



# FirstNet Devices

## Unique Considerations & Possible Solutions

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**T**he devices that will support FirstNet broadband mobile data communications requirements are perhaps the most challenging aspect of meeting the current and future needs of our public safety agencies and first responders. Public safety needs are unique, and the small size of this specialized user base means a lower volume of devices than those of commercial cellular users. Solving this problem will be fundamental in adoption of the FirstNet service.

Delivering the right devices will be

essential in capturing the full promise of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN). A robust, highly available network will provide little benefit if it fails to offer the right collection of devices at acceptable price points for the targeted users.

The devices used in public safety land mobile radio (LMR) communications have been meticulously refined over time to their current form, and for good reason—they meet the specific needs of first responders. These radios have knobs and buttons that are easy to operate in an

emergency, even while wearing gloves. They have superb audio components. They are simple to use, especially in emergency situations. While smartphones certainly will not replace LMR, the evolution and current form factor of public safety radios underscores the uniqueness of public safety needs.

### SPECIALIZED CONSIDERATIONS

The device requirements for public safety are likely to be more diverse than those of the commercial data market. Universal Serial Bus (USB) modems