



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 2, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Flore:

In January of this year, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) adopted a Fourth Report and Order (Order) in its proceeding on Wireless E911 Location Accuracy.<sup>1</sup> Underlying the Order is the Commission's recognition that most 911 calls in the United States originate from wireless phones, and the majority of wireless calls now originate indoors. In order to ensure that Public Safety Answering Points can accurately identify the location of wireless 911 callers when the caller is indoors, the Commission updated its Enhanced 911 (E911) rules to help emergency responders better locate wireless callers to 911.

Coincident with these developments, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Partnership Program (3GPP) Radio Access Network (RAN) Committee continues its important Work and Study Items in the area of location determination. As I stated in my letter to you of May 23, 2014, the Committee's efforts have a direct impact on the availability of enhanced emergency location technologies in the United States, but the benefits and near term deployments of those innovations and techniques will be lost if they are not proactively incorporated into 3GPP technical standards.

The Commission Order established performance metrics and benchmarks by which wireless service providers must begin providing enhanced indoor location information. In adopting its rules, the Commission recognized the commitments of the four national wireless providers, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) in their "Roadmap for Improving E911 Location Accuracy" (Roadmap) and a similar commitment made by non-nationwide wireless providers. Together, the Roadmap and the Commission's benchmarks ensure wireless providers will deploy new technologies in their networks so 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.

Already, the Roadmap signatories have begun implementing two essential elements of the indoor location requirements. First, in September, the signatories released a request for proposal to select an administrator for the 911 indoor location accuracy testbed. Under the

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<sup>1</sup> In the Matter of E911 Location Accuracy Requirements, *Fourth Report and Order*, PS Docket No. 7-114 (released February 3, 2015), available at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-new-wireless-indoor-e911-location-accuracy-requirements-0>.

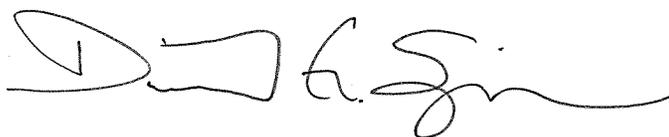
Commission's rules, wireless providers must test and certify any technology they intend to use in their deployments to meet FCC indoor location benchmarks. The test bed will be an independent and transparent environment in which to study the performance of innovative location technologies. Testing is expected to begin in August 2016.

Second, in October, the Roadmap signatories released a request for proposal soliciting bids for the creation of the National Emergency Address Database (NEAD) for indoor location information to provide a dispatchable location that includes street address plus floor, suite, apartment or other specific location information. The NEAD is expected to begin operational testing in November 2016 and to include wireless access point location information for technologies such as Wi-Fi and beacons.

Both of these developments point to a wireless industry poised to deploy a range of technological solutions capable of ensuring that Americans can be located wherever they may be in time of emergency. Under your leadership, the RAN Committee has demonstrated it understands the urgency of bringing these location technologies to the marketplace. I encourage the Committee to continue to support Work and Study Items that place location technologies on an expedited path for study and standardization so that they may be ready for consideration as wireless service providers strive to meet the FCC's location accuracy milestones. Timely action on these Work and Study items in next week's Plenary session will ensure that potentially relevant technologies can be targeted to support nationwide implementation of the FCC's milestones.

We look forward to the outcome of the coming Plenary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. G. Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

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