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National Emergency
Number Association



9-1-1 Association Announces Program to Field Test Accuracy of Wireless 9-1-1 Location Services

NENA to Certify 9-1-1 Location Information for Cellular and Wireless 9-1-1 Callers

Columbus, Ohio (May 7, 2001)—The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) today announced its new field testing and certification program for Wireless 9-1-1 applications. The first element of the program will verify that wireless 9-1-1 callers will be located within the accuracy requirements mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and that their calls for emergency services will be correctly routed to the appropriate public safety answering point (PSAP).

When a wireless telephone user makes a 9-1-1 call, it is vital that the caller's location is known and that the call is routed to the PSAP best able to send the required assistance in the shortest amount of time. Lack of accurate location information or the incorrect routing of wireless 9-1-1 calls could significantly delay the arrival of help and have dire consequences for the safety of life, limb, and property. Responding to increasing demands for better delivery of emergency services to wireless phone subscribers, the FCC mandated that wireless communications service providers implement the technology necessary to locate wireless 9-1-1 callers. The FCC has specified the timeframe in which this technology must be implemented and the degree of location accuracy that must be afforded.

Two classes of location technologies have been advanced for solution of this problem. One class of solutions requires modifications to wireless carriers' network facilities, and the other class of solutions requires the location determination functionality to be resident within the subscriber's handset. Regardless of the type of solution deployed, the wireless 9-1-1 call must be routed to the PSAP serving the area where the call initiated. NENA's testing and certification program will ascertain carrier compliance with FCC regulations, regardless of the location determination technology deployed and regardless of the underlying wireless communications technology.

In order to rapidly deploy the Program, NENA has formed a strategic alliance and agreement with RCC Consultants, Inc. (RCC), a nationally recognized communications consulting firm with particular and unique expertise in wireless network communications technology, public safety communications systems, and the development of related software applications and field testing techniques.

“NENA and RCC have designed this program to provide benefits to the three major constituents of Wireless E9-1-1”, said Mark Adams, NENA Executive Director. “First, certification provides comfort to the wireless network operators that the technology they selected meets Federal Communications Commission rules by accurately determining the location of the emergency caller. Second, the governmental entities that operate the 9-1-1 system and the PSAPs have an independent, unbiased test that proves that the location of a Wireless 9-1-1 emergency call is both accurately determined and that the call is routed to the proper PSAP. And third, the public—more than 65% of whom cite security as a reason for buying wireless devices and service—will be assured that the wireless operators and the PSAPs have made their best effort to ensure that emergency calls will be properly routed and that callers will receive help.”

“NENA and RCC have applied their unique and respective strengths to bring this vital public service to the marketplace,” said Michael W. Hunter, RCC President and Chief Executive Office. “We are committed to providing unbiased and technically sound tests and to collecting data that proves whether or not the public will be properly served by a given implementation of Wireless E9-1-1 location technology. We applaud NENA for their foresight in identifying the need to bridge the theory of location technology to proof that it works in the real world.”

Further information concerning the Certification Program will be provided at NENA’s 2001 Annual Conference, to be held June 24-28 in Orlando, Florida.

About NENA

NENA is the only organization dedicated solely to the promotion and implementation of 9-1-1 as America’s universal emergency number. NENA’s mission is to foster the development and implementation of 9-1-1 as a universal emergency number. NENA has more than 7,000 members, most of whom manage over 6,000 9-1-1 centers that answer and process emergency calls. As an integral part of its mission, NENA also develops recommended standards and practices for 9-1-1 centers and manufacturers of 9-1-1 equipment. The NENA testing and certification program

announced today will support the Association's efforts to promote effective and reliable 9-1-1 services for all citizens in North America.

Visit NENA on the Internet at www.NENA.org.

About RCC

RCC Consultants, Inc. is a professional engineering and consulting firm that was incorporated in 1983 and is headquartered in Woodbridge, New Jersey. RCC's mission is to help clients achieve their operating objectives through the intelligent and efficient application of communications and information technology. RCC is an industry leader in public safety communications consulting wherein it provides a broad array of professional services, including: design and implementation of 9-1-1 emergency telephone systems and networks; emergency communications centers and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs); mobile voice and data radio systems; microwave and fiber optic networks; computer aided dispatch and records management systems; local and wide area voice and data networks; strategic consulting; systems operations and management; and grants funding assistance. RCC has successfully designed and implemented regional, statewide and nationwide voice and data communications networks for public safety and commercial clients.

RCC's engineers and software developers have designed tools and processes that will be used in the Wireless 9-1-1 Certification Program to test and validate location determination and call routing of emergency calls from wireless subscribers.

The firm's engineers and consultants are based in Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and London, England (RCC Consultants Limited).

Visit RCC Consultants on the Internet at www.RCC.com

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