

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2023 3:00PM EASTERN

CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	<i>George Hull, Chair, NGENC Technical Subcommittee</i>
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Core Team Members:</b> <i>George Hull, Jeff Gordon, Gurleen Boparaj, Ray Hessinger, Ed Engle, Marci Petterson, Jennifer Bastian, Troy Hughes, Mike Jenkins, Blair Slaughter, Joe Paul, Art Peterson, Larry Salci, Tammy Krause, Ken Martin, Steve Hewitt</i> <b>Industry Members:</b> <i>Dave Warner, Paul Jamieson, Fran Nelson, Josh Coran, Rich Bowie, Rich Stegner, Steve Ojalvo, Frank Pascazio, Rob Magdole, Martin Taraszkiwicz, Dean Chiappini, Joanna Hallisey, Jeff Schultz, Dick Bruss, Darrell Smith, Gary Wagner, Jack Madden, Joe Kenas, Kevin Sudano, Jonathan Michel, James Michel, Stephen Mark, Paul Arnone</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Matthew Simmons, Jason Biggs, Curtis McDowell, Tarek Omar, Mike Murray, Melissa Shurland, 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](mailto: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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

To date 655 copies have been distributed.

The 2023 version is expected to be released by the 2023 NGENC Annual Meeting 2-3-23. See Agenda item 9 for details.

##### **Maintaining Industry Participation List:**

There are just over two hundred industry participants.

Two new members were added this week: Ron Lammerts – Colliers Engineering and Mike Monaco – TPSC Rail -Welcome!

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

##### **Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

Today (1-5-23), Marci Petterson reported that they expect to receive proposals by the end of January. At that point they will enter the "cone of silence".

##### **Next Update: As Appropriate**

##### **University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study:**

Hamid Sharif Report as of 10/13/2022:

*During the previous phase of this project, which was completed in August, our team systematically explored the reusability of underutilized RF resources such as the 160MHz RF band. In this work, we studied the distinct capabilities - and limitations - of the 160 MHz RF frequency bands through our theoretical and computer models to design an RF communications solution to maximize*

achievable performance, reliability, and security for rail applications.

*In the new phase, which started in September, we aim to research the transition from the developed model to a full prototype and conduct extensive field testing utilizing the rail facility to demonstrate our model capabilities. This phase also includes collections of a variety of performance metrics. We also aim to leverage these to accelerate research into a universal and modular cognitive radio solution for the rail industry that intelligently adapts to any usable RF band, for any rail wireless application.*

*I hope in the next report, provide more details about our plan for field testing. Please contact me ([hsharif@UNL.edu](mailto:hsharif@UNL.edu)) for any questions. Thank you.*

**Next Update: 2-3-23 – NGEN Annual Meeting**

**3. Approval of the Minutes from 12-8-22 – George Hull, Amtrak:**

On a motion by Jennifer Bastian, IDOT and a second by Ed Engle Iowa DOT, the minutes from 12-8-22 were approved as submitted.

**4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement – Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans:**

Gurleen Boparai, Caltrans, provided the following update for inclusion in today's minutes (1-5-23):

*The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review and closure stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed.*

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on October 25 with Amtrak and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car F-Coupler FAI is tentative for February.*

*121 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 all necessary agreements are in place.*

**5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive procurement – Steve Hewitt for Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North and Siemens are resolving FDR comments. They still anticipate car shell production to begin by the end of this month (January).

**6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle procurements – George Hull:**

George Hull reported on 1-5--22:

On the new Acelas:

They continue to work on qualification and modeling. Four trainsets have been delivered.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

They are progressing well. They are working on PTC issues, They had a good experience during the winter storm and are working on items that came up during the extreme weather.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

They have named the trainsets "Airo". They continuing in the Final Design Review (FDR) Phase and have begun construction of the first car shell.

