

WELCOME!!

Welcome to the third NICC Standards newsletter. In the newsletter we seek to keep you up to date on what's been going on at NICC, to remind you of the benefits of membership and highlight work areas where you may wish to be involved. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter as you wish.

NICC Open Forum

It's that time of year again! This year's Open Forum will take place on the 30th November at IET Savoy Place in central London.

As ever the programme consists of an eclectic mix of subject matter. We'll have a review of the activity undertaken by NICC over the last year, particularly focussing on progress we've made in the areas of Active Line Access and NGA Telephony. There'll also be presentations on latest Government policies for the communications sector and from DECC on their Smart-metering activity : this will almost certainly require much telecommunications input. Plus, we'll have presentations that will bring us the state of the art on radio access technology, covering femtocells and wifi.

For further information, see our [site](#), or contact nick.Ireland@niccstandards.org.uk.

NICC AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will follow the Open Forum at the same location, commencing 16:15.

New Publications

We've completed our review of the number portability standards, and these have been approved. The finalised documents will be appearing on the website very soon.

Improving user-friendliness

NICC's standards impart a lot of knowledge from the collective expertise of our members, but to a newcomer trying to find a way around our standards can be a bewildering experience. We've discussed this at the Board, and concluded that something needs to be done to assist in this process.

At present, we have in mind a diagrammatic representation of a series of interconnected networks. Users will be able to click on areas of interest to them – for example an interconnect point between two NGNs – and this will bring up a page that will explain NICC's activities in this area, setting out the architecture, protocol and other supporting standards we've derived for that point in the network. It must be stressed that this will be in addition to, rather than instead of, the current website structure with which we're all familiar.

If you'd like to put forward any suggestions, can lend any website creation expertise, or would be prepared to act as a guinea pig for the proposed solution, then please feel free to contact paul.rosbotham@niccstandards.org.uk.

Active Line Access

In our first newsletter we described NICC's activities regarding Active Line Access (ALA). The Ethernet WG has been working hard to deliver the required standards, and these are currently going through the initial phases of approval. Watch the [public](#) website, because they'll be published around the end of the year.

We've also identified a gap in our standards around the Management of ALA. Although not specifying such interfaces in great detail, there is a logic in laying down the baseline data that needs to be exchanged between access networks and users of their ALA services. We'd welcome your input : is a formal standard required or have commercial arrangements already overtaken this? Contact chris.gallon@ftel.co.uk.

NGA Telephony

Creation of the technical standards for NGA telephony has been a mammoth task : possibly the largest piece of work undertaken by NICC in a decade, largely because the UK is at the forefront of such deployments, at least on a multi-CP basis. At the same time, we've been rightly under

the cost to deliver standards in a timely manner, because industry has commercial imperatives to deploy NGA technologies and that can't happen without the technical standards.

Specifications covering the architecture and management interface have now been stabilised at a WG level : we've deferred final approval in case anything in the outstanding documents means we need to tweak them.

The protocol specification is taking longer than initially anticipated, because the issues have proven far more complex than anyone expected. However, we're making solid progress and now have the core of a standard in place. We hope to get this more fully populated by the end of the year, to a position where it's possible for members to use in procurement exercises, even if it isn't finally published.

We're just starting work on putting together some test specifications for access networks and NGA telephony providers to use to check interoperability. If you'd like to be involved in this exercise, contact nick.Ireland@niccstandards.org.uk.

Minimum security and network integrity standards

BIS is [consulting](#) on the revised EU Electronic Communications Directive. Within this, Article 13 lays requirements on member states to ensure the integrity of networks:

Article 13a Security and integrity

1. Member States shall ensure that undertakings providing public communications networks or publicly available electronic communications services take appropriate technical and organisational measures to appropriately manage the risks posed to security of networks and services. Having regard to the state of the art, these measures shall ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk presented. In particular, measures shall be taken to prevent and minimise the impact of security incidents on users and interconnected networks.

2. Member States shall ensure that undertakings providing public communications networks take all appropriate steps to guarantee the integrity of their networks, and thus ensure the continuity of supply of services provided over those networks.

NICC's Security WG is working with BIS and Ofcom to determine the role that our standards will play. Already we have ND1643, which establishes the minimum security requirements for NGN interconnects. It seems likely that we'll have

to expand the scope of this to address the needs of Article 13, covering other aspects of network design and operation. If you wish to be involved, contact jim.credland@cw.com.

NICC's Releases

You're probably familiar with the way that NICC writes standards as a series of colour-coded Releases. These draw together common themes (or more usually groups of common themes), and structure our work for programme management purposes.

In reality, our current output, Orange Release, has been delivering standards over a prolonged period of time. The initial mobile-focussed deliverables around BICC and M2PA were published at the beginning of this year, yet the ALA and NGA-T work is only just getting to the point of approval.

We've therefore decided to "cap-off" the Orange Release deliverables at topics that are likely to deliver the substantial portion of their standards by Easter of next year. The remaining topics will go into our subsequent Release, together with any proposals which are considered when we go through a requirements capture exercise in the new year.

In practical terms, this means that ALA and NGA-T will form part of Orange Release. The SIP-UNI activity focussed on corporate connections will go into the next Release. Which Release the basic SIP-NNI standards fall into will depend on how rapidly we progress over the next few months.

We must stress that none of this will de-prioritise or defer any work or publication : it's simply a means of organising our programme management so we don't end up with an open-ended Orange Release. In the meantime, put your thinking caps on about items you'd wish to see in the next Release (and what colour you fancy it being!!)

WE NEED YOU!!

As ever, all new participation is welcome. Contact paul.rosbotham@niccstandards.org.uk to arrange a chat about where you could add value and derive benefit, and we'll get you on the mailing list. Plus, let us know if there's anything you'd like to hear about in our future newsletters.