



FCC Seeks Comment on Two Emergency Alert System Issues

On November 7, the FCC released two Public Notices (PN) seeking information on issues related to the Emergency Alert System. One regards EAS security best practices and the other initiates an inquiry into the impact of the unauthorized presidential alert sent on October 24, 2014.

EAS Security Best Practices PN



On June 18, 2014, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council IV (CSRIC IV) adopted a set of voluntary [best practices](#) to improve the security of the EAS. The public notice states that given the need to improve the security posture of the EAS, the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment on implementation of these best practices to date.

Specifically, the Bureau seeks public comment on the implementation status and effectiveness of the voluntary security best practice recommendations by EAS Participants, equipment manufacturers and other members of the EAS community. The Bureau is particularly interested in comment on the following questions:

- What progress have EAS Participants including broadcast stations, cable operators, satellite radio and television providers and wireline video service providers made in implementing these best practices? What efforts have EAS equipment manufacturers, state and local governments and other EAS stakeholders taken to enhance EAS security?
- What barriers have EAS stakeholders encountered in implementing the recommendations?
- What significant success stories or breakthroughs have been achieved in implementing the recommendations?
- What are stakeholders' views and/or plans for full implementation of these recommendations?
- How effective are the recommendations at mitigating security risks when they have been implemented? Do stakeholders undertake qualitative or quantitative evaluations of the effectiveness of these recommendations?
- What alternatives have been implemented? How effective are those alternatives?
- What if any actions have EAS stakeholders taken, in addition to these basic security best practices to help enhance the security of the EAS?

The EAS Security PN is available [here](#). Comments are due to the FCC not later than December 30, 2014.

Unauthorized Presidential Alert PN

On October 24, 2014 at 8:21 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, an unauthorized Emergency Alert System (EAS) message was transmitted in several states. The incident occurred when a syndicated radio show inappropriately broadcast a recording of the Nationwide EAS alert from 2011 which contained an Emergency Action Notification (EAN) event code. The EAN code is used to automatically interrupt programming for a message from the President of the United States to alert the public of a national emergency. This unauthorized EAS alert with an EAN event code was retransmitted by some of stations that carried the syndicated radio program and was further passed along to a number of broadcast stations and other ES participants.

This Public Notice seeks comment on how unauthorized EAS alerts, including this EAN incident, affect EAS Participants, public safety and other government and local agencies, as well as the public. The PN also requests comment on ways EAS Participants and EAS equipment can improve message authentication going forward.

In particular, PSHSB is interested in receiving comment in four areas:

- Impact to EAS Participants
- Message Authentication procedure
- Public Safety and Government Agency Impact
- Public Impact

Comments on this PN are due December 5, 2014 and reply comments are due December 19, 2014. The public notice is available on the FCC web site [here](#).

NAB Labs Futures Park Solicits Exhibitors

Do you know someone who might be interested in exhibiting their media-related technology R&D projects at the 2015 NAB Show? Applications to participate in the 2015 NAB Labs Futures Park at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev., April 13-16, 2015 must be submitted by **December 5, 2014**.



NAB Labs Futures Park is a reserved area of the NAB exhibit floor that exclusively features media-related technology R&D efforts in progress around the world. For a quick look at last year's Futures Park, visit nablabs.org/projects. The Park is a popular venue for both exhibitors and attendees, and receives considerable press attention every year.

NAB supplies complimentary exhibit space to all organizations accepted for participation in Futures Park. Applications or questions should be directed to Katy Armstrong at karmstrong@nab.org.

NABEF Technology Apprenticeship Program

Do you know a rising star interested in broadcast engineering technology? Help them build a successful career with the NAB Education Foundation's free, six-month Technology Apprenticeship Program. Participants create networks with industry professionals, receive admission to NAB Show, complete a two-month internship and have the opportunity to become a certified broadcast technologist. Deadline to apply is January 15, 2015. For questions, please contact [Adaora Otiji](#) or call (202) 429-5424.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

[2015 NAB Show](#)

April 11 - 16, 2015

Las Vegas, NV