

SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 1,
2022

3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

FACILITATOR	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>George Hull, Melissa Shurland for Jeff Gordon, Jennifer Bastian, Collin Kemp for Gurleen Boparai, Ray Hessinger, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Mike Jenkins, Tammy Krause, Melissa Shurland, Art Peterson, Tarek Omar, Larry Salci, Steve Hewitt</i> Industry Members: <i>Ed Golitko, Dave Warner, Richard Stegner, Richard Curtis, Julie Desrosiers, Josh Coran, William Loebke, Joanna Hallisy, Kevin Sudano, Paul Jamieson, Kevin Myles, James Michel, Martin Bloedt, Steve Morrison, Steve Ojalvo</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Jeff Gordon, Mathew Simmons, Gurleen Boparai, Troy Hughes, Marci Petterson, Jason Biggs, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Rebecca Anger</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.

Technical subcommittee Chair George Hull, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.

After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt confirmed the presence of a quorum.

As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

2.

Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGENC Program Manager:

2022 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

The 2022 NGENC two-pager is available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

To date 581 copies have been distributed.

Maintaining Industry Participation List:

There are just over 200 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 8-18-22, Marci Petterson reported that "Answers to the first-round questions will be released by addendum tomorrow". (8-19-22). There were 137 questions submitted.

Next Update: As Appropriate

NGENC 2023 Annual Meeting – date and location:

The 2023 NGENC Annual Meeting will be held a bit earlier than in past years. This year it will be held on **February 3rd. The location is, once again, the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC Capitol Room B.** The time for the meeting will likely be the same as last year (**8:00am Registration – Meeting 8:30am – Noon Eastern**).

Steve will provide more information as the meeting date draws closer. He will send a "save the date" notice soon or a calendar appointment via Outlook to all NGENC members.

Working Group on Weight Issues as of 7-21-22:

The scheduled Working Group meeting for 6-9-22 was canceled due to a schedule conflict. Jeff Gordon is looking at dates for the next meeting.

Update: On 8-4-22, Jeff Gordon reported the next meeting of the working group is planned for August 18th. It is expected to be scheduled for August 18th.

If interested in participating on this working group, contact Jeff Gordon at Jeffrey.gordon@dot.gov or Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com

Next Update: 9-15-22

University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study as of 7-21-22:

For this project, we have been studying less utilized RF spectrum to ease the scarce RF resources issue. We selected 160 MHz since this band has been mainly used for voice applications. We designed and implemented computer models to explore the properties and capabilities of the 160 MHz RF band, and its suitability for a variety of applications.

We designed both a single-carrier transceiver architecture and an OFDM-based transceiver architecture for 160 MHz, and conducted evaluations of both designs. We also implemented and evaluated different channel models for this band.

This quarter, we designed the network layers for working with the 160MHz channel to evaluate end-to-end applications. We are in the process of collecting computer simulation results for end-to-end applications. The plan for the next phase is to perform field tests to verify our 160 MHz model and its performance.

Please contact Hamid Sharif @ University of Nebraska-Lincoln for any additional information.

Next Update: 9-15-22

3. Approval of the Minutes from 8-18-22 – George Hull, Amtrak:

On a motion by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT, and a second by Curtis McDowell, NCDOT the minutes from 8-18-22 were approved as submitted.

4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement – Collin Kemp for Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:

Collin Kemp provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of this meeting:

The Cab Car Carshell final design has been approved and the cab cars are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage. Cab Car Safety Appliance documents have been sent to the FRA for review, and the Cab Car Clearance information has been approved by Amtrak. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly complete.

The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the Rev B test report has been approved. The second revision of the Cab Car FMECA has been approved. The Sample Car Inspection for cab car is tentative for early 2023.

116 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. Revenue Service relevant FMIs are in progress and open items related to Conditional Acceptance are being addressed. IDOT coaches are currently in revenue service and Caltrans is planning revenue start once necessary agreements are in place.

5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:

Ray Hessinger reported that final design review (FDR) continues.

The first session meetings were held in Sacramento, Ca. and in Germany.

Siemens is updating documents based on Metro-North comments.

Metro-North reviewed mock-ups of 2 items: cab control and the emergency exit in the front of the cab.

6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – George Hull, Amtrak:

On the Acela:

They have received Trainset 4 and the next one is expected mid-month (September).

They are continuing to go through the qualification process and preparing to submit to FRA.

On the Charger Locomotives:

Progress continues with 12 of 15 delivered and commissioned into service.

On the Intercity Trainset (ICT):

They are close to done with Intermediate Design Review and are moving on to FDR.

On the GP38 Locomotive – Non-revenue locomotives:

The first one is arriving at the shop today (9-1-22) and the second will arrive shortly.

