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## NIMSAT gets major gift

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FirstCall, Emergency Notification System has donated \$118,000 worth of services and software this year to a UL institute, according to a news release.

UL's National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute funneled the gift to the new Louisiana Emergency Operations Center.

Ongoing contributions of \$118,000 a year will total more than \$1 million in eight years.

"This is a tremendously generous contribution and one that is at the core of what we do. In these tough budget times for higher education in Louisiana, this gift is particularly encouraging and welcomed," NIMSAT Institute Director Ramesha Kolluru said in the release.

The center will operate under the overarching leadership of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

The NIMSAT Institute serves as the lead for the center, with support from Louisiana State University Stephenson Disaster Management Institute.

The center aims to support disaster management in Louisiana by developing an accurate understanding of economic impacts to critical infrastructures and major economic drivers, as well as coordinating businesses and volunteer organizations with the public sector.

Through the center, the state will work to improve disaster preparedness and response; reduce reliance on Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal assistance; maximize business, industry and economic stabilization; and return the business environment to normal operations quickly.

The donation was accepted through the UL Foundation.

"This is a very timely, targeted and significant gift to the university and one that is fundamental to the success of our new Business Emergency Operations Center," UL President Joe Savoie said.

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