



# TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## SNAP UPdate<sup>SM</sup>

February 7, 2011

*By: Craig Dingwall*

### **LTE to the Rescue**

Based on lessons learned from the events of September 11, 2001, last week the [FCC](#) adopted rules and proposed new rules to create a nationwide interoperable public safety network.

The FCC, in its Third Report And Order (Order) and Fourth Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), mandated that all public safety broadband networks adopt [Long Term Evolution \(LTE\)](#) as a common technology platform. Specifically, the FCC required that all networks deployed in the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum adopt [LTE](#) of at least [3GPP](#) Standard Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) Release 8 and associated Evolved Packet Core (“EPC”). 3GPP [LTE](#) is the latest standard of this mobile network technology.

The FCC also required several interfaces to be used in deploying the LTE platform, and requested comments on several issues, including, but not limited to, network architecture vision, open standards, network interconnectivity, robustness and resiliency, security and encryption, network coverage and reliability, and interface coordination and protection.

This ruling is significant, because it puts first responders and other key public safety personnel on the same technology platform so that they can communicate with each other. The rules are designed to foster networks that will, per the Order, “enable public safety broadband users to share information, videos, photos and emails across departments and jurisdictions nationwide for day-to-day operations and during large-scale emergencies.”

---

SNAP UPdate is a free service of Technology Law Group  
A complete set of SNAP UPdates can be accessed at our website, [tlgdc.com](http://tlgdc.com)  
© TLG 2010

If you would like to be removed from our email list, please notify us at  
[mail@tlgdc.com](mailto:mail@tlgdc.com)

*But will this mandated common technology platform solve communications problems that may occur when the network is stressed and at peak loads during emergencies? Should the FCC be mandating a particular technology platform and required interfaces, or should it be technology neutral and let market forces determine the common technology platform and how it should be deployed? We welcome your thoughts. Please feel free to comment at our interactive blog at [blog.tlgdc.com](http://blog.tlgdc.com).*

Public comments and reply comments on the FNPRM (WT Docket No. 06-150; PS Docket No. 06-229; WP Docket No. 07-100FCC 11-6) adopted January 25, 2011 are due 45 days and 75 days, respectively, after publication in the Federal Registry.

*If you have questions about this issue, or if we may be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact us.*

---

© 2011 Technology Law Group. Technology Law Group LLC, is a Washington-based law firm specializing in telecommunications, transactional, litigation and regulatory issues. The attorneys at Technology Law Group can be reached by phone at +1 202 895 1707 and by e-mail at [mail@tlgdc.com](mailto:mail@tlgdc.com). TLG is dedicated to personal service and to providing high quality legal and consulting services that enable clients meet their business objectives.

*To opt out of any resource that you have previously signed up for, please click [Opt Out](#) and provide us with your email address and the resource(s) that you no longer wish to receive.*