



STRATEGIC ALLIANCE BRIEF • PUBLIC-SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

Where 5G meets LMR

As an authorized FirstNet partner, Skytec integrates its dispatch and communications platforms with the only nationwide network built for first responders—and works to bridge FirstNet’s mission-critical push-to-talk with legacy LMR P25 radio.

01 Executive summary

In October 2025, Skytec announced an alliance with FirstNet —the only nationwide 5G network built with and for America’s first responders. The alliance makes Skytec an authorized FirstNet partner and integrates its platforms directly with the network.

Skytec’s own systems—**SkyCAD, SkyCall, and Sky911**—connect to FirstNet’s 5G platform and its Mission Critical Push-to-Talk (MCPTT) service, so alerts, dispatch, and coordination stay in sync with always-on priority, preemption, and a secure network core reserved for public safety.

The differentiator is interoperability. Because Skytec also works on the P25 land-mobile-radio (LMR) interoperability network, it is positioned to bridge FirstNet’s broadband push-to-talk with official **LMR P25 radio channels**—uniting the broadband world (data and PTT over 5G) with the traditional mission-critical radio world in a single flow. It’s a capability few, if any, others are positioned to deliver.

7.8M

FIRSTNET PUBLIC-SAFETY
CONNECTIONS

30,600+

AGENCIES ON THE
NETWORK

Band 14

DEDICATED PUBLIC-
SAFETY SPECTRUM

6×

SIGNAL POWER
(MEGARANGE, PER AT&T)

“Broadband and LMR, in one conversation—so it doesn’t matter which one a responder is carrying.”

02 The problem: two worlds that don't talk

BROADBAND AND LAND-MOBILE RADIO

Public safety runs on two communication worlds that have never fully spoken to each other—land-mobile radio and broadband—and most agencies have to live in both at once.

P25 is the standard that lets radios from different agencies and manufacturers interoperate; U.S. public-safety guidance (DHS/CISA, APCO) treats it as the backbone of mission-critical voice, and recommends agencies keep evolving it. FirstNet adds the other half: dedicated 5G broadband and MCPTT, with priority and preemption. The trouble is that, for years, the two have run in parallel—and bridging them has been the hard, unsolved part.

• Mission-critical radio (P25 / LMR) The proven standard for agency-to-agency voice—still the backbone of frontline communications.	• Dedicated broadband (FirstNet + MCPTT) 5G data and push-to-talk with priority and preemption, built only for public safety.
• The interoperability gap Responders carry a radio and a device, and the two systems don't share a single flow.	• Why it can't wait Agencies will run both for years; a move to broadband only works if the radio comes along.

03 The differentiator: bridging MCPTT and P25

Skytec sits in a rare position—a FirstNet partner that also works on the P25 LMR interoperability network. That combination lets it do what few can: bring the two worlds into one conversation.



The goal is a single interoperable flow: a responder on FirstNet's 5G/PTT could reach the official LMR P25 radio channels of the interoperability network, and a radio user could reach them back. This follows the same direction the standards bodies have defined for inter-working mission-critical broadband and P25—and Skytec has shown LMR-to-FirstNet 5G interoperability in a live demonstration. By Skytec's account, no other CAD/communications provider is positioned to unite the two this way.

04 About FirstNet

FirstNet is the only nationwide 5G network built with and for America’s first responders—born from Congress and the first-responder community after 9/11, and run as a public-private partnership between the independent FirstNet Authority and AT&T.

It now carries **7.8 million public-safety connections across about 30,600 agencies**, reaches 99% of America’s first responders, and covers the largest wireless footprint in the country—nearly 3 million square miles. What sets it apart isn’t just size; it’s that the network is purpose-built for the mission.

• Band 14, dedicated spectrum Spectrum set aside exclusively for public safety, so responder traffic never competes with commercial users.	• Always-on priority & preemption No throttling for FirstNet users, on a physically separate, secure core reserved for public safety.
• MegaRange (HPUE) High-power capability on Band 14—up to 6× the signal power of other carriers (per AT&T) for rural, edge, and in-building.	• Deployables & satellite SatCOLT and rapid-deployable cells for disasters and events; satellite connectivity (with AST SpaceMobile) advancing in 2026.

FirstNet’s deployable assets and Response Operations Group have supported disaster response across the country—including in Puerto Rico after major hurricanes—exactly the resilience frontline agencies need when local infrastructure fails.

05 Why it matters for U.S. agencies

For a U.S. public-safety agency, the Skytec–FirstNet combination turns two hard problems—reliable coverage and cross-system interoperability—into one integrated capability.

• Interoperability across systems Bridging radio and broadband means agencies and vendors can coordinate in one flow, not across incompatible tools.	• Comms that don’t compete Priority, preemption, and a dedicated core keep public-safety traffic clear when networks are congested.
• Coverage at the edge MegaRange, deployables, and emerging satellite extend connectivity to rural, indoor, and disaster conditions.	• Dispatch, synced over FirstNet SkyCAD, SkyCall, and Sky911 keep alerts, dispatch, and coordination aligned in real time on the network.

Skytec CEO Henry Barreda has said the company spent more than 25 years building a team of engineers and developers specialized in emergency-response solutions, and that the FirstNet collaboration complements and expands government interoperability capabilities while meeting and exceeding rigorous federal standards. The alliance also involves Saturn Wireless, an AT&T Solution Provider. Skytec's CAD platform is already used by 77 municipalities, 35 state and municipal agencies, and 140+ private ambulances—this alliance extends those capabilities onto a nationwide public-safety network.

06 The takeaway

Most public-safety vendors connect to one world or the other—LMR or broadband. Skytec's advantage is standing in both: a FirstNet partner that also works on the P25 interoperability network, working to make them one conversation.

Layered on FirstNet's dedicated spectrum, priority, and resilience—and alongside Skytec's MongoDB implementation, Google-Cloud foundation and native RapidSOS data layers—it completes a public-safety stack designed around a single promise: keep first responders connected, and coordinated, when it matters most.

Bring your radio and your broadband together.

Talk to Skytec about FirstNet service, platform integration, and the path to MCPTT↔P25 interoperability for your agency.

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