

Media release

14 July 2025

Steven Lawrence appointed as Next Generation Critical Communications Chief Technical Director

Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC) Director, Steve Ferguson, announced today that technologist Steven Lawrence has joined the critical communications government entity as its new Chief Technical Director.

Steven has been working in senior leadership roles in the technology industry in New Zealand, the UK and US for more than 20 years in delivery, security, and operations. He has led delivery of complex network projects and the development of strategy and major transformation initiatives within commercial and government environments.

He joins NGCC following five years at Spark where he delivered key strategic priorities including network delivery, improving organisational resilience and ensuring effective, efficient operations. Steven was responsible for Spark's contribution to the Public Safety Network's now live Cellular Roaming and Priority services, under the joint venture vendor – Hourua - alongside One NZ. He has been a Hourua Board member. Steven also had responsibility for Spark's delivery of 111 services (Initial Call Answer Point [ICAP]) to the government.

Prior to Spark, Steven held senior technology leadership roles at Inland Revenue, including Director ICT Operations and Chief Information Security Officer.

"I am delighted to welcome Steven onboard at this important time for NGCC as we operate services and look at how we might extend the Public Safety Network's Cellular Services to more organisations working across public safety and emergency management. He brings the perfect blend of technology, leadership, governance and strategy expertise, and broad cellular sector relationships," Steve Ferguson said.

"Steven knows the Public Safety Network's cellular services inside out and he brings an excellent understanding of the realities of frontline responders and the communication tools and user experience they need to do their jobs well and stay safe."

ENDS

Media contact: juliet.montague3@police.govt.nz or 027 4815 953.

About Next Generation Critical Communications Poutama Whai Tikanga Pāpāho

Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC) is the only government entity exclusively focussed on critical communications for public safety in New Zealand. NGCC's mission is to modernise the communications capability of New Zealand's emergency services to deliver more information, to more places in real time. It is responsible for delivering the new Public Safety Network solutions www.ngcc.govt.nz and cellular Location Information Services.

About the Public Safety Network Te Kupenga Marutau

The Public Safety Network (PSN) is a significant infrastructure project, investing \$1.4 billion over 10 years to build and operate the networks and services, and roll out new devices to emergency services staff, stations and vehicles. The PSN consists of three complementary elements: a digital Land Mobile Radio network that is under construction, Cellular Services with Roaming, Priority and Network Visibility System services now live, and the ongoing provision of personal alerting. The PSN is providing Hato Hone St John, Wellington Free Ambulance, Police and Fire and Emergency NZ with modern, secure and resilient critical communications enabling them to do their jobs, stay safe and support our communities. There is scope for other public safety and emergency management organisations to join in the future and further services to be added.