eCall Days 2020 Report - Digitally for the first time & Next steps of our active engagement

Dear eCall Community,

In mid-October, around **50 experts from industry, research, politics and administration** from all over the world took part in the digital premiere of the eCall Days 2020. ITS mobility has been organising this largest international conference on pan-European eCall for many years, and this year for the first time digitally, due to the corona pandemic.

Over two days, the eCall community exchanged views on technical and political aspects and on the further development of the pan-European emergency call. The main topics of the online conference were the international eCall activities, the requirements for eCall retrofit solutions, further eCall developments and the future technological orientation of the Next Generation 112 eCall.

First day of the eCall Days

The first day was dedicated to international eCall activities. **Claire Depré from the European Commission**, Head of the Sustainable and Intelligent Transport Unit (DG MOVE), welcomed the participants. In her keynote speech she emphasised the importance of the pan-European eCall in reaching Vision Zero and for increasing road safety on Europe's roads. Afterwards, several presentations on the international eCall activities followed. Among other things, an overview was given of the EU-funded project sAFE - Aftermaket eCall for Europe, the status quo of ERA-GLONASS and the current state of development of the potential **eCall Association**. The vision of the potential eCall Association is to develop an all-inclusive association to enhance the cooperation between the stakeholder groups involved in emergency call (eCall) globally with the aim of increasing road safety and reaching Vision Zero by improving the eCall functionality.

The rest of the day was dedicated to the activities of **eCall retrofit solutions**. Various presentations and results were presented by the sAFE project partners on the specifications and definitions of eCall retrofit solutions. In a final workshop, organised by SA Catapult, the eCall stakeholders discussed a proposal to split eCall devices into 5 different types.

- Type 1&2: OEM and OEM supported
- Type 3: Devices to be fitted by an accredited installer
- Type 4: Devices to be self-installed
- Type 5: Nomadic devices and the ability for these to be moved from vehicle to vehicle.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the functionality and requirements of each type and as a result of that discussion, several changes were made across all eCall types regarding functionality and data entry for some types of device to ensure these devices were fit for purpose, providing accurate data to the PSAP and resulted in a reduction in false calls as far as possible.

Second day of the eCall Days

On the second day, the focus was on **further eCall developments**, such as the voice communication quality at emergency call centres, the current developments within the Task Force "Data for Road Safety" and the different eCall triggering methods. The last session of the conference was dedicated to the topic of **Next Generation 112 eCall**. The eCall community concluded the conference by exchanging views on the current status of future eCall services and subsequent questions in a workshop. This workshop focussed upon some of the sAFE Project Team's current thinking on NG112 eCall and to seek the eCall days participants views on that current thinking. The discussion were focussed upon issues relating to Value-Add Services that could be derived from data/information from Sensors, together with how this could be facilitated through enhanced communications and managed within the back-office software within the PSAP.

Some very useful discussion took place regarding potential **new sources of data/information** that may be available through a wide variety of sensors to the PSAP's and emergency services, together with some of the challenges both technical and privacy related that may be blockers to accessing this information. Future communications technology capability was also discussed that may be able to facilitate access to some of this data/information.

Satellite Applications Catapult, who ran the workshops would like to express their grateful thanks to all of the workshop participants for their active discussion and insightful inputs.

Next Steps

The eCall Days have been held annually since 2011 and the event has met with broad approval from the eCall community. This was confirmed by this year's digital implementation, so we will continue to host the **eCall Days 2021** next year. Hopefully, we will be able to meet each other personally.

But we should not wait until the next eCall Days is ready to discuss and work on current challenges of the overall eCall system. In particular, the following **eCall challenges** need to be addressed in a harmonised way together with all eCall stakeholders:

- 17 digit number dial from IVS,
- False calls from IVS,
- NG 112 eCall,
- 2G/3G Sunset,
- Data transmission between actors,
- Unified method of testing for OEM,
- Last two known locations supplied.

As part of our eCall Association initiative we would like to invite you to be a part of an **international joint expert group**. We already received requests for participation for specific challenge discussion and would be happy to support this engagement through our community management.

We will organise a digital **"Get Together" in December 2020** (calendar week 51) to agree on the open eCall issues and challenges and to discuss the way forward with all interested eCall stakeholders. Everybody who is interested in actively solving one or more of the seven topics mentioned above, please write an E-mail to ariana.khesravi@its-mobility.de and we will invite you to this meeting.

Be an active part of the eCall community!

With best wishes,

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