# Enhanced Group Call – Application Programming Interface Correspondence Group (EGC-API CG) Final Report

Submitted by Australia/NAVAREA X (on behalf of the EGC-API CG)

**SUMMARY**

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| Executive Summary: | This contribution provides the final report of the EGC-API CG to WWNWS-SC. |
| Action to be taken: | Paragraph 13 |
| Related documents: | Summary Report of WWNWS11 (WWNWS11-2019); NCSR 7/9/4, 7/14/3 and 7/23; IMO/ITU EG 16/INF.2; WWNWS12-2-3-2; NCSR 8/9/5 |


## Background

1. The eleventh meeting of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Sub-Committee on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS-SC) held in August 2019 agreed to

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

2. The correspondence group is known as the IHO Enhanced Group Call (EGC) Application Programming Interface (API) Correspondence Group (EGC-API CG).

3. The NAVAREA X Coordinator (Australia) agreed to lead the work of the correspondence group with assistance from the NAVAREA XVII and XVIII Coordinator (Canada).

## Membership

4. Membership of the correspondence group included 43 representatives from NAVAREA, METAREA and Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) coordinators, Inmarsat, Iridium, International Cospas-Sarsat Programme, IHO Secretariat, International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) Directorate, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretariat and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretariat.

5. The Chair would like to thank all participants who have contributed to completion of the work of the correspondence group. The work was completed on time (refer to Attachment B) and included very useful discussion. The Chair would especially like to thank the assistance of the Vice-Chair, Lucia Bakker (NAVAREA XVII and XVIII Coordinator).

**Status**

6. The correspondence group met ten times throughout 2020 and early 2021. Meetings were primarily held by correspondence. In accordance with the agreed Terms of Reference (Attachment A), the focus of the meetings was to:

   a. develop and adopt a work plan
   b. develop and adopt essential and desirable requirements
   c. develop and adopt compliance documentation for the relevant guidelines and guidance
   d. develop and adopt documentation of the standard
   e. develop and adopt minimum test procedures to demonstrate compliance with the standard[1]
   f. submit the proposed standard to WWNWS-SC for approval

7. Agreed minutes of each meeting were published and made available to members.

**Challenges and observations**

8. There remains a view the standard will solve interconnectivity and interoperability issues highlighted in the IMO and other international fora. It is important to note the standard is only intended to support the transfer of EGC shore-to-ship information, including its required messaging instructions, between maritime safety information (MSI) and recognized mobile satellite service (RMSS) providers.

9. The correspondence group discussed the possibility of enforcing requirements on the RMSS providers to implement a single standard, rather than individual solutions. To achieve this, the scope of work would have required amendment through IHO, WMO and IMO, and possible development of an IMO performance standard and was not supported.

10. How and when to progress support for shore-to-ship SAR-related information broadcast, remains undecided. It has been acknowledged that current 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.

11. The Terms of Reference acknowledge the standard should enable RMSS providers to develop and implement system-specific elements. The correspondence group agreed that the RMSS providers should implement an API as they see fit, meeting the requirements of the IMO, IHO and WMO, in accordance with the standard approved by WWNWS-SC, providing the necessary documentation to enable MSI providers to implement it.

**International engagement**

12. Australia, on behalf of the correspondence group, has kept the relevant international organisations abreast of the progress of the EGC-API CG; contributing to the following international meetings:
    a. sixteenth meeting of Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters (IMO/ITU EG 16/INF.2)

[1] Paragraph **3.e** and **3.f** of the Terms of Reference were amalgamated to deliver a *Test procedure* (refer to Attachment F).

b. twelfth meeting of the WWNWS-SC (WWNWS12-2-3-2)
c. eighth meeting of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 8/9/5).

**Action to be taken**

13. 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 (Attachment A);
    d. approve the proposed standard, reflected in Attachments C thru F;
    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.

**Attachments**

A. Terms of Reference
B. Work plan and timeframe
C. Essential requirements
D. Desirable requirements
E. Conformance with international guidelines and guidance
F. Test procedure (tentatively adopted)