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## Standards Update : Public Safety

### Project MESA on Track After Strong Vendor Support



Project MESA held its 12th meeting April 4-7 in Boston, hosted by Airvana. At the meeting, progress was made in bringing broadband mobile communications to the public safety communities in both North America and Europe. Manufacturers presented five new proposals that will provide the basis for specifications and standards that specify enhanced capability requirements for future public safety and disaster relief systems.

The chair of this meeting stated, "The vendor proposals included ways to coordinate and leverage the latest networking standards, to ensure that 'Incident Area Networking Technologies' can work seamlessly in these highly demanding situations. Examples of the technologies covered in the proposals are cdma2000® EVDO, W-CDMA, variations of 802.11, 802.16 and satellite technologies". Following this strong lead, additional proposals to the next MESA meeting are now expected, as Project MESA Organizational Partners including ETSI and TIA Members continue to facilitate government and industry dialogue on next-generation digital systems to be utilized by Public safety, security and emergency users.

More than 50 participants from the United States, Canada, Europe and China attended the meeting. Strong participation from manufacturers gave great encouragement to Project MESA officials and to user representatives who have spent significant time and effort to ensure that user requirements for broadband public safety equipment and systems are heard by the vendors.

Additionally, several case-study presentations focused on how events such as Hurricane Katrina can devastate the IT and communications infrastructure, limiting the ability to reconstitute services and coordinate response and recovery. Project MESA members heard how important it is to have up-to-date emergency preparedness plans in place and the technical capability to support the mission within its situational environment.

Discussions highlighted the need for redundancy and alternate communication options, an example of this being that a self sustaining satellite communication link with a dedicated transponder could have been effective for first responders during Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. At the same meeting, another presentation involved a European operator's experience of how today's "commercial" mobile broadband technology is being used for public safety services and thus leveraging economies of scale and standardized solutions.

Project MESA shares its work in an open Web site and document area; see <http://www.projectmesa.org/> and <http://www.projectmesa.org/ftp> for details.

The Mobile Broadband Specifications for Public Safety and their capabilities will support the public safety community's technology needs for the wireless transport and distribution of rate intensive data, digital video and digital voice for both service-specific and general applications. Project MESA will primarily address air interface data rates that move beyond current standards. Initially, Project MESA will prepare, approve and maintain the necessary set of MESA Specifications and MESA Reports for the first phase of Mobile Broadband Specifications for Public Safety.

The results of the Project MESA work may form the basis of member contributions to the ITU in accordance with existing procedures. Project MESA may take into account future ITU Recommendations on Mobile Broadband Specifications for Public Safety. In the framework of agreed relationships, the MESA specifications and MESA reports will form the basis of standards, or part of standards, of the Organizational Partners.

MESA SSG SA's latest documents can be seen at [http://www.projectmesa.org/ftp/SSG\\_SA/SA12\\_Boston\\_2006/](http://www.projectmesa.org/ftp/SSG_SA/SA12_Boston_2006/)  
MESA TSG SYS's latest documents are at [http://www.projectmesa.org/ftp/TSG\\_SYS/SYS07\\_Boston\\_2006/](http://www.projectmesa.org/ftp/TSG_SYS/SYS07_Boston_2006/)

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is responsible for standardization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within Europe. These technologies include telecommunications, broadcasting and related areas such as intelligent transportation and medical electronics.

ETSI unites 654 members from 59 countries inside and outside Europe, including manufacturers, network operators, administrations, service providers, research bodies and users – in fact, all the key players in the ICT arena. For more information on ETSI, visit [www.etsi.org](http://www.etsi.org)

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