**7. Update: Document Control – Overview of the Bi-Level Specification DCRs - Tammy Krause, NGEN Document Control Manager:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of this call (1-5-22):

*Document control activities involved the bi-level specification. The comments were sent to the entire TSC to review. I have received several comments on the DCRs. I would like any additional comments by 1/12/23 and I will send out a new table on 1/13/23. I think we can review and vote on them at the next Technical subcommittee call (1-19-23).*

Several questions were raised:

Jeff Gordon asked if these were the raw DCRs – with no working group conclusions. Tammy responded “correct.” When all working groups have provided their conclusions, she will be able to complete the table.

Steve Hewitt asked if Tammy believed there will be consideration of approval of the summary of changes on the 1-19-23 Technical subcommittee call and replied that it would depend on how many comments/questions she receives between now and 1-12-23, but she anticipates that a vote will be in order for 1-19-23.

Steve said he will add consideration of the summary of changes to the next agenda (1-19-23) that he will prepare for George’s approval.

**8.  
Update: Working Group on Weight Issues – Jeff Gordon, FRA:**

Jeff Gordon reported that, due to the holidays, the group has not yet held its the next meeting, but he expects to hold one over the next week or so and report to the subcommittee on its next meeting 1-19-23.

This item will be added to the 1-19-23 Tech subcommittee agenda.

**9.  
NGEC Website Refresh – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt provided the following update as of 1-5-23:

The website refresh is complete, and the new website is live with a new domain: [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org)

Members are encouraged to go to the site and take a look. It has a better look and is much more user friendly.

**10.  
NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reported that the current draft agenda for the 13th NGEC Annual Meeting (February 3, 2023 – 8:00am-12:30pm Eastern) has been distributed and is or will be posted to the NGEC website.

Please register your intent to attend by sending an email to Steve Hewitt [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com) and state whether you plan to attend in-person or virtual. Please respond by 1-13-23. Registration is low at the moment – but that is pretty much normal for this time in the process.

A current registration list will be included with the distribution of today’s draft minutes.

Please reserve your hotel room (**deadline is 1-9-23**): <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/WASRW/G-RA1L>. Room Rate is \$188 per night plus 14.95% tax. The block is filling up - so you should contact the hotel asap.

**11.  
Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming on today’s call George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm Eastern.

**Next Tech subcommittee Call: 1-19-23– 3:00pm Eastern**

## Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

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The 2023 version is in final draft form and will be on the 1-10-23 NGENC Executive Board agenda for consideration of Approval.

### **Maintaining Industry Participation List:** There are about two hundred industry participants.

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Two new members were added this week: Ron Lammerts – Colliers Engineering and Mike Monaco – TPSC Rail -Welcome!

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at [shewitt109@aol.com](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

### **Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 1-5-23:**

*The remaining Cab Car FDRs are in the final review and closure stage and the Cab Car dynamic framing representative approach has been submitted to FRA for review. IDOT Café Car system level FDR reviews are nearly closed.*

*The Cab Car Collision and Corner Post Appendix F testing is complete, and the test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on October 25 with Amtrak and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car F-Coupler FAI is tentative for February.*

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### **Next Update – 1-19-23**

### **Document Control:**

#### **As of 1-5-23:**

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### **Next Update – 1-19-23**

### **Working Group on Weight Issues:**

The document is nearly complete. Jeff has some work to do on it before sending back out to the working group members.

The document is turning out a bit differently than expected. Jeff said he is not sure exactly how the Technical subcommittee will use it.

He noted that the group has uncovered things that need to be changed in the spec. None of these are controversial. Some are simply updates to the references and some are corrections to equations that have changed. Jeff will handle these through the DCR process that is ongoing now on the Bi-Level specification update.

Jeff expects the work to be complete by November with working group meetings to be held in September and October.

