

iCERT Policy Position on Standards for Next Generation 911

iCERT is committed to advancing technological innovation in a way that enhances public safety, improves interoperability, and promotes competition. One way we seek to achieve that goal is to support the development and implementation of open standards. Open standards are especially important for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), as these systems must interoperate in an environment that includes a variety of government agencies and private sector entities.

Background

iCERT has long supported the NG9-1-1 standards developed by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). The NENA-STA-010 standard, referred to as NENA i3, is a non-proprietary, consensus-based industry standard developed through collaborative efforts by NENA and numerous public safety industry professionals including representatives from many of iCERT's member companies. NENA i3 has been a primary focus of NG9-1-1 standards development for more than a decade and has been generally accepted as a basis upon which to engineer and build NG9-1-1 Core Services (NGCS) solutions. . This is true for NG9-1-1 systems deployed in the United States, Canada and throughout Europe. NENA i3 Revision 3 (officially NENA-STA-010.3-2021) was recently approved by the American National Standards Institute.

In 2016, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) created a standard that provides an alternative means for implementing NGCS signaling and media control functions using the IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS), a multimedia communications services architecture developed by the Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP). The ATIS IMS-based NGCS architecture incorporates significant portions of the NENA i3 standard and was developed to interoperate with i3 functional elements. The complementary nature of ATIS NGCS and NENA i3 allows the IMS-based standard to be used for signaling and media control functions within NGCS systems, while interoperating with other functional elements built upon NENA standards.

Policy Position

iCERT adopts the following policy position with regard to NG9-1-1 NGCS standards:

- iCERT believes NG9-1-1 systems and services should be standards-based, as open standards promote competition and interoperability.
- iCERT supports the use of both NENA i3 and ATIS NGCS standards in architecting and building NGCS, as they are compatible and designed to be complementary.
- NENA i3 and ATIS IMS are designed to be interoperable, though true interoperability can only be finally determined through testing.