**3GPP TSG-SA3 Meeting #124 Draft\_S3-253806r1**

Wuhan, China, 13 – 17 October 2025 revision of 3449, 3516, 3575

**Title: (Draft) LS reply on LI requirements on IMS Data Channel**

**Response to: LS S3-253119/S2-2507657 on LI requirements on IMS Data Channel from SA2**

**Release: Rel18**

**Work Item: NG\_RTC\_SEC**

**Source: SA3**

**To: SA2, SA3-LI**

**Cc: SA4, CT1**

**Contact person: Jing Ping**

**Jing.ping@nokia-sbell.com**

**Send any reply LS to: 3GPP Liaisons Coordinator,** [**mailto:3GPPLiaison@etsi.org**](mailto:3GPPLiaison@etsi.org)

**Attachments:** N/A

# 1 Overall description

SA3 thanks SA2 for the LS regarding LI requirements on IMS Data Channel.

SA3 would like to answer the question 1 in below scenario:

**Roaming cases with S8HR / N9HR model:** SA2 would like to ask SA3 to study how the VPLMN decrypts the Data Channel content when any UE is in roaming state**.**

Answer: The S8HR/N9HR are direct interfaces between a roaming UE and its HPLMN and LI Requirements on the S8HR/N9HR imply that these interfaces shall not be confidentiality protected. It is possible to VPLMN have access to a copy of the DC content without confidentiality protection by using DTLS1.2 in DC protocol stack and setting NULL cipher for DTLS1.2. However, it’s not recommended in security point of view because of following reasons:

* NULL cipher is not possible for DTLS1.3 and is not recommended in DTLS1.2.
* DTLS1.3 is recommended since Rel19.
* The downgrade security configuration is applied to all UEs of the HPLMN to avoid LI being detectable.
* Regulation such as Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) mandates that data in transit and storage by default should be encrypted using state-of -the-art mechanisms

For question 2 regarding Interoperability case between two CSPs, or in direct communications between two users P2P, SA3 would like to ask SA2 if SA2 expected answer from SA3.

SA3 kindly asks SA2, SA3-LI take the above answer for question 1 into account and asks SA2 confirm question 2.

# 2 Actions

**To SA2, SA3-LI**

**ACTION:** SA3 kindly asks SA2, SA3-LI take the above answer into account and asks SA2 confirm question 2.

# 3 Dates of next TSG SA WG 3 meetings

SA3#125 17 – 21 November 2025 Dallas, US

SA3#126 9 – 13 February 2026 India (TBD)