

# Public Safety Data Network (PSDN)

*Part of the Nutmeg Network*



The Next Generation of  
Public Safety Communications

Improving Public Safety at Light Speed  
January 2013



## Improving Public Safety at Light Speed

### CONNECTING FIRST RESPONDERS TODAY AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

The Connecticut Public Safety Data Network (PSDN) is on the way! Much of the network has already completed testing and core applications are being enabled over the PSDN now. While general availability of the PSDN is 9 months into the future, it is time right now to start considering whether you have a need for PSDN services and what those services might be.

The PSDN is an ultra-high-speed fiber optic data network that will serve as a transport infrastructure and interconnectivity pathway for public safety and government applications and services throughout the state. Connecticut successfully leveraged the state's commitment to the original PSDN into an award of \$94 Million from the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP), which we are using to extend the PSDN to a total of 510 public safety locations. It is being constructed in phases, with Phase I connecting the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Department of Administrative Services and our 106 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) already completed. Phase II construction to the next 404 sites is already underway.

As detailed in the federal grant, these Phase II locations are public safety locations such as Fire Departments and Police Departments not already connected by the initial rollout.

This extension of the PSDN will provide a single connectivity source to allow for the integration of systems, applications and currently disparate networks so that vital information and resources can easily be shared amongst the various public safety entities throughout the state. The PSAP PSDN sites will serve as the "points of presence" for connection of additional users to the system, allowing the new users to take advantage of the security and redundancy of the core network.

## PROJECT DETAILS

### TIGHT DEADLINES PLACE FOCUS ON CURRENT PROJECT SCOPE

#### CONDITIONS

The federal BTOP grant to build out this infrastructure contains strict timing requirements for completion of the work and unlike many other grants programs, these timelines will not be modified. There is an absolute need to ensure that nothing endangers meeting the grant plan deadlines of completion by September of 2013. For that reason, our immediate emphasis is focused on building the network, and deploying only the initial three applications.

### THE NUTMEG NETWORK – IS A NEWLY FORMED ENTITY THAT IS DEFINED AS A COMBINATION OF:

- **PUBLIC SAFETY DATA NETWORK (PSDN)** - A closed, secure network that serves first responder and public safety community.
  - **CONNECTICUT EDUCATION NETWORK (CEN)** - Partially open (by nomination) network that serves the education and library community.
  - **CONNECTICUT OPEN ACCESS NETWORK (CTOAN)** - Requirement of BTOP award to provide fair and open access to the network constructed with federal funds.
- These networks are managed together as the staff, equipment and fiber that support these networks have multiple overlap points.

### PSDN BENEFITS AND FEATURES

- HIGH SPEED DATA CONNECTION
- ENHANCED RELIABILITY
- FAULT-TOLERANT DESIGN
- HIGHLY SECURE
- COST REDUCTION FROM OLDER NETWORK
- FUTURE UPGRADES AT LOWER COSTS
- CORE SERVICES SPECIFIC TO PUBLIC SAFETY

### CURRENT STATUS

- PHASE I COMPLETE
- 80% OF ENTIRE PROJECT COMPLETE
- 100% COMPLETE BY SEPT 2013



## PSDN IS:

A secure, reliable network providing interoperable communications for the public safety community.

## PSDN IS NOT:

Open Internet access for participants. The use of the network is strictly controlled; traffic is protected to keep critical applications safe.

## PSDN CORE SERVICES

The PSDN initial core services are planned to be:

- Next Generation 911
- Criminal Justice Systems (Collect, CISS, OBTS)
- Interoperable communications for DESPP P25 switch
- Communication among Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems including Access to mutual aid pre-plan information used in emergency response
- Access to state emergency systems (i.e. WEBEOC)



## ADDITIONAL USAGE

This network provides greater opportunity to the public safety community once it is completed. It will be capable of additional applications and data for public safety agencies and non-public safety agencies. This could include town-to-town sharing of databases, providing remote access to municipal applications and so on. Where these expanded capabilities bring additional costs, these costs will need to be covered by the requesters and users of the newly approved services.

## GOVERNANCE

This network ties together many groups that have never been able to inter-communicate effectively. A governance model that enables the PSDN to remain robust and secure is critical to the long term viability of the network. Governance will deal with the rules surrounding the PSDN and must be addressed before there can be additional uses.

Governance answers questions such as:

- Who is allowed to use the network?
- Which applications will be considered for “additional use”?
- What are the criteria for that determination?
- When will the “additional use” be allowed/enabled – what is the timeline?
- How much will the charge be for additional use, and how will the charges be allocated?

The PSDN Governance Board has recently been established to review Public Safety applications use of the network. This board is meeting bi-monthly initially. Once the network is completed and applications for use begin to expand, that frequency could change.



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The State is creating the governance structure at this time. In order to “beta test” the process we hope to use for PSDN governance, we are planning to pilot an “additional use” application from DEMHS Region #4 for a region-wide radio interoperability project which would use the PSDN for connectivity.

Potential users of the PSDN should evaluate their data connectivity needs now and may wish to start the process of determining whether the PSDN could provide connectivity that would be useful for their agency. However, given the time constraints and federal requirements, we must commit all available resources to the network build. Therefore, we cannot commit to activating additional use applications prior to September, 2013. However, we have developed a form which you can use to submit your application for assessment. Potential applications for use can be made through this link:

<http://nutmegnetwork.uconn.edu/request/>

Also, we have developed a link which will allow you to view status of your application and others that have requested service on the network:

<http://nutmenetwork.uconn.edu/>



## Public Safety Data Network (PSDN)

*Part of the Nutmeg Network*

<http://www.ct.gov/best/cwp/view.asp?a=3790&Q=446266>