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ICN Insider

Iowa Communications Network
July-August 2016 Newsletter

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Register Now for InterConNEXT 2016

Iowa Communications Network's InterConNEXT 2016 will connect industry partners and ICN customers in showcasing the benefits of new fast, flexible ICN service offerings.

Join us for an engaging and connected experience where strong product solutions will be shared.

This technology forum will create a visceral learning experience to explain the importance of ICN and the role it plays in advancing innovations in education, public safety, healthcare, and government services.

Date & Time

Tuesday, August 2; 9 AM - 12 PM

Location

FFA Enrichment Center
1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Who Should Attend

- IT Professionals in K-12 or Higher Education, Healthcare, Government, Public Safety
- Technology Contacts
- K-12 Leaders, Administrators, Principals
- Higher Education Professionals
- 1:1 Schools' District Representatives
- Healthcare Administrators
- Chief Information Officers
- Telecom Partners
- Policy Leaders

Cost
Free!

ICN users won't want to miss the opportunity to receive 1 of 10 free cyber security consultations given away at InterConNEXT 2016.

ICN's Vision:



Space is limited. Simply register at [EventBrite](#).

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Visit us on the web at www.icn.iowa.gov

Strong Broadband Progress for First Responders

The FirstNet Broadband Committee is a sub-committee of the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB). The committee is the primary technical working group for the FirstNet process in Iowa. The committee provides guidance and information intended to aid FirstNet in the deployment and operation of the nationwide public safety broadband network. The following progress updates provide an overview of the work being completed by the FirstNet Broadband Committee.



State Governance Body Consultation Meeting

Hosted FirstNet representatives for the State Governance Body Consultation meeting in May. FirstNet Regional Consultation Lead, Timothy Pierce, and Government Affairs Representative, Andrew Delaney, provided a FirstNet timeline overview, discussed next steps, and answered questions that the committee had.



Opt-in/Opt-Out Taskforce

Created an internal working group called the "Opt-in/Opt-out Task Force" responsible for researching all aspects of the FirstNet Opt-in/Opt-out options to ensure that the State of Iowa has all of the pertinent information to make the best decisions possible. Governor Branstad was provided an update of the Task Force findings in preparation for FirstNet discussions at the National Governor's Association (NGA) conference in July.



Quality of Service, Priority and Preemption (QPP)

Established a five person committee to focus on Quality of Service, Priority and Preemption (QPP). The committee will interface with FirstNet as well as the FirstNet Broadband Committee in relation to QPP discussions or tasks. FirstNet will gather feedback to help inform future QPP network policies.



Tribal Outreach

Voted to engage in outreach with tribal entities of Iowa to ensure that all tribes are kept informed of the FirstNet process. The committee has met with several individuals of the Meskwaki tribe, as well as the FirstNet Tribal Regional Representative, Margaret Muhr. The committee will meet quarterly with the Meskwaki tribe to provide status updates and will continue to make efforts to reach other tribal entities in Iowa.



Iowa FirstNet Public Private Partnership Summit

Preparing to host the fourth Iowa FirstNet Public Private Partnership Summit on August 25 in the Grimes State Office Building. The Summit provides the opportunity for public and private stakeholders to discuss the FirstNet initiative, progress and updates. The summit is free and open to the public. Video streaming options are available.

Iowa FirstNet Public Private Partnership Summit

A discussion with public & private sector representatives regarding the current status of the FirstNet initiative.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2016 • 1:00 - 3:00 PM

GRIMES STATE OFFICE BUILDING
400 E 14TH STREET • CONFERENCE ROOM B100

[Click here](#) to RSVP by August 18, 2016. Free and open to the public.



Caller ID Spoofing

The ICN has received reports of calls being received by Iowans from individuals impersonating representatives of state government agencies. The receiver of the call is told misleading or inaccurate information by the impersonator. These are scam calls coming from outside of the Iowa Communications Network's (ICN) voice platform. This communication is intended to educate authorized users and the general public of the current phone scam. The ICN's network security is NOT at risk.

Read more about [Caller ID Spoofing](#).

2016 Legislative Overview

The legislature adjourned on April 29.

Commissioner Mary Sellers' second term appointment (through 2022) was approved by the Senate on April 11. She has served on the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) since 2012. Each commission member serves a 6-year term, and is subject to confirmation by the Senate.

[Senate File 2324](#) was signed by the Governor on May 27. The Act includes appropriations from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund including:

- Just over \$2.7 million to the Department of Education for Part III lease payments.
- Just over \$1.1 million to the ITTC for equipment replacement, operation and maintenance costs.



- In addition the bill authorizes the ICN to exceed its contract limitation amount for purposes of the network core project.

