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News Brief

NPSTC Commends 700 MHz Demonstration Network (1/11/10)

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) commends the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program's plans to address a critical need as a public-safety broadband network moves closer to reality.

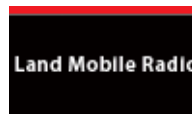
The PSCR, a Boulder, Colo., program of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will [begin building a public-safety broadband demonstration network](#) to provide manufacturers with a site for early deployment of their systems, an opportunity to evaluate them in a multivendor environment and create integration opportunities for commercial service providers.

A proposed public-safety broadband demonstration network would allow public-safety agencies to communicate with nationwide roaming and enhanced interoperability and offer access to advanced communications technologies including video, mapping and GPS applications. But, there are currently no independent laboratory facilities to test and demonstrate the public-safety specific behaviors of this yet-to-be-deployed 700 MHz network and the applications that could run on top of it.

"This project will provide an opportunity to test a variety of public-safety communications needs and assure that such capabilities are in the final technology standard," said Ralph Haller, NPSTC chair. "This should significantly speed the development of the nationwide broadband network."

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