

# SECTION 305 TECH SUB COMM

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10,  
2022

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, Art Peterson for Jennifer Bastian, Gurleen Boparai, Curtis McDowell for Matthew Simmons, Ed Engle, Troy Hughes, Troy Hughes also as proxy for Jason Biggs, Mike Jenkins, Blair Slaughter, Joe Paul, Tarek Omar, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt</i> <b>Industry Members:</b> <i>Ed Golitko, Richard Curtis, Kevin Sudano, Steve Ojalvo, Rich Bowie, Dave Warner, Darrell Smith, Bill Saddler, Stephen Mark, Paul Arnone, Paul Jamieson, Richard Stegner, Brian Ley, Jeff Schultz, Julie Desrosier</i>
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	<i>Ray Hessinger, Matthew Simmons, Jennifer Bastian, Jason Biggs, Marci Petterson, Mike Kraft, Mike Murray, Larry Salci, 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 625 copies have been distributed.

On 11-9-22, the NGENC Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) sent the Executive Board recommended updates and a concept for the 2023 version. The Board will review the concept recommendations on 11-15-22.

The 2023 version is expected to be released by the 2023 NGENC Annual Meeting 2-3-23.

#### **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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

#### **Next Update 11-10-22**

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

Update: On 10-12-22, Marci Petterson reported that they have just finished answering the second round of questions and are now going into the third round. The request for proposals deadline has been extended until January 2023.

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

#### **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: 12-8-22**

**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: 12-8-22**

**3. Approval of the Minutes from 10-27-22 – George Hull, Amtrak:**

On a motion by, Art Peterson for IDOT and a second by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, the minutes from 10-27-22 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 (11-10-22):

*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 Rev B test report has been approved. The Cab Car emergency egress demo occurred on Tuesday, October 25 with Amtrak, and FRA in attendance. The Cab Car Coupler FAI is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>.*

*117 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 was not available, so Steve Hewitt read into the record the report Ray provided to the NGEC Executive Board on 11-1-22:

As reported to the Executive Board on 11-1-22, as of the beginning of October, Siemens had submitted all FDR documents to Metro-North. There were 33 documents submitted. Of those, 14 topics are closed with 19 under review. A series of meetings were scheduled throughout the month of October to continue the review of the 19 open topics.

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

George Hull reported on 11-10-22:

On the new Acelas:

Not much change from the last report modeling and qualification continues.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

Things continue to go well with 16 locomotives in service.

On the Intercity Trains (ICT):

Final Design Review (FDR) is almost complete.

**7.**  
**Update: Document Control – Steve Hewitt for Tammy Krause, NGEN Document Control Manager:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in the minutes of this call (11-10-22):

*All the Bi-level specification document change requests are with the appropriate technical working group leaders. The Halloween date for completing the review has passed and I have not received the comments back, I have received some questions though. I am putting together a timeline for completion of the spec and I will reach out to the WG leaders about their status.*

*The minor revisions for the bi-level specification have been started. These are ones that are non-technical, typically grammatical errors. Also, the formatting changes for several chapters of the bi-level are underway.*

**Trainline Communications Working Group Questions for Tammy Krause:**

Tammy added that she had not yet answered the questions posed by the Communications Working Group but would do so, and report on it on the next Technical subcommittee call.

*Questions:*

*During our previous meeting, discussions were held regarding trainline communications specifications for the single-level Amtrak cars that are being ordered. I reiterated that the trainline communications section of the single-level specification would be the governing reference.*

*It was asked if the section was going to be reviewed and also, in the event of problems, how we would go about ensuring the cars would be constructed appropriately related to trainline communications. We can definitely add reviewing the section to our tasks, but I'm unsure how to proceed in the event problems are identified and/or changes requested.*

*Are there plans to perform a formal review of the single-level specification in the near future, or has it already been completed recently? Are there procedures in place for making changes/amending the specifications outside of the periodic review cycle?*

**8.**  
**NGEC Website Refresh – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt provided the following update as of 11-10-22:

The website refresh vendor (iEngineering) has completed Tasks I and II and is now working on Task III.

