



# e-Ponte

A Think Tank for the Emergency Services Sector

## About e-Ponte

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The name “e-Ponte” means “Electronic Bridge”. It incorporates the Italian word for “bridge” and classical images to communicate a strong and vital path for migration from previously under-connected byways of the “Information Superhighway” (now known as the Internet) to robust, safe and appropriately policed interconnection and interoperation.

e-Ponte reflects the original vision of Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina, first expressed in 2001, of a nationwide non-profit to assist and enable local law enforcement and the fire service to migrate to the world of new realities introduced by the Internet.

Senator Hollings expressed that vision to Dr. Lee Colwell, the former Associate Director of the FBI and legendary figure known around the globe for national security and law enforcement policy and operations, who led in making that vision a reality. In this vein, e-Ponte also reflects Dr. Colwell’s policy objective of focusing especially on meeting the operational needs of small and non-urban agencies within the Emergency Services Sector, to interconnect independent public safety operators in achieving seamless nationwide public safety, and to serve as an operational model for public safety agencies around the globe.

This shared strategy, then, envisions strong and independent local agencies using the Internet as a tool and utility, not to impede, but to advance, the public safety structural outcome originally contemplated by the Nation’s founders: decentralized and autonomous local agencies and, especially, locally accountable policing.

Since 2001, the Internet has experienced enormous growth and enormous operational developments that include the Cloud, the Internet of Things, the Dark Web, the Global Cybercrime Industry, Artificial Intelligence, and the Nation State Cyberthreat. Over the past decade, these developments have generated widespread recognition of tremendous new public safety/national security threats, including the ability to ransom or destroy operating infrastructure, commit crimes, and issue public safety threats from anywhere in the world, against victims located in multiple jurisdictions and in many sectors, anywhere in the world, simultaneously. These developments have also created widespread recognition of public safety’s need for new technical tools, new technical skills, and expanded cross-jurisdictional and cross-sector collaboration, and the unprecedented opportunity for public safety to support the Nation’s national security function, as never before. e-Ponte, then, also seeks to be a bridge between the Nation’s mostly local public safety agencies and the Nation’s mostly Federal national security establishment.

In this context, the need for **e-Ponte, A Think Tank for the Emergency Services Sector**, has never been more compelling.

### For Additional Information:

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