Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Enhanced Group Call – Application Programming Interface Correspondence Group

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Background

"… establish a correspondence group (CG) to explore the feasibility, creation and implementation of an application programming interface (API) to allow NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators to use only one interface for the broadcast and monitoring of their warnings."

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
IHO

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Status

- The correspondence group met ten times throughout 2020 and early 2021, primarily by correspondence. In accordance with the agreed *Terms of Reference* the correspondence group was to:
  - develop and adopt a work plan
  - develop and adopt essential and desirable requirements
  - develop and adopt compliance documentation for the relevant guidelines and guidance
  - develop and adopt documentation of the standard
  - develop and adopt minimum test procedures to demonstrate compliance with the standard
  - submit the proposed standard to WWNWS-SC for approval.

Observations

The standard is only intended to support the transfer of EGC shore-to-ship information, including its required messaging instructions, between MSI and recognized mobile satellite service providers

Observations

Support for shore-to-ship SAR-related information broadcast, remains undecided.

Development of the standard does not preclude shore-to-ship SAR-related information broadcast; however, it is not within scope of the Terms of Reference.

Observations

The standard enables recognized mobile satellite service providers to develop and implement system-specific elements.

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Engagement

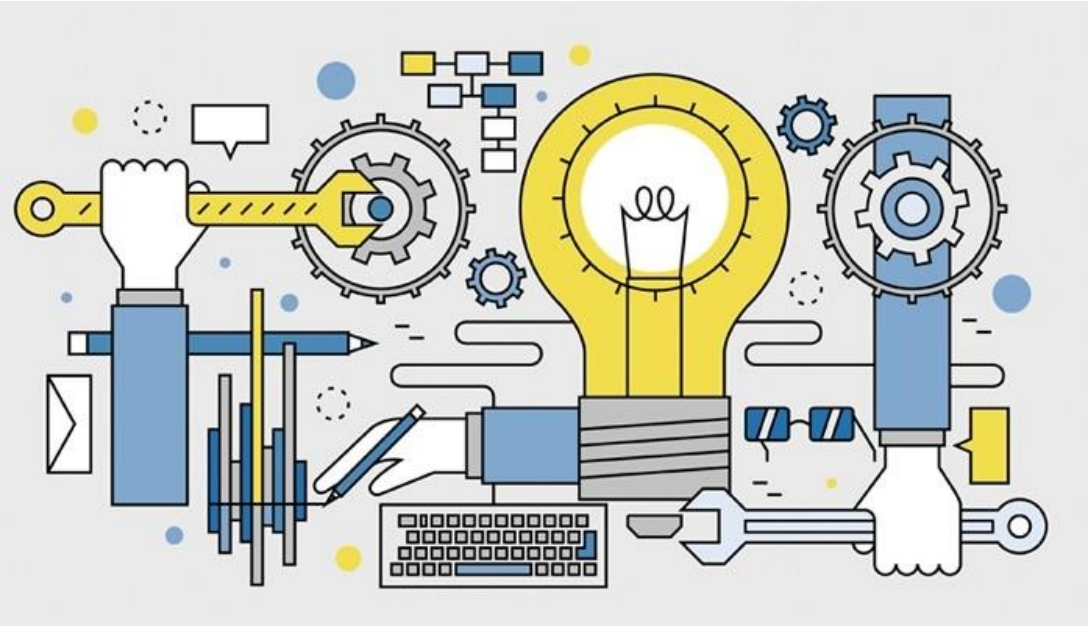
- The EGC-API CG contributed to the following international meetings:
  - sixteenth meeting of Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters (IMO/ITU EG 16/INF.2)
  - twelfth meeting of the WWNWS-SC (WWNWS12-2-3-2)
  - eighth meeting of the IMO’s Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 8/9/5).

Action to be taken

The Sub-Committee is invited to:

a. thank participants for their contribution to the correspondence group in achieving its objectives on time;
b. note further action is required to support shore-to-ship SAR-related information broadcast in the standard;
c. note the completion of the work of the EGC-API CG as agreed in the Terms of Reference;
d. approve the proposed standard;
e. publish the approved standard on the WWNWS-SC website and include the Chair WWNWS-SC as the point of contact; and
f. inform the IMO NCSR, WMO and IMSO of the outcomes of the EGC-API CG and availability of the standard on the WWNWS-SC website.

Outstanding items



- There is a need to finalise the development of the test procedure.
- A key item was understanding how messages would be cancelled by the API process.
- Further operational experience with the API is necessary to finalise this element.

Questions and discussion

Thank you very much to those who participated in the correspondence group. Over ten meetings, participants learnt a lot about API development and I think we have a very useful API standard to move forward with implementation by the recognized mobile satellite service providers.