our vehicles and cameras priority over all the other things that are using the network," Kalamazoo County Sheriff Richard Fuller said.

[North Dakota fire officials talk priorities with congressional delegation](#)

05.3.2024 | (KVLV-TV)

Fire department officials from North Dakota were in Washington this week to advocate for federal support. Clark said they also had conversations on securing funding to continue sending firefighters to the National Fire Academy and renewing the FirstNet system, which is an exclusive communications network for first responders in the event of a major emergency. Clark said FirstNet was very beneficial during the spring blizzards in 2022.

[AT&T completes \\$1.6 billion investment in Pennsylvania](#)

05.3.2024 | (WETM-TV)

One of the nation's largest cellular providers announced Thursday they've wrapped a staggering investment in Pennsylvania with tens of millions going to different areas around the Commonwealth. AT&T also said they're expanding access to FirstNet, the service used to help connect first responders in 700 communities, by rolling out their Band 14 service which is exclusively used for first responders on more than 2,200 sites in Pennsylvania.

Regional

[Deadly tornadoes in Oklahoma last night: One dead, thousands without power near Barnsdall](#)

05.7.2024 | (The State Journal-Register)

Only a week after dozens of tornadoes tore across Oklahoma, the region faced another bout of storms Monday, including at least eight possible tornadoes, large hail and strong winds. Osage County Emergency Management reports tornado damage in Barnsdall area. Oklahoma Highway Patrol reports 30-40 homes damaged in the Barnsdall area. FirstNet is sending a Cell on Wheels (COW) to assist with cell phone coverage for responders. Wind damage in the Shidler area is also reported.

[AT&T invests more than \\$1.9B in New Jersey over the last five years](#)

05.8.2024 | (ROI-NJ)

Over the past five years, from 2019-2023, AT&T has invested more than \$1.9 billion in New Jersey. As America's public safety communication partner, AT&T is expanding and enhancing FirstNet to give the public safety community better access to its network. Setting the stage for first responder innovation over the next 10 years, the FirstNet Authority announced a series of strategic investments totaling more than \$8 billion into FirstNet. The latest network investment of \$6.3 billion will enable AT&T to deliver a standalone FirstNet 5G core, provide always-on priority and preemption across all AT&T 5G commercial spectrum bands and build 1,000 new FirstNet sites across the country over the next two years.

[AT&T Improves Connectivity with \\$2.4B Investment Upgrade to its Michigan Network](#)

05.6.2024 | (DBusiness)

AT&T has invested more than \$2.4 billion to upgrade its network across Michigan since 2019 to expand wireless connectivity, increase access to high-speed broadband, and enhance the first FirstNet responder's network. “

AT&T Michigan is connecting first responders in 360 communities and has rolled out Band 14 on 1,700 sites across the state, providing public safety with truly dedicated network coverage vital to emergency response efforts," says David Lewis, president of AT&T Michigan.

National

[FirstNet Authority, NIST announce keynote speakers, agenda for 5x5 public safety innovation summit](#)

05.8.2024 | (Police1)

Leading voices in public safety communications will keynote the 5x5: The Public Safety Innovation Summit this summer in Chicago. Summit hosts announced the speakers as part of an agenda that includes over 70 technology demonstrations and more than 40 plenaries and breakout sessions. This year's 5x5 will take place June 25-27, 2024, at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park. 5x5 brings together leaders in public safety, academia, government, and industry to advance technologies for public safety communications and operations.

Regional

[Sheriff shares positive message after tornado causes 'mass destruction'](#)

05.8.2024 | (MLive.com)

Officials gathered at a public safety station in Portage to update people about the devastating tornado that laid down a path of destruction. AT&T FirstNet set up a system that brought up more towers and helped everyone use their cellphones so they could connect to family and so emergency services could work. Portage Public Safety Chief Nick Arnold said the damage was devastating, but officials have confirmed no one is missing.

National

[Rival Slams PSSA Proposal for Licensing 4.9 GHz Band](#)

05.14.2024 | (Communications Daily)

The Coalition for Emergency Response and Critical Infrastructure (CERCI) took aim at what it said is a Public Safety Spectrum Alliance (PSSA) proposal asking the FCC to issue a "nationwide overlay license" in the 4.9 GHz band to a band manager to sign "a sharing agreement to hand over the spectrum to the First Responder Network Authority." The two groups have a sharply divided vision on the best future for the band (see 2401190067). "PSSA would have the Commission turn the Band Manager role on its head," resulting in "the launch of a new lengthy, resource-intensive rulemaking," said a filing posted Friday in docket 07-100.

“PSSA would nullify the Band Manager’s two roles to coordinate public safety use and enable non-public safety access, instead proposing to make the Band Manager a licensee only to share the 4.9 GHz spectrum” with FirstNet, CERC I said.

Regional

[Devastating Tornado Hits Portage, Michigan, Leaving a Trail of Destruction](#)

05.11.2024 | (Icaro Media Group)

A powerful tornado swept through Portage, Michigan on Tuesday, May 7, causing significant damage in its wake...Effective warning systems played a crucial role in the safety of residents. AT&T FirstNet set up additional cell towers to ensure communication lines remained open for emergency services and families trying to connect with loved ones. Fire departments from both within and outside the county provided assistance to the city.

National

[CERC I calls latest PSSA 4.9 GHz proposal ‘unlawful’ and ‘unsound’ - Urgent Comms](#)

05.15.2024 | (Urgent Comms)

An alternative proposal from the Public Safety Spectrum Alliance (PSSA) to indirectly provide the FirstNet Authority with the ability to operate on 4.9 GHz spectrum nationwide continues to be legally flawed, absent action by Congress, according to the Coalition for Emergency Response and Critical Infrastructure (CERC I). This marks the second time in less than a month that a PSSA proposal about the future use of 4.9 GHz spectrum has been deemed “unlawful” by the law firm of Jenner & Block. Jenner & Block researched the matter on behalf of CERC I, a coalition opposed to the PSSA notion of the FCC granting a nationwide 4.9 GHz spectrum license to the FirstNet Authority.

[FCC Regulatees Argue Against Expanded Outage Reporting](#)

05.15.2024 | (Communications Daily)

Broadband providers, broadcasters, satellite companies and the FirstNet Authority urged the FCC not to expand outage reporting requirements. Meanwhile, groups such as Public Knowledge, Next Century Cities and The Utility Reform Network (TURN) said increased reporting rules are a matter of public safety. Comments were filed in docket 21-346 by Monday’s deadline. Public safety officials need “clear knowledge of the communications environment in as close to real time as possible,” said a joint filing from PK, the Communications Workers of America, and New America’s Open Technology Institute. However, across communications technologies, companies and trade groups said additional reporting requirements would burden entities during emergencies and provide little useful information to the FCC.



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