Governor Terry Branstad signed [House File 2439](#) into law on April 29. The act relates to the distribution and permissible expenditures of the emergency communications service surcharge and the duties of the E911 communications council. Authorization for a study related to consolidation of public safety answering point (PSAPs) is also included.

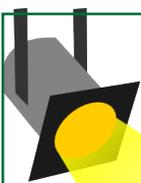
The public can view a complete listing of bills passed in the 2016 Session by the 86th Iowa General Assembly on the Iowa Legislature Website at <http://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=BillInfo&Service=Enrolled&year=2016>.

LMR Installation Begins at Capitol Complex

Installation work for the State Interoperability Land Mobile Radio (LMR) Network occurred on top of the Lucas State Office Building in Des Moines on May 19. The installation is part of a larger project for public safety agencies across the state. The new Land Mobile Radio Network will allow all public safety agencies to communicate on the same system to improve communications during major natural disasters or other public safety events. The ICN is providing project management as well as engineering guidance for the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB).

Currently, the State of Iowa does not have a statewide LMR platform for interoperability between public safety entities, which means that there are disparate systems and networks throughout the State. The ISICS (Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System) Platform will provide a common connection between public safety systems and broadband networks. ISICS is turning up the initial core tower in order to prepare for the National Governors Association (NGA) which will be hosted in Des Moines from July 14-17. The Lucas Building tower is the typical equipment package that will be installed across the State. The Lucas tower is temporary, solely for the NGA and will be taken down at the end of the summer.





Employee Spotlight Yu Zhang

Yu Zhang works as a Telecommunications Engineer within the Engineering Bureau for the ICN. He has been with the ICN for 1 year and 9 months. Yu’s duties include working with circuit designs and documentation, equipment orders, and transfers for installation and customer service delivery. He explains that the best part of his job is completing fast requests for services, so customers can obtain service quickly.

Yu received his Master’s Degree in Engineering at the Automation Research Institute of Ministry of Metallurgical Industry in Beijing, China. In addition he obtained his Bachelor’s degree in Electronics Engineering from Nankai University in Tianjin, China. Prior to the ICN, Yu’s previous employer was LISCO, a local Internet service company.

Yu has lived in Beijing and Tianjin, China along with living in Northeast China during his childhood. In his leisure time, Yu enjoys driving his kids to their activities, playing games, and watching TV. His hobbies include traveling, fishing, stuff collecting, playing tennis and table tennis. His volunteer work includes assisting in kid’s sports teams like being a trampoline spotter and scorekeeper for basketball.

A memorable life experience for Yu was going on vacation to Florida for a month with his family. He said, “They spent a lot of quality time as a family and had fun, as they traveled to many cities and beaches.” If Yu could meet one person in history he would want to meet Aristotle, “Since he was the world’s most famous philosopher and the best scientist of his time. He is very inspirational, and his philosophy is still taught today.”

Broadband News from Around the Web

[Connecting fields will help farmers fully utilize latest ag technology](#)

As precision ag increasingly becomes a part of the technology toolbox on farms, wireless connectivity and broadband access remain a limiting factor in many parts of rural Iowa.

[Broadband: 21st-Century Infrastructure](#)

Iowa City, Iowa, is a modest-sized city, with a population of just over 73,000. But what makes it stand out is the fact that it ranks fifth in the nation overall when it comes to the percentage of households that subscribe to broadband.

[Mediacom Business Expands Fan Experience at Iowa Speedway with Reliable and Secure Wi-Fi](#)

Just one year ago, Iowa Speedway called upon Mediacom Business, a division of Mediacom Communications Corporation, to provide Gigabit+ broadband speed for nationally televised NASCAR Series, INDYCAR Series and ARCA Racing Series events. This year they have been asked to provide fans in the vicinity of the Newton Club

area with reliable and secure Wi-Fi to post live comments, pictures, and video during races, as well as enjoy mobile racing apps geared to offer additional ways to consume the racing experience.

[John Deere is plowing IoT into its farm equipment](#)

John Deere is taking the Internet of Things out into the field by developing new technologies and embracing existing ones to boost the efficiency of prepping, planting, feeding and harvesting with the goal of improving per-acre crop yields.

[U of Iowa education faculty create iPad app to help K-12 teachers improve student behavior](#)

Score It is an iPad app that prompts students and teachers to assess students’ behavior at regular intervals throughout the school day. The app has been piloted in middle schools across eastern Iowa.

[Sign up to receive weekly broadband emails](#)

BROADBANDMATTERS

BROADBAND STRONG: Delivering **FLEXIBLE** broadband and **FAST** experiences to meet the growing broadband needs of education, government, public safety, and healthcare in Iowa.

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