Next Update: 9-15-22

7.

Update: Document Control – Tammy Krause, NGEC Document Control Manager:

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in these minutes:

I have received 173 document change requests for the Bi-level specification. There will be no additional DCRs received. Any new ones will be reviewed for the following revision of the specification. I am currently dividing up the DCRs to send to the appropriate Working Groups. I had hoped to send them last weekend, but I am still working on them, and they should go tomorrow!

I continue to meet regularly with the Technical Writer about document control. Our new focus is the bi-level and proposed changes. The Materials WG met earlier today, I have no update.

Last week we discussed the new Communications Working Group that has been formed from the Electronics on Trains Working Group. If anyone has an interest in joining this Working Group, please let me know. The focus will be on-car communications. The sunseting of the Digital Hardware Specification and stopping work on the Software specification was approved by the Executive Board on 8-23-22.

8.

NGEC Website Refresh – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Manager:

Steve Hewitt reported that the NGEC (through AASHTO as contract manager) has contracted with iEngineering Corp. to do a website refresh. The NGEC website was set up over 10 years ago and is stale and not as user friendly or appealing as it should/could be. We have asked iEngineering to improve its look and its feel while reorganizing it, modernizing it and making it more user friendly.

Last week (8-23-22) Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger for the NGEC met with several AASHTO reps and the several iEngineering representatives to “kick off” the project. They have 6 months, but they do not believe it will take that long to do what is being asked.

iEngineering was given the points of contact (me for the NGEC) and others from AASHTO and have proceeded with their effort. All documents that we post will continue to be posted and those that are on the site will remain available. Hopefully the overall organization of the site will be improved and navigation will be more user friendly. We are excited about this refresh and believe it will help raise visibility for the NGEC if it is attractive to more users.

Ray Hessinger added that the website will soon have its own domain name and will no longer be a part of the AASHTO web domain. This will make it easier to find the NGEC site.

9.

CRISI Application for NGEC Funding – Steve Hewitt:

With Amtrak as the grantee of NGEC funds, they are the applicant for a CRISI Grant requesting additional funding for the NGEC. The NGEC has operated for nearly 13 years with a total of \$4 million being appropriated. Although the NGEC – or groups associated with the NGEC - have requested additional funding throughout the years, we have never received a reauthorization or new funding. After repeated attempts to find options for funding the NGEC beyond the current grant agreement which ends on 9-30-2023, it was

decided that applying for a CRISI grant while still looking to Amtrak or FRA for other options was the way to go.

Our Treasurer, Tim Ziethen, Amtrak has prepared the application and it is with the Amtrak committee under review. Assuming it is submitted, the NGECE cannot advocate for itself, but industry members can as van individual states. Letters in support will be critical to the success of the application. Steve Hewitt will provide status updates as to if and when the application is submitted to FRA.

Ray Hessinger added that AASHTO had provided its members with advance notice of the NOFO. Expected to be out on Friday 9-2-22.

**10.
Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming on today's call George Hull adjourned the meeting at about 3:22 pm Eastern.

Next Tech subcommittee Call: 9-15-22– 3:00pm Eastern

Decisions and Action Items

2022 NGECE Backgrounder educational document:

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Maintaining Industry Participation List: There are about 200 industry participants.

There have been several updates/changes to the list that have been provided to Steve Hewitt and those changes were made.

Any further updates or changes should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement:

On 9-1-22, Collin Kemp read the following CalIDOT update for inclusion in the minutes:

The Cab Car shell final design has been approved and the cab cars are in production. Remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final submittal and review stage. Cab Car Safety Appliance documents have been sent to the FRA for review, and the Cab Car Clearance information has been approved by Amtrak. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly complete.

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Next Update – 10-13-22

Document Control Update:

On 9-1-22, Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

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Next Document Control Update: 9-15-22

Establishing the Communications on Cars Working Group to replace the Electronics on Trains Working Group

Task Complete – Communications on Cars Working Group has been established.

Working Group on Weight Issues as of 8-4-22:

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Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –9-1-22:

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Next call 9-15-22

ATTACHMENTS



Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting

Web Ex video/audio information:

By Computer: <https://stephenhewitthewittconsulting.my.webex.com/meet/shewitt109>

by phone: 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 126-073-1531

Agenda

9-1-2022

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| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 8-18-22 | George Hull |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement | Collin Kemp |
| 5. Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |

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| 6. Amtrak Vehicle Procurement | George Hull |
| 7. Update: Document Control | Tammy Krause |
| 8. NGEC Website Refresh | Steve Hewitt |
| 9. CRISI Application for NGEC funding | Steve Hewitt |
| 10. Other | All |
| 11. Adjourn | George Hull |

Next Meeting 9-15-22