



RIVADA

REASONS TO **OPT OUT** OF FIRSTNET

Why Opt Out?

Since 2001, a purpose-built, dedicated network for First Responders has been envisioned and desired by First Responders, policy makers, stakeholders and taxpayers alike. But that is not what will be delivered as the result of the partner that was selected by the federal government.

The FirstNet deal does not properly align states rights or economic development and incentives with the technical requirements. In the end, a large retail carrier will always choose the needs of its more than 100 million commercial wireless subscribers over the needs of the 3.2 million First Responders across the U.S. This model is an inherent conflict of interest and falls woefully short of what has always been envisioned. Because of these concerns and others, public safety fought for dedicated spectrum and a nationwide network—to ensure that our First Responders would always have a dedicated broadband network to serve their needs.

Local Control

Without local control, those who know best how to respond to an incident will be denied the ability to set priorities such as adding and removing users from the network during an emergency situation. First Responders need the ability to preempt commercial traffic—kicking commercial users off the network in times of crisis and emergency. Without that level of control, critical communications will be at the mercy of commercial priorities set by one carrier alone. States' rights, experience and authority should not be ignored. In short, one size does not fit all.

Rural Needs

Universal service was a key goal of the nationwide public-safety broadband network, from concept to legislation to law. Without nationwide coverage, FirstNet can never achieve nationwide interoperability. Yet FirstNet chose a solution with inferior coverage outside the major cities and highways. This is a significant issue for the entire public safety workforce, taxpayers and rural America. Nearly one quarter of rural America will never be served by FirstNet's partner, on the grounds that doing so is uneconomical.

Lower cost and increased revenue for state/local governments

Leveraging state and local infrastructure can lead to lower roll-out costs—these savings should be passed back to the state, and “profits” should be used to make improvements in the network in the years to come. A state that opts in will have to plead with FirstNet and its partner for any network improvements for the next 25 years, including advances in technology that occur during this time. Opting out, conversely, gives states much greater control over where, when and how those revenues are reinvested for the improvement and expansion of the network over time, and better serves the taxpayers in each state.

Rivada offers First Responders distinct advantages that keep our communities safer and more secure than the federal solution.

- Rivada will deploy a secure, cutting-edge, purpose-built public safety network. FirstNet, by contrast, will simply subsume state owned public safety spectrum into their commercial partner's existing, non-dedicated spectrum.
- The FirstNet approach provides First Responders a rate plan, not a network, and will force public safety to compete for network resources against that carrier's vastly larger and more profitable commercial subscribers. This public resource will deliver enormous profits for the carrier shareholders, rather than benefiting First Responders and taxpayers across America.
- Rivada Networks' planned footprint provides more than just First Responder and commercial access, but also addresses the greatly needed investment in rural infrastructure needs for broadband access.
- Rivada will implement a multi-carrier approach, to ensure redundancy needed to meet all the necessities and expectations of First Responders.
- During a major event, Rivada will utilize its exclusive ruthless pre-emption technology to provide maximum bandwidth to First Responders.



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| FirstNet Approach | The Rivada Solution |
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| Charges commercial or near-commercial subscription rates to all users. | Offers a no-cost subscription option to all First Responders. |
| Shares network capacity with commercial users based on static, pre-defined network-sharing configuration. | Ensures 100% of network capacity is always available to public safety when needed. |
| Reserves excess network capacity for one carrier's exclusive <i>retail</i> use. | Makes spare capacity available to all potential users on a wholesale basis, maximizing the value of excess capacity. |
| Increases the market power of and subsidizes the chosen contractor in an already highly concentrated market. | Increases competition and lowers barriers to entry in the wireless market—serving consumers and taxpayers. |
| Overlays public-safety spectrum onto legacy networks, whose sites, design and spacing may not be optimal for public-safety spectrum, and are not state of the art high-efficiency data-centric broadband networks. | Designs and deploys a purpose-built, state-of-the-art 4G LTE-Advanced network for public safety, designed to its specific standards and needs. |
| Returns money to shareholders at the expense of public safety and taxpayer investment. | Returns capital to public safety agencies for network upgrades, maintenance and operational support lifecycle costs. |
| Provides coverage where the customers are, not necessarily where the First Responder requires communication. | Provides extensive coverage, purpose-built for First Responders in both rural and urban settings. |

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