They have acquired a domain for the NGEN rather than have it as a part of the AASHTO website as it is now. The domain is ngen.org

Earlier this month (10-11-22) iEngineering provided the NGEN/AASHTO subgroup with a website Design Mock-Up The Mock-up was reviewed by the subgroup.

On 10-18-22, the web design mock-up was distributed to the NGEN Executive Board and was shown virtually during the Board meeting by Ray Hessinger, Chair.

On 10-28-22, Steve Hewitt and Ray Hessinger compiled all comments received and sent a redline version of the text content for iEngineering to include in the next web design mock-up. Steve and Ray also responded to the items that the vendor requested feedback on.

As of 11-10-22, No response has been received from iEngineering.

Overall, the vendor continues to make great progress and anticipates completing its work well within the performance period which runs through December 31, 2022.

**9.  
NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting – Steve Hewitt:**

Steve Hewitt reported that a draft agenda for the 13th NGEN Annual Meeting (February 3, 2023 – 8:00am-12:30pm Eastern) will be presented to the NGEN executive Board on Tuesday 11-15-22.

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.

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.

**10.  
CRISI Application for NGEN Funding – Steve Hewitt:**

The Amtrak/NGEN CRISI Grant Application is being prepared by the Amtrak Grants Office. Amtrak will be sending out a request for letters of support by Monday 11-14-22. The request will include a form letter/template for use in sending in your letters of request. These letters of support will be included in the CRISI Grant application package. Amtrak has been provided with contact lists for the letters of support by Steve Hewitt. The letters will be due back to Amtrak within two weeks. The application deadline is 12-1-22. The letters will be of critical importance in the application review process.

It is anticipated that the DRAFT application will be provided to the NGEN Executive Board members under a request for confidentiality by Monday 11-14-22 for review and comment.

**10.  
Other:**

**Adjourn:**

With no other business forthcoming on today's call George Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:24pm Eastern.

**Next Tech subcommittee Call: 12-8-22– 3:00pm Eastern**

**Decisions and Ongoing Action Items**

**2022 NGEN Backgrounder educational document:**

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The NGEN Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC) has sent proposed updates and a concept to the NGEN Executive Board for discussion on 11-15-22.

**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](mailto:shewitt109@aol.com).

**Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 11-10-22:**

*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.*

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Tammy added that she had not yet answered the questions posed by the Communications Working Group but would do so, and report on it on the next Technical subcommittee call.

*Questions:*

*During our previous meeting, discussions were held regarding trainline communications specifications for the single-level Amtrak cars that are being ordered. I reiterated that the trainline communications section of the single-level specification would be the governing reference.*

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

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**Next Update: 12-8-22**

**Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement –10-13-22:**

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**Next Update: 12-8-22**

**Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:**

Conn DOT has just completed answering Round 2 questions and are going into Round 3. The RFP deadline has been extended until January 2023.

**Next Update: As Appropriate**

**Amtrak Equipment Procurement:**

**As of 11-10-22:**

On the new Acelas:

Not much change from the last report modeling and qualification continues.

On the Charger Locomotives (ALC 42):

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**Action: George Hull to provide photos of NGEC Equipment (Interiors and Exteriors) from Amtrak Marketing for the website design.**

#### **Amtrak's NGEC CRISI Grant Application:**

As of 11-10-22:

The Amtrak/NGEC CRISI Grant Application is being prepared by the Amtrak Grants Office. Amtrak will be sending out a request for letters of support by Monday 11-14-22. The request will include a form letter/template for use in sending in your letters of request. These letters of support will be included in the CRISI Grant application package. Amtrak has been provided with contact lists for the letters of support by Steve Hewitt. The letters will be due back to Amtrak within two weeks. The application deadline is 12-1-22. The letters will be of critical importance in the application review process.

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**Next call 12-8-22**

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**

**11-10-2022**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Roll Call   | Steve Hewitt    |
| 2. Review Action Items   | Steve Hewitt    |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 10-27-22   | 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    |
| 8. NGEC Website Refresh - update   | Steve Hewitt    |
| 9. NGEC 2023 Annual Meeting – Registration and Hotel reservation information | Steve Hewitt    |
| 10. CRISI Application for NGEC funding - update                              | Steve Hewitt    |
| 11. Other  | All             |
| 12. Adjourn  | George Hull     |

**Next Meeting 12-8-22**