

November 11, 1999

Mr. Thomas E. Wheeler  
President  
Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association  
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

As you are aware, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) has been one of the driving forces behind the creation and continuing success of the International Forum for AMPS Standards Technology (IFAST). Without the CTIA's initial and recent support, the IFAST would not have achieved its current worldwide recognition as the premier global forum on international roaming. The CTIA's past financial, administrative, and technical support is greatly appreciated by the ~103 member entities worldwide and particularly by myself, as the IFAST Chairman. Under the support of the CTIA, the IFAST has evolved its Mission from mostly the resolution of numbering issues, e.g., the development and administration of International Roaming MINs (IRMs), to the discussion and resolution of all technical and administrative issues relative to international roaming. Specifically, Ed Hall and Lori Messing, as IFAST co-convenor and IFAST Secretary, respectively, have consistently and enthusiastically worked for the success of IFAST goals and objectives. On the behalf of the entire IFAST membership, I thank the CTIA for its past support.

Regrettably, however, it has recently come to my attention that the CTIA has unilaterally and significantly reduced, if not terminated, its support for the IFAST, at least in the performance of the co-convenor and Secretariat roles. Although there has, to date, been no official communication of this decision to myself or to IFAST, there are numerous reports from CTIA Board members regarding this CTIA decision. Additionally, Ed and Lori have ceased to perform the responsibilities of co-convenor and Secretary and have referred incoming calls, regarding IFAST issues, to others on the IFAST management team. The IFAST and I are puzzled by such a precipitous and, to date unexplained action that has moved us to replace the CTIA in the roles of co-convenor and Secretary. Waiting for official communication from the CTIA (hoping that the decision was not true or would be reversed) has already caused a delay in the work of the IFAST and the cancellation of its planned November 1999 meeting. Such delay cannot be prolonged any further.

In the above context, the IFAST informs the CTIA that the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) has offered to assume the role of IFAST Secretariat. During a conference call earlier this week, IFAST leadership has unanimously and gratefully accepted the TIA's offer. I, as the IFAST Chairman, will propose the TIA, in the role of Secretariat, to the IFAST membership, at its March 2000 meeting. Enthusiastic support from the IFAST membership is anticipated and has already been expressed by several of the most active members.

The IFAST leadership has also unanimously agreed that the current Mission of the IFAST need not be revised. Specifically, the IFAST will continue as the sole administrator of the inventory of International Roaming MINs (IRMs) – an international resource impartially administered by the IFAST for the fair and equitable use of all its worldwide member entities.

In closing, the IFAST thanks the CTIA for its extensive past support and hopes that the mutual interests of the CTIA and the IFAST can, once again, merge for the best advantage of the CTIA's members and the entire international wireless community.

Best Regards,

Fred Gaechter  
Chairman, IFAST