IMMEDIATE RELEASE   June 14, 2004

DARPA Announces Release of New Next Generation Communications Requests for Comment

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) recently released a new set of Request for Comment documents for its Next Generation (XG) Communications program. The XG program is developing technologies to enable dynamic access to radio frequency spectrum.

The technologies being developed under the XG program will provide a mechanism for enabling wireless communications systems to dynamically access temporarily unused spectrum resources without causing interference to existing legacy systems and users. Key to the effort is developing an overarching architecture and core set of communications protocol behaviors that enable a wide range of policy frameworks and radio implementations in military and commercial arenas. Due to the benefits of developing a common core set of behaviors, the XG program has initiated a public Request for Comment (RFC) process to enable cooperation among the various wireless industries and institutions.

The program released the two new RFCs, the second version of the *XG Vision RFC* and the first release of the *XG Policy Language RFC*, on June 10, 2004. The XG Vision RFC provides a description of the program's overarching view of adaptive spectrum communications. The XG Policy Language RFC details the means for expressing spectrum access rules in a machine-readable format. These two recently released RFCs are added to the previously released *XG Architectural Framework RFC*. In the coming months, the program will release the *XG Abstract Behavior RFC*, which will detail radio behaviors required for adaptive use of spectrum resources.

"This is the next step in defining an XG standard for adaptive spectrum access. The policy language provides the ability to decouple policy and engineering in the radio," noted Preston Marshall, DARPA's XG program manager. "Where today's radios are designed to comply with specific spectrum policies and cannot adapt to new regulatory environments, software-defined radios that implement the policy language can readily adapt to policy changes without redesign."

(more)

All RFCs can be found at http://www.darpa.mil/ato/programs/XG/rfcs.htm. Comments are being sought by the program to ensure the widest possible adoption of the technologies under development. Please send comments to XGProgram@darpa.mil.

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