



Fact Sheet

Next Generation Network (NGN) Priority Services

What is NGN Priority Services? NGN Priority Services is a National Communications System (NCS) program to define and deploy priority voice communications in the next generation packet-switched network environment. Current priority voice capabilities are provided in circuit-switched telephony networks through the Priority Telecommunications Service (PTS) Program, which includes the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS). The NGN Priority Services Program continues the mission of the PTS Program during the ongoing transition of circuit-switched public networks to an Internet Protocol (IP)-based packet infrastructure. Implementing priority Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service is independent of priority video and data services, although all three services will converge in the new environment. The Program, currently restricting its focus to VoIP, anticipates future investigations into the convergence and the resultant benefit of integrated voice, video, and data services.

Who Will Use NGN Priority Services? Any member of an organization with a national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) mission is a potential priority services user. Typical GETS and WPS users are responsible for the command and control functions indispensable critical to management of, and response to, national security and emergency situations, particularly during the first 24 to 72 hours following an event. These users perform critical NS/EP functions including continuity of Government and national security leadership, as well as NS/EP functions in Federal, State, local, and tribal government, critical infrastructure sectors in industry, and non-profit organizations.

Why are NGN Priority Services Important? To continue to provide authorized users with the ability to communicate during crises, the NCS must ensure that NS/EP requirements continue to be met as the commercial carriers evolve to next generation networks. The NGN Priority Services Program will initially address the technology transition of legacy priority voice capabilities in the commercial carriers' long distance networks.

What Else Should I Know?

- Current procedures for placing GETS and WPS calls will be retained, providing for a user-transparent transition of GETS and WPS to the new network technologies.
- Priority services users will be able to access NGN Priority Services using their commercial equipment.
- NGN Priority Services are expected to leverage the next generation networks of GETS and WPS service providers.
- NGN Priority Services are expected to be accessible through FTS2001/Networx, the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service, the Defense Switched Network, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Switched Network.

For Further Information: For questions about the GETS or WPS programs, please contact the NCS NS/EP Priority Telecommunications Service Center at 866-NCS-CALL (866-627-2255) or 703-760-CALL (703-760-2255) ♦ GETS Web Site: <http://gets.ncs.gov> ♦ WPS Web Site: <http://wps.ncs.gov> ♦ E-mail: gets@dhs.gov and wps@dhs.gov