



How to Assess and Mitigate Risks Associated with the 3G Shutdown

*CETF Publishes a Resource Guide to Assist in Understanding
and Navigating the Technology Transition to Avoid Disruption*

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San Francisco Bay Area, California – February 22, 2022 — Cellular companies are beginning the technology transition from third generation (3G) to fifth generation (5G) in early 2022. To make room for the powerful bandwidth and infrastructure required for the 5G spectrum, the 3G network will be completely disabled, leaving enterprise customers and individuals, who rely on devices powered by 3G, without service in many cases.

The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) in partnership with the Pacific Rim Advisory Group has published new research, [Understanding and Navigating the Technology Transition](#), intended to create awareness and inform readers on the details of the transition to next-generation technology and its potential disruptions. An accompanying Executive Toolkit provides actionable strategies to assess and mitigate the organizational risk.

A Wide Array of Industries Are Vulnerable

This year, 3G will retire and potentially cause disruptions in daily activities for individuals and enterprises. Time is of the essence to properly capture appropriate information and share it with companies, agencies, and individuals, so they can adequately prepare for a smooth technology transformation this year.

The research finds that the scope of affected devices goes far beyond legacy cell phones and uses. This 5G conversion will affect many enterprises and nonprofit organizations because 3G devices power hundreds of different types of equipment used in the manufacturing, distribution, and supply chains. From Smart Home and Office technologies such as garage doors, gated areas and appliances to medical alert devices and GPS systems, a variety of devices may be at risk of powering down with the 3G network.

Executive Toolkit Provides Checklist for Efficient and Effective Transition

We are publishing information intended to create awareness and inform readers on the details of the transition and its potential disruptions. A supplemental resource, Executive Tool Kit: Assessing and Mitigating Risks Associated with the 3G Shutdown, will help leaders quickly assess whether there are any potential risks to their organization. The kit focuses on the pragmatic, management concerns and solutions rather than on technical issues. Because the

challenges and opportunities vary widely from enterprise to enterprise, the tools provided will assist in the individual assessment and planning process.

“As with every significant technology shift there will be some pain, but also opportunity,” said CETF President and CEO Sunne Wright McPeak. “Our research highlights how upfront planning can reduce disruption and deliver more efficiency and greater value to many organizations,” she added.

About California Emerging Technology Fund

CETF is a statewide non-profit foundation with the mission to close the Digital Divide in California. CETF provides grants to non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) to assist low-income households adopt broadband and become digitally proficient, leads and manages School2Home to successfully integrate technology into teaching and learning with deep parent engagement to close the Achievement Gap in middle schools in low-income neighborhoods, and promotes Digital Inclusion in public policy to achieve Digital Equity.