Getting Started with Sierra Wireless 3G and 4G Products

I'm often asked how to get started with Sierra Wireless 3G and 4G products, so I've put together this how-to guide. Feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

It's always a good idea to start with supplier documentation and firmware. This can be found on the Sierra Wireless Developer Zone (http://developer.sierrawireless.com). The Developer Zone uses self-registration for an account, which should only take a few moments to complete. Sierra Wireless also has a developer forum available at the top of the Developer Zone page once registration is completed.

From there, drivers, test connection applications, and SDKs (Software Development Kits) can be found on the Sierra Wireless SharePoint site. The extranet requires a trilateral NDA between the client, Sierra Wireless, and Richardson RFPD before Sierra will grant a username and password. The NDA is available either thru me or through your Richardson RFPD sales representative.

Please send all pages of the completed NDA, as well as a short description of the products implementation to your Richardson RFPD sales representative. Answering questions such as, “What is the application?” and “What OS is being used in production and testing?” is particularly important, since Sierra will know what kind of access to give you. Source code for the QMI SDKs can be attained upon SLA completion; developers should inquire with their sales representative for a copy of the form.

As for cellular certifications in North America (which includes FCC, IC, PTCRB, and carrier-specific certifications), most cellular modules have already received a portion of the
certifications thru their manufacturer. For example, all Sierra modules have both FCC and IC certifications and partial certifications for PTCRB and carrier-specific certification. For FCC, as long as the conditions of the modules’ FCC grant are met, the end-customer can reuse them (or partially reuse them). However, it is the responsibility of the end-customer to integrate the cellular module in such a way that it does not interfere negatively with the network. Therefore the power, SIM, and RF interfaces must be checked for compliance by either the PTCRB and/or carrier-specific certification bodies.

**Product Ordering:** Richardson RFPD recommends that all new designs integrate with the latest firmware available; Richardson RFPD maintains landing pages with the most recent product information for the 3G and 4G MiniCards.
