PHOTO MICHAEL COPPOLA

provide flexible "plug and play" capabilities, and embedded modems are a required design feature in personal computers, but protecting public safety requires even greater capabilities.

Rugged, vehicle-based routers are required to track vehicles and provide connectivity to other devices inside and around the vehicle. Then there are the multitudes of handheld device options that may be required—smartphones, rugged smartphones, tablets, rugged tablets and other variants of customized public safety devices. Topping off these challenges is the fact that the cost basis in commercial systems is set by an ecosystem of billions of users, but the public safety market in the U.S. represents approximately one percent of the commercial wireless marketplace.

Meeting these diverse needs starts with a Long Term Evolution (LTE) chipset that supports band class 14, the frequency band allocated to the NPSBN. Devices must support that band in order to access the public safety network. Commercially available chipsets are not currently configured to support this band. Chipmakers are currently manufacturing devices capable of supporting the

"FirstNet must offer the right mix of devices at the right price"