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Requirements for MCX PTT Device Conformance Testing

Products supporting 3GPP Mission Critical Services (MCX) are in the market to deliver high-performance, interoperable mission critical push-to-talk functionality. In partnership with TCCA, the Global Certification Forum (GCF) established a formal test process to confirm a device's standards compliance. A framework that enforces the adoption of open standards-based interfaces and conformance testing based upon that process will secure a consistent 3GPP ecosystem that drives global scale and ensures interoperable devices.

This document proposes recommended text that network operators, government agencies, and end-user organisations should incorporate within procurement tenders, contracts, and grant guidance documents to identify the compliance requirement that equipment suppliers must meet. By copying and adapting the recommended text offered by TCCA, a government agency establishes the legal basis that ensures 3GPP MCX adoption.

Purpose of Recommendations

A viable test ecosystem is required in order for the public safety community's interoperability goals to be met. The GCF produced a Mission Critical Services Certification Procedures Permanent Reference Document (PRD) that identifies certification requirements, policies, and procedures. This GCF PRD is based upon test cases established by 3GPP that confirm compliance with 3GPP Mission Critical Push-to-Talk user equipment interface standards. TCCA believes the adoption of consistent procurement requirements addressing interoperability certification will foster a robust ecosystem of interoperable 3GPP-based MCX devices and drive global scale.

MCX Client PTT Conformance Testing Recommended Procurement Text

TCCA recommends the following sample text to be incorporated in the terms and conditions established in procurement or grant funding processes. When a document writer adopts TCCA's recommended procurement text for MCX compliance, the text may be modified to reflect organisation-specific requirements. At the time of writing (November 2023), GCF has not yet completed the MCS Certification Procedures. In this case the supplier should be requested to proactively ensure that certification is reached for the products within the scope of delivery.



Procurement Activities - Recommended Text

The following text is recommended for procurement tenders or contracts:

Suppliers must prove that broadband devices supporting group voice communications offered in response to this procurement provide Mission Critical Services (MCX) client functionality that conforms with the 3GPP specifications for mission critical communications. This proof is established by providing a Certificate of Conformance based upon the Global Certification Forum (GCF) Mission Critical Services Certification Procedures Permanent Reference Document Version XXX (insert current version). A GCF approved test laboratory must issue this Certificate of Conformance. This GCF MCX Certificate of Conformance may be in addition to other conformance requirements established by a mobile network operator. If GCF has not declared the relevant MCS Certification Activation Readiness by the time of procurement, the supplier must proactively ensure that certification is reached for the products within the scope of delivery and provide the Certificate without undue delay when the GCF has declared the relevant MCS Certification Activated.

Grant Funding Activities - Recommended Text

The following text is recommended for grant funding guidance:

Suppliers must prove that broadband devices supporting group voice communications purchased with this grant funding provide Mission Critical Services (MCX) client functionality that conforms with the 3GPP specifications for mission critical communications. This proof is established by providing a Certificate of Conformance based upon the Global Certification Forum (GCF) Mission Critical Services Certification Procedures Permanent Reference Document Version XXX (insert current version). This GCF MCX Certificate of Conformance may be in addition to other conformance requirements established by a mobile network operator. If GCF has not declared the relevant MCS Certification Activation Readiness by the time of procurement, the supplier must proactively ensure that certification is reached for the products within the scope of delivery and provide the Certificate without undue delay when the GCF has declared the relevant MCS Certification Activated.