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

**Next Update – 1-19-23**

**University of Nebraska High Speed wireless study:**

On 10-13-22 Hamid Sharif provided the following report for inclusion in the meeting minutes:

**Hamid Sharif Report 10/13/2022:**

*During the previous phase of this project, which was completed in August, our team systematically explored the reusability of underutilized RF resources such as the 160MHz RF band. In this work, we studied the distinct capabilities - and limitations - of the 160 MHz RF frequency bands through our theoretical and computer models to design an RF communications solution to maximize achievable performance, reliability, and security for rail applications.*

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*I hope in the next report, provide more details about our plan for field testing. Please contact me ([hsharif@UNL.edu](mailto:hsharif@UNL.edu)) for any questions. Thank you.*

**Next Update: 2-3-22 NGE Annual Meeting**

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –1-5-23:**

Ray Hessinger reported that Metro-North and Siemens are resolving FDR comments. They still anticipate car shell production to begin by the end of this month (January).

**Next Update: 2-3-23 Annual Meeting**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

On 1-5-23, Marci Petterson reported that they expect to receive proposals by the end of January. At that point they will enter the "cone of silence."

**Next Update: As Appropriate**

**Amtrak Equipment Procurement:**

George Hull reported on 1-5--22:

On the new Acelas:

They continue to work on qualification and modeling. Four trainsets have been delivered.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

They are progressing well. They are working on PTC issues, They had a good experience during the winter storm and are working on items that came up during the extreme weather.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

They have named the trainsets "Arrow". They continuing in the Final Design Review (FDR) Phase and have begun construction of the first car shell.

**Next Update: 2-3-23 NGE Annual Meeting.**

**NGEC Website Refresh:**

Steve Hewitt provided the following update as of 1-5-23:

The website refresh is complete, and the new website is live with a new domain: [www.ngec.org](http://www.ngec.org)

Members are encouraged to go to the site and take a look. It has a better look and is much more user friendly.

**Task Complete****Amtrak's NGEC CRISI Grant Application:**

As of 12-8-22:

Steve Hewitt reported that the Amtrak/NGEC CRISI Grant was submitted to the FRA before the deadline. The application has been uploaded to the FRA website. FRA will review all applications received and make determinations.

The application is for \$2 million with a period of 5 years (although a sunset date is not known – Tim is checking). Amtrak is providing the 20% match (\$400,000) using non-federal funds (fare box), with the FRA providing the remaining \$1.6 million.

The Executive Board members had a brief opportunity to review and comment on the application before it was submitted. Tim Ziethen, Amtrak, who is the NGEC Treasurer and FASC Chair reported to the subcommittee (FASC) that he feels good about the application. He believes "we" made a good case. The application is comprehensive – more than thirty-five pages with included attachments.

Steve Hewitt noted that the application received many letters of support including individual states, rail manufacturing and supply companies, individual industry members, and associations such as AASHTO, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc. (SPRC) and the Rail Passenger Association (RPA).

Steve noted that Tim had reported that Meghan Hestand, Amtrak Grants, commented to him that the support letters received was impressive.

During the FASC call, Tim also noted that the application received strong support from within Amtrak adding that the support went "all the way to the top."

Steve mentioned that he did not have a timeline for when FRA would announce what grants were awarded, but it would be a number of months for sure.

Steve thanked those NGEC members who submitted letters in support and stated added that letters can still be sent even though the application has been submitted.

**NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting:**

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**Next call 1-19-23**

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**

**1-5-23**

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call  | Steve Hewitt    |
| 2. Review Action Items                                  | Steve Hewitt    |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 12-8-22                         | George Hull     |
| 4. Update: Multi-State Rail Car Procurement             | Gurleen Boparai |
| 5. Update: Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger   |
| 6. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements                  | George Hull     |
| 7. Update: Document Control                             | Tammy Krause    |
| - Overview of Bi-Level Specification Summary of Changes |                 |
| 8. Update – Working Group on Weight Issues              | Jeff Gordon     |
| 9. NGEC Website Refresh – update-release of new webiste | Steve Hewitt    |
| 10. NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting                            | Steve Hewitt    |
| 11. Other   | All             |
| 12. Adjourn   | George Hull     |

**Next Meeting 1-19-23**