

Liaison Note to 3GPP TSG SA

Request for information

Introduction

The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) focuses on the maritime domain, particularly Aids to Navigation (AtoN), including Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), and their associated communication systems. 3GPP is becoming an important element in digital communications, including the exchange of digital data.

IALA would like to thank 3GPP TSG SA for their appointment of a liaison between IALA and 3GPP currently fulfilled by Ms Hyounhee Koo (koo@synctech.com). IALA would like to invite Ms. Koo to participate at the ENAV26 meeting scheduled from 28 September to 2 October at the IALA HQ to provide an update on 3GPP developments and assist in the drafting of relevant IALA documentation related to 3GPP.

It is noted by IALA that 3GPP has a work item focusing maritime communication services over 3GPP Systems in Release 16 called 'MARCOM'.

IALA 3GPP interest

At the fifteenth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime radiocommunication matters (8 to 12 July 2019, IMO Headquarters, London) IALA was requested to report to IMO in respect of 3GPP developments. The report of the meeting (IMO document NCSR7/12) records this decision in paragraph 8.9:

8.9 During the ensuing discussion, the delegations that took the floor recognized that these were relevant developments and that IMO should be more proactive and get involved in the work of the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP). Noting that IALA had been approached already by 3GPP, the Group invited IALA to keep IMO informed of future developments.

In response to this, IALA provided an information paper to IMO (NCSR7 INF.6). This document was developed from the IALA perspective on the operational aspects of the developments in 3GPP that may be of interest to the members of NCSR7. In document SP-191366, 3GPP provided a liaison to IALA noting proposed amendments to the NCSR document. The paper was not addressed at NCSR7 plenary, according to the standard procedures of IMO. IALA will prepare an updated input for NCSR8 and would welcome input from 3GPP in the preparation of that document.

Given this request, and IALA's own role in the development of AtoN and VTS technology, IALA closely following the development of maritime services within 3GPP. IALA would therefore like to register an interest in the work of 3GPP, particularly the maritime vertical domain.

Action requested

The 3GPP TSG SA is requested to:

1. Inform IALA which 5G enabling technologies that are specified in the 3GPP Release 16 technical specification which could be applicable in the maritime domain.
2. Inform IALA of ongoing 5G standardization works in 3GPP Release 17 which could be applicable in the maritime domain.
3. Advise IALA regarding appropriate inputs [to support] development of 3GPP Release 17 for use within the maritime domain.
4. Advise IALA on the schedule for future meetings and other opportunities for input relevant to the maritime domain (such as MARCOM) allowing adequate time to prepare inputs.