In response to communications challenges faced during 9/11, public safety stakeholders joined together to advocate for a single, nationwide broadband network built upon industry standards, dedicated spectrum, and a device portfolio for all disciplines to ensure interoperability. FirstNet is delivering innovation to public safety, allowing first responders to better use technology to save more lives and secure more communities. FirstNet does not include mission critical voice capabilities and should not replace land mobile radios (LMRs).

Here are 10 reasons why FirstNet is leading public safety into the future:

1. **A Network Built For and With Public Safety Professionals**
FirstNet is the first nationwide broadband network built specifically for and with the input of public safety. To design the network, FirstNet engaged in a multi-year consultation process with public safety stakeholders to develop specialized State Plans that affirmed public safety's unique needs. Over the next 25 years, FirstNet and the public safety community will continue to collaborate to successfully deploy the FirstNet network.

2. **Exclusive Core for Public Safety**
Today, first responders use commercial networks which can cause congestion when a public safety crisis happens. With FirstNet, first responders will have their own separate broadband network built on a physically separate core with end-to-end encryption. Only FirstNet traffic will move through the core, increasing security and lessening congestion.

3. **Priority and Preemption**
First responders demanded ‘ruthless preemption’ and FirstNet is delivering. Prioritization moves first responders to the front of the communications line, while preemption shifts non-emergency traffic to another line. FirstNet subscribers will receive priority and preemption on Band 14, if deployed in their area, and across all of AT&T’s LTE spectrum bands. There is no throttling on the network and prioritization has no speed limits on voice, text or data.

4. **Nationwide Interoperability**
Currently, first responders rely on over 10,000 separate networks for voice communications, making it difficult and sometimes impossible to communicate and coordinate during emergencies. FirstNet, as a single, nationwide, interoperable broadband network, is positioned to help first responders overcome this challenge.
5. Partnering with Rural America
Partnerships with rural wireless carriers will account for more than 20% of FirstNet's coverage. All rural coverage build-out will be completed by the fifth year of the FirstNet contract. Because FirstNet is public safety's network it has different coverage requirements than a commercial network. With FirstNet, sites will be deployed in areas that normally would have to wait a long time to get a site or would never get a site at all.

6. Exclusive FirstNet Application Ecosystem
FirstNet subscribers will have access to an exclusive FirstNet application ecosystem comprised of a highly secure, reliable and interoperable network of applications for the public safety community. FirstNet apps will enable first responders to help improve situational awareness, enable simpler communication and share mission-critical information securely.

7. U.S.-Based 24/7/365 Customer Care
FirstNet subscribers will be supported by U.S.-based 24/7/365 specialized and differentiated customer service support. Subscribers will have access to a dedicated FirstNet customer service toll free number with emergency prompting and routing available during a crisis situation.

8. On-The-Ground Disaster Response Support
FirstNet is supported by the largest network disaster recovery (NDR) program in the country. The NDR program has three elements: 1) technology recovery to restore service, 2) emergency communication equipment that uses satellite links to provide capability in areas that don’t normally have communications, and 3) special operations (HAZMAT Response Team).

9. Public Safety’s Priorities Come First
FirstNet is the only broadband network bonded by a federal regulator. Under its federal contract, the FirstNet network must meet various obligations related to deployment, operation and maintenance. Public safety can rest assured that their network is being built according to their needs and is not being subjected to corporate policy shifts.

10. Innovation Roadmap
Currently, FirstNet does not include mission critical voice capabilities and as such should not replace land mobile radios (LMRs). FirstNet has a 5-year roadmap to deliver: MCPTT voice, data, messaging and video, broadcast technology and z-Axis location-based services. FirstNet is also exploring how to include drones as part of the FirstNet toolkit.