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Charlotte Savercool
Legislative Clerk
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Response to Request for Additional Information; Question from Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Question: To ensure that FirtNew doesn't repeat the mistakes of the past, are there specific lessons you've learned that can ensure an open, competitive procurement process?

Answer: Thanks to you and many other Members of this Committee, Congress implemented provisions in the Spectrum Act that can maximize competition, enhance innovation, and decrease costs. The statute requires that devices operating on the NPSBN are built to common standards and meet the interoperability requirements established by the Interoperability Board. This will mitigate the costs and interoperability problems associated in the past with proprietary technologies. Moreover, the statute mandates that NIST must certify that all equipment operating on the NPSBN is interoperable. These elements, along with pro-competitive procurement mandates in the law, can drive a multi-vendor environment that will drive down cost and increase innovation. These are essential elements of a commercial, competitive technology market model that must be adhered to in order to avoid interoperability problems of the past. FirstNet has focused on these provisions in BTOP project activity, and we hope all Members will support their efforts to implement these vital provisions.

Thank you again for the privilege of assisting you on this matter of great national concern.

Sincerely,

Dennis Martinez, Ph.D.
Chief Technology Officer
RF Communications Division
Harris Corporation