

LEADING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES SHOWCASE FIRST NEXT-GENERATION IP-BASED EMERGENCY 911 SOLUTION

Team from Columbia University, Texas A&M and Other Leading Organizations Develop and Demonstrate Long-Term IP-Based 911 Technology

Washington DC – May 26, 2005 – Today at the National Press Club, researchers from leading universities and technology companies will provide the first ever demonstration of a next-generation 911 (NG9-1-1) prototype solution that was developed to address the time-critical issue of locating users of Internet-based phones and other Internet-enabled communication applications to ensure they receive the vital help they need when they need it.

“Internet phone customers are expected to top 25 million in the next several years. In order for this rapid adoption to persist and innovation in consumer communications to continue to develop, it is critically important that there be a technically sound and scalable 911 solution in place to ensure public safety for all Americans,” said Dr. Henning Schulzrinne, a lead NG9-1-1 developer and chair of computer science at Columbia University’s Fu Foundation, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. “The NG9-1-1 technology showcased today represents the first long-term solution for the future of the emergency services network.”

This proof-of-concept demonstration will highlight the capabilities of an Internet-based emergency call delivery system for nomadic and mobile Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) users to an IP-capable PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point). The existing circuit-based 911 system is limited in its ability to support new technology like VoIP telephone calls in which a user’s IP address is not specifically assigned to any one geographic location. This makes it challenging for 911 dispatchers to accurately identify a caller’s location.

“Despite the Federal Communications Commission latest ruling requiring VoIP providers to offer 911 service, technological obstacles mean there is no quick fix for all VoIP scenarios using today’s 911 network. End-to-end IP calling to 911 will require a different type of network,” said Paul Mallett, executive director, Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications. “We believe this NG9-1-1 technology will greatly enhance overall 911 reliability, improve the quality of response, enable greater call center redundancy, and provide inherent scalability as new communications technologies are adopted by the public.”

In addition to seamlessly providing dispatchers accurate location information for 911 users, the NG9-1-1 system is also designed to provide multimedia capabilities. For instance, callers using the NG9-1-1 system in the future will have the ability to provide video from the emergency scene to dispatchers or will allow a responder to send video instruction (e.g. CPR) to the emergency site.

The NG9-1-1 technology was developed by researchers from the Department of Computer Science at Columbia University and the Internet2 Technology Evaluation Center at Texas A&M University in partnership with University of Virginia, Internet2, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the offices of Emergency Communications for the States of Texas and Virginia as well as with the help of leading technology companies like Nortel, MapInfo Corporation, and others. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Technology Opportunities Program provided grant funding for the project. For a full list of participants and for more information, please see: <http://ng911.tamu.edu>

Reporters are invited to attend the demonstration.

National Press Club, John Peter Zenger Room

529 14th Street NW

Washington, DC 20045

Time: 2:30p.m. – 4:00p.m. EDT

(RSVP Required)

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