



iCERT Endorses i3 Standard for Next Generation 911

The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) is the voice of the commercial sector in the emergency response technologies field. A core component of our mission is to advance technological innovation for the benefit of public safety, including through the development of effective standards. This is especially true for Next Generation 911 (NG911) systems that must interoperate in an environment that includes a variety of vendors, government agencies, and private sector entities.

NENA's i3 standard is a non-proprietary, consensus-based standard. The i3 standard for NG911 was developed through collaborative efforts by NENA, APCO, and numerous public safety industry professionals, including representatives from many of iCERT's member companies. It has been the focus of NG911 standards development for more than a decade, and is universally accepted by industry as *the* standard upon which NG911 systems are based. This is true for NG911 systems deployed in the United States, as well as Canada, and the European Union has also adopted i3 as the basis for its advanced emergency response systems. The latest version of i3 (Revision 3) is currently under development and is expected to be submitted to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for approval. iCERT fully supports the i3 standard as the set of specifications to which NG911 systems and services are designed and built.

NG911 standards will continue to evolve. Standards for 911 systems are driven by public safety's needs and the competitive marketplace, and as such, will necessarily evolve to satisfy new requirements. iCERT believes it is imperative that stakeholders work collaboratively within the i3 standards development process to address these changing requirements rather than introducing competing standards.

Public sector and commercial enterprises have invested significantly in i3. Recognizing i3 as the "build to" standard for NG911, iCERT's member companies, and various other commercial enterprises in the U.S. and around the world, have made considerable investments in the technologies, products, and services that comprise the NG911 ecosystem. Similarly, public sector agencies across the country have planned, designed, and in some cases already implemented, NG911 systems based on the i3 standard.

A shift away from i3 would be costly and undermine the nation's safety. iCERT believes that the accelerated implementation of NG911 technology is critical to the safety and security of the nation. As the current standard for NG911, i3 is a vital component to achieving that goal. While NG911 standards may continue to evolve, iCERT believes that a decision to supplant i3 with a different standard would be costly to industry and public sector agencies, could delay the implementation of NG911 by many years, and could significantly undermine the current and future effectiveness of the nation's emergency response efforts.

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