



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2003

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NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS PRESIDENT & CEO TIMOTHY DONAHUE TO CHAIR NEW NETWORK RELIABILITY AND INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL

Washington, DC – FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell today announced that Timothy M. Donahue, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nextel Communications Inc, will assume the chairmanship of the newly re-chartered Network Reliability and Interoperability Council (NRIC VII).

Chairman Powell said, “The Network Reliability and Interoperability Council has a long history of bringing the industry together to develop practical methods for improving the robustness and integrity of our Nation’s telecommunications networks and services. I am delighted that a man of Tim Donahue’s experience and forward thinking expertise will be taking over the chairmanship of this important committee as it turns its attention to emergency and E911 services.”

Mr. Donahue has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Nextel Communications, Inc. since August 1999. He began his career with Nextel in January 1996 as President and Chief Operating Officer. Before joining Nextel, Mr. Donahue held executive positions with AT&T Wireless Services and McCaw Cellular Communications. He is a graduate of John Carroll University.

NRIC VII is being chartered for a term from January 6, 2004 to January 6, 2006. In addition to continuing the work of previous Councils, NRIC VII will bring a new focus to the systems engineering aspects of emergency services. Mr. Donahue is the first wireless company executive to chair an NRIC panel.

Donahue said, “I am honored to accept Chairman Powell’s invitation to chair the Council for the coming term. These challenging times require that all stakeholders in the telecommunications sector continue to work cooperatively to serve the public interest by ensuring the integrity of our nation’s communications infrastructure.”

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The role of the NRIC is to develop recommendations for the Commission and the telecommunications industry to insure optimal reliability, security, interoperability and interconnectivity of, and accessibility to, public telecommunications networks and the Internet. NRIC VII will work on traditional reliability issues with a strong emphasis on national security.

The Council's members are senior representatives of providers and users of telecommunications services and products, including telecommunications carriers, the satellite, cable television, wireless and computer industries, trade associations, labor and consumer representatives, manufacturers, research organizations and government-related organizations.

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