



White Paper

DMP Alarm Communicator is FirstNet Ready™



FirstNet® is the only nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built specifically for America's first responders and the extended public safety community.

What That Can Mean for Your Business

Until recently, first responders across the U.S. have relied on separate land mobile radio networks to communicate with each other during emergencies — oftentimes these networks don't interoperate with one another, making it difficult and even impossible for public safety personnel to communicate and work together to save lives.

In 2017, AT&T won a 25-year contract from the First Responder Network Authority to build and run a dedicated communications network (FirstNet) using Band 14, a nationwide, high-quality spectrum set aside by the federal government specifically for FirstNet. FirstNet is built on a redundant, physically separate, dedicated core designed to comply with many standard security regulations and needs, and the FirstNet network will continue to evolve.

On FirstNet, public safety subscribers can rely on the highly secure connection they need to respond to incidents. Instead of using multiple separate and incompatible systems, first responders on FirstNet can communicate with first responders who choose commercial service providers and can exchange text, voice and data communications.

All 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia have opted into FirstNet as their preferred public safety communications network. “It’s the solution to the decades-long interoperability and communications challenges first responders have experienced,” says Mark Hillenburg, vice president of Marketing at DMP.

What FirstNet Ready™ Can Mean for Your Business

DMP’s 263LTE-FN alarm communication radio is FirstNet Ready™ and approved for use on FirstNet. FirstNet Ready™ devices are central to transforming the capabilities of our nation’s first responders. They have met the standards for supporting the critical operational needs of public safety agencies and users who need tools that are highly secure, resilient, scalable and available when needed. This gives alarm companies with the 263LTE-FN the advantage of FirstNet’s high quality Band 14 spectrum to deliver alarm panel communication.



“The FirstNet network is an important step forward in our nationwide first responder infrastructure, and DMP is pleased to support public safety nationwide,” adds Hillenburg. “Also, we are very excited to work with The Monitoring Association (TMA) and AT&T to deliver alarm panel communications using the highly secure and reliable FirstNet service.”

Who Can Apply for Eligibility?

Because FirstNet is a dedicated public-safety resource, first responders and the extended support communities are reviewed before service is approved. Companies can apply to TMA for the required verification for access to FirstNet service for alarm communications. While they do not need to be TMA members to apply, they must be UL or FM Listed.

According to the TMA, a typical processing time by the TMA can be as fast as one to two days and as long as 14 business days, depending on the volume of requests. Once TMA reviews the documents and validates the information, they will issue a specific dated certificate and identifier to be provided to the AT&T FirstNet group.

Is FirstNet Limited to Certain Types of Accounts?

FirstNet can be used by premises alarm units at government facilities, as well as businesses and homes to communicate alarm information through the network. Typical signals would be burglar alarm, fire alarm, medical alarm signals and other related signals.

What are the Key Advantages of Using the FirstNet Network?

Speed: The FirstNet mobile broadband public-safety network provides a faster network experience than any commercial wireless network. According to AT&T, the statistic is based on the company’s analysis of Ookla Speed test data for the second quarter of 2020. Ookla Speed tests are based on an automated testing system that end users conduct on their mobile devices.

Robust Coverage: According to the Federal Communications Commission, the location of the 700 MHz Band gives it excellent propagation characteristics. This allows the 700 MHz signals to penetrate buildings and walls easily and to cover larger geographic areas with less infrastructure (relative to frequencies in higher bands).

Learn More

For more information on FirstNet, see Pg. 3. For more information on becoming certified through TMA, visit [TMA.US/FirstNet](https://www.tma.us/FirstNet) or contact John McDonald at 703-660-4917 or firstnetprogram@tma.us.

FirstNet History

The 9/11 terrorist attacks brought to the forefront the many communication challenges that first responders face during emergencies and disasters. These issues were captured in the 9/11 Commission Report, which identified gaps in emergency communications and recommended a nationwide network for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel communications.

Public safety organizations and associations advocated before the U.S. Congress for a dedicated, reliable wireless public safety network. And on Feb. 22, 2012, Congress acted on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. In Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Congress authorized the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and authorized it to enter into a public-private partnership to build a nationwide public safety broadband network.

In March 2017, FirstNet awarded a 25-year, \$6.5 billion contract to AT&T to build and maintain the nationwide network that would become a dedicated communications ecosystem that's available to first responders through subscriptions. FirstNet provided AT&T with 20 megahertz (MHz) of broadband spectrum, which AT&T must use for public safety. Also, when there is additional capacity, that spectrum can be used for commercial traffic. AT&T is providing FirstNet access to its infrastructure to maintain and improve the network. Construction of the network began in March 2018 and is not required to be complete until March 2023.

FirstNet Today

AT&T is actively extending the nationwide reach of FirstNet to give agencies large and small the reliable, unthrottled connectivity and modern communications tools they need with Band 14's high-quality spectrum. In areas where coverage already exists, AT&T is using Band 14 to help first responders get the capacity they need. So far, Band 14 has been deployed on existing cell sites in more than 700 markets nationwide. AT&T is also launching new FirstNet cell sites across the country to expand rural and remote coverage – including areas where emergency responses have been previously challenged by a lack of connectivity.

All states have opted into FirstNet to use as their public safety communications network. First responders can always have the fast, reliable and highly secure connection they need for critical information in responding to incidents. With DMP's 263LTE-FN communicator, you too can have access to the robust network. As a member of the extended support community, alarm companies can qualify for access to FirstNet through TMA verification.

Sources:

["The First Responder Network \(FirstNet\) and Next-Generation Communications for Public Safety: Issues for Congress," CRS Report Prepared for Members and Committees of Congress, 2018.](#)

["FirstNet FY 2019 Annual Report to Congress."](#)

["FirstNet Cell Sites Launching Nationwide to Support Public Safety," AT&T website.](#)

["Programs/FirstNet," TMA website.](#)

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