



December 18, 2003

via electronic mail

Distribution: Industry Associations, Carriers, Manufacturers, Interested Parties
[e.g., ATIS, CTIA, CDG, GSMA, 3G Americas, NENA, FCC, FBI (ESTS-CIU)]

Mr. John Muleta
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: ESN and Impending Transition and Migration to MEID (Mobile Equipment Identifier)

Dear Mr. Muleta,

This initial outreach letter is to inform you of ESN (Electronic Serial Number) & UIM/ID (User Identification Module / Identifier) issues and activity which is of importance to the wireless industry.

The Telecommunications Industry Association ("TIA") administers the 32 bit ESN resource on behalf of the Federal Communications Commission.

For several years, TIA's ESN Administrator has been working with industry to prepare for the inevitable exhaust of this limited resource. For example, almost two years ago, the Administrator was successful in recovering some unused codes that had previously been issued to manufacturers and never imbedded in wireless devices, but we have achieved only minimal success. The TIA TR45 ESN/UIM AdHoc group has recently recommended ESN administration conservation guidance as instituted by the ESN Administrator. TIA has jointly developed the MEID GHA (Global Hexadecimal Administrator) guidelines with 3GPP2 (Third Generation Partnership Project 2) and is designated as the GHA Administrator.

We are currently pursuing three approaches to address ESN issues:

1. First, we are in the process of contacting ESN assignees in the hopes of recovering ESNs that had been used previously but can now be reused.
2. Second, we are seeking information from the industry on ESNs that have gone unused within ESN blocks that were previously allocated.

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3. Finally, TIA's engineering committees are working towards completion and adoption of standards for ESN transition to MEID. The MEIDs larger 56 bit structure should allow for enough serial numbers to last well into the future.

These simultaneous efforts are intended to delay the exhaust of the ESN resource and hopefully ensure that a strategy for transition to assigning MEIDs for new wireless devices is available in time for implementation and testing with back-office systems.

The TIA TR45 ESN/UIM AdHoc group will also attempt to define issues (i.e., for implementation, testing, and back-office issues) that need to be addressed in other than standards fora to be forwarded to other organizations that can cooperatively support this effort. This is an overlay approach with continued support for ESN.

ESN exhaust may be only a year away. With proper industry-wide awareness, planning, implementation timeliness and cooperation between groups, ESN transition to MEID will be successful.

If you wish, please contact us at your convenience to discuss these matters further.

Best Regards,

/s/

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Chair, Engineering Committee TR-45

/s/

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Director, Wireless Communications Division ("WCD")

/s/

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Staff Director, WCD and ESN Administrator

Cc: Jim Caile, Chair, TIA WCD
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