

Title: ESIF TF34 Key Points of Information

- 1. Was there appropriate PSAP input to TF34? Yes.** From the beginning of the TF34 work, NENA, APCO and PSAP representatives have actively participated in the development of the TF34 standards. Several PSAP CPE providers and ALI DB providers have actively participated and supported TF34. Throughout the process other interested parties (e.g. COMCARE) have been invited to participate. See the Slide 5 in the TF34 Overview/Status Presentation for more information regarding participation in TF34: <http://www.atis.org/esif/tf34status.asp>
- 2. Does the nature of American National Standards (ANS) mandate that the PSAPs use the ANS produced by ESIF TF34? No.** The implementation and/or use of ANS is voluntary unless mandated by an authorized governmental entity/agency. As a side note, the Federal Government recognizes the ANS production process (i.e., the core aspects of ANSI's Essential Requirements for the Production of ANS) as the diligent approach for the formulation of standards in the USA.
- 3. Does the nature of the TF34 proposed standards put inappropriate constraints on PSAPs? No.** To the contrary, the interfaces being formulated by TF34 provide for significant flexibility for configurations – including the capability to by-pass traditional emergency services network providers (e.g., ILECs). For more detail see Annex C (“Example Configurations”) in the draft of ESMI document that was provided for the Pre Letter Ballot Review (link: <http://www.atis.org/esif/Docs/Public-Contributions/ESMI-003-R17.pdf>); or see Slides 12 to 14 in the TF34 Overview/Status Presentation for an overview: <http://www.atis.org/esif/tf34status.asp>
- 4. Is ESMI a proprietary interface? No.** The Emergency Services Messaging Interface (ESMI) standard is based upon XML, HTTP, SIP and TCP/IP. These are well recognized industry standard. The ESMI standard will allow vendors to implement an open interface that is based on a standard specification – by definition this is not proprietary.
- 5. Is ESMI anti-competitive because it was driven by a few interested parties? No.** The nature of standards formulation is that a subset of interested parties are the champions and/or drivers of a standard; other interested parties provide review, comments, guidance, and final approval. This is true of all standards formulation. By providing a standard like ESMI, the playing field is leveled since any vendor interested in developing the standard is assured of the common criteria for implementation. The alternative would be for interested parties to work outside of the standards process and propagate one or more proprietary interface specifications as part of private bilateral agreements; this could lead to a de-facto standard specification by one of the large vendors, with definite intellectual property encumbrances.
- 6. Did TF34 adopt the use of web services as part of its standards suite? Yes.** The Emergency Information Services Interface (EISI) is a web service based interface. Because of the flexibility of configurations, a PSAP can expose just the EISI interface and never implement the ESMI interface. See the TF34 Overview/Status Presentation for more information on EISI: <http://www.atis.org/esif/tf34status.asp>
- 7. Is TF34's work consistent with the NENA's Future Path Plan (FPP) and NG 9-1-1 (I3) plan? The expectation is Yes.** ESIF TF34 was instituted in July 2004 through the cooperation of NENA and ESIF as each organization recognized the need for the evolution of the emergency services network. TF34 started out with requirements, specifically taking into consideration NENA's FPP. At the time Issue 34 was accepted, there were no objections to it being consistent with the NENA FPP. Subsequently there is now a NENA FPP compliance process with which the work of TF34 may require coordination. The FPP recognizes that the existing PSAP to ALI link is insufficient to meet the needs for future evolution. In addition the TF34 interfaces are designed with flexibility and extensibility in mind to accommodate future services (especially regarding new XML schemas). Requirements consistent with TF34 work have been introduced to NENA's I3 committee and several individuals are members of both TF34 and NENA I3. See Slides 12 to 15 in the TF34 Overview/Status Presentation for a brief overview of the relationship to I3: <http://www.atis.org/esif/tf34status.asp>