



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU RELEASES LETTERS TO 3rd
GENERATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND OPEN MOBILE ALLIANCE**

PS Docket No. 07-114

On May 23, 2014, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau sent the attached letters to Chairman Dino Flore of the 3rd Generation Partnership Program Radio Access Network Committee and Chairman Francesco Vadalà of the Open Mobile Alliance Location Working Group, encouraging each organization to continue the prioritization and expeditious completion of work and study items related to location determination technologies that will enhance public safety response to wireless calls to emergency call centers. The Bureau is incorporating these letters into the above-referenced docket.

For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Timothy May, Policy & Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at timothy.may@fcc.gov or (202) 418-1463.

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Attachment 1



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 23, 2014

Dino Flore
3GPP RAN Chairman
3GPP Mobile Competence Centre
c/o ETSI
650, route des Lucioles
06921 Sophia-Antipolis Cedex
FRANCE

Dear Chairman Flore:

One of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) enduring values is to ensure that communications networks in the United States provide consumers with access to emergency services, including providing timely and accurate information about the location of emergency callers. To achieve this, the Commission has worked to establish rules and regulations that keep pace with advancements in wireless location information technologies. In many cases, the Commission's rules and regulations are dependent upon technologies that have achieved proper study and standardization by the leading standards organizations.

The 3rd Generation Partnership Program (3GPP) Radio Access Network (RAN) Committee has before it a number of Work Items and Study Items that directly impact the availability of enhanced emergency location technologies in the United States. I write to encourage the continued prioritization and expeditious completion of these items for location determination technologies that will enhance public safety response to wireless calls to emergency call centers.

In February, the Commission adopted a Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Further Notice) in its proceeding on Wireless E911 Location Accuracy.¹ The Further Notice focuses on improving the provision of enhanced location accuracy information for callers contacting 911, particularly from indoor locations, and proposes several new benchmarks requiring wireless providers to support the provision of enhanced location accuracy information. The Commission's objective is that all Americans using mobile phones – whether they are calling from urban or rural areas, from indoors or outdoors – have technology that is functionally capable of providing accurate location information so that they receive the support they need in times of an emergency.

¹ In the Matter of E911 Location Accuracy Requirements, *Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, PS Docket No. 7-114 (released February 21, 2014), available at <http://www.fcc.gov/document/proposes-new-indoor-requirements-and-revisions-existing-e911-rules>.

The Commission bases its proposed approach on recent advancements in location technology. In its March 2013 Indoor Location Test Bed Report, a Commission advisory body, the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC), hosted a test bed where several technologies demonstrated the capability to provide indoor location information. Since that time, there have been several successful prototype efforts with similarly promising results. Although these technologies are promising and innovative, CSRIC found that the ultimate success of these technologies to provide enhanced location accuracy to emergency call centers was dependent on the timely completion of the standardization process for the technologies, which would ensure “efficient and cost-effective implementation and operation.”²

The great majority of calls to 911 in the United States now originate on wireless phones, and the majority of wireless calls now originate indoors. These changes elevate the importance of ensuring that indoor 911 calls can be accurately located. As communications networks migrate to newer technologies and consumer habits change, we must make sure that consumers’ access to critical lifesaving services, most notably 911 services, are preserved, and where possible, improved. This process may be delayed, however, if innovative location accuracy technologies and techniques are not proactively incorporated into 3GPP technical standards so that they can be deployed in commercial networks on a time table that matches the rapidly shifting pattern for mobile 911 calls.

In order to foster development of competing technical approaches to improving location accuracy, we urge 3GPP to fully support and expeditiously complete all Work Items and Study Items related to location accuracy technologies and techniques. Please let me know how we can assist the development of this standard and how we might assist in the long term with a more agile process to introduce mobile standards in support of public safety. I can be reached directly at (202) 418-1304 or by e-mail at david.simpson@fcc.gov.

Sincerely,



David G. Simpson
Rear Admiral (Ret.)
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

² Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, Working Group 3 (E911 Location Accuracy), *Indoor Location Test Bed Report*, March 14, 2013, available at http://transition.fcc.gov/bureaus/pshs/advisory/csric3/CSRIC_III_WG3_Report_March_%202013_ILTestBedReport.pdf.

Attachment 2



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 23, 2014

Francesco Vadalà
Technical Plenary Chairman
Open Mobile Alliance
Via Reiss Romoli, 274 10148
Torino
ITALY

Dear Chairman Vadalà:

One of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) enduring values is to ensure that communications networks in the United States provide consumers with access to emergency services, including providing timely and accurate information about the location of emergency callers. To achieve this, the Commission has worked to establish rules and regulations that keep pace with advancements in wireless location information technologies. In many cases, the Commission's rules and regulations are dependent upon technologies that have achieved proper study and standardization by the leading standards organizations.

The Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) Location Working Group (LOC) has before it work items that directly impact the availability of enhanced emergency location technologies in the United States. I write to encourage the continued prioritization and expeditious completion of these items for location determination technologies that will enhance public safety response to wireless calls to emergency call centers.

In February, the Commission adopted a Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Further Notice) in its proceeding on Wireless E911 Location Accuracy.¹ The Further Notice focuses on improving the provision of enhanced location accuracy information for callers contacting 911, particularly from indoor locations, and proposes several new benchmarks requiring wireless providers to support the provision of enhanced location accuracy information. The Commission's objective is that all Americans using mobile phones – whether they are calling from urban or rural areas, from indoors or outdoors – have technology that is functionally capable of providing accurate location information so that they receive the support they need in times of an emergency.

The Commission bases its proposed approach on recent advancements in location technology. In its March 2013 Indoor Location Test Bed Report, a Commission advisory body, the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC), hosted a test bed where several technologies demonstrated the capability to provide indoor location

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information. Since that time, there have been several successful prototype efforts with similarly promising results. Although these technologies are promising and innovative, CSRIC found that the ultimate success of these technologies to provide enhanced location accuracy to emergency call centers was dependent on the timely completion of the standardization process for the technologies, which would ensure "efficient and cost-effective implementation and operation."²

The great majority of calls to 911 in the United States now originate on wireless phones, and the majority of wireless calls now originate indoors. These changes elevate the importance of ensuring that indoor 911 calls can be accurately located. As communications networks migrate to newer technologies and consumer habits change, we must make sure that consumers' access to critical lifesaving services, most notably 911 services, are preserved, and where possible, improved. This process may be delayed, however, if innovative location accuracy technologies and techniques are not proactively incorporated into OMA technical standards so that they can be deployed in commercial networks on a time table that matches the rapidly shifting pattern for mobile 911 calls.

In order to foster development of competing technical approaches to improving location accuracy, we urge OMA to fully support and expeditiously complete all work items related to location accuracy technologies and techniques. Please let me know how we can assist the development of this standard and how we might assist in the long term with a more agile process to introduce mobile standards in support of public safety. I can be reached directly at (202) 418-1304 or by e-mail at david.simpson@fcc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David G. Simpson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David G. Simpson
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

² Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, Working Group 3 (E911 Location Accuracy), *Indoor Location Test Bed Report*, March 14, 2013, available at http://transition.fcc.gov/bureaus/pshs/advisory/csric3/CSRIC_III_WG3_Report_March_%202013_ILTestBedReport.pdf.