



To Whom It May Concern
ELS61-E/E2/US Rel.1 products

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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to notify you of a firmware upgrade required to ensure your cellular modules will continue to function properly in the evolving mobile networks, especially in regions where mobile network operators deploy 5G SA networks.

Though, the overall network evolution schedules (i.e. 5G introduction) of all MNOs globally is not fully clear, we clearly see a trend showing significant 5G network rollouts. This indicates the importance of the situation and the need for your reaction.

Brief description of the issue

The messaging in the LTE (4G) networks is adapted to interwork with the 3GPP Release upgrades. In the evolving mobile networks (i.e. 5G mobile networks), with a Rel.9 or higher 3GPP release configuration, older modules with specific FW versions might be unable to decode the extended elements of SIB (System Information Blocks) message, broadcasted by the mobile networks. As a result, the device connectivity to the LTE network will be lost and the device will fall back to 3G or 2G where these fallback technologies are available.

Affected modules & FW releases

The old Cinterion modules with the firmware version below are at risk:

| Affected Cinterion Modem | | | PCN |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| L30960N4450A100 | ELS61-E Rel.1 | Rev 01.000 ARN 00.014.00 | pcn_00544_ELS61-E_rev1 |
| L30960N4455A100 | ELS61-E2 Rel.1 | Rev 01.000 ARN 00.014.00 | pcn_00560_ELS61-E2 |
| L30960N4400A100 | ELS61-US Rel.1 | Rev 01.000 ARN 00.014.00 | pcn_00535_ELS61-US |
| L30960N4405A100 | ELS61-US Rel.1 CI | Rev 01.000 ARN 00.014.00 | pcn_00535_ELS61-US |

Thales had announced the above listed PCNs in 2017 and 2018 to introduce the improved FWs, which will prevent the above described issue.

Solution

The improved firmware (**els61-us_e_rev01.000_arn0002600**) can be downloaded from Thales Extranet. FW files are placed in respective ELS61-E/ELS61-US firmware folders.

Thales is aware that some customers may not have migrated yet to the improved FWs described in the above PCNs and could have accepted the risk known at the time. Now, Thales strongly recommends immediate migration to the improved firmware versions to prevent any potential future issues.

If there are further questions, our FAE team who offers comprehensive customer support, should be contacted.

Best Regards,

1/13/2022

X 

SUN Xiao-Lin
Program Manager
Signed by: SUN Xiao-Lin
Date: 2021.01.13