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Title:	Report of Support Team activities
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Agenda Item:	10

1   Introduction

This report covers the period between TSG#20 and TSG#21 and contains detailed information concerning the implementation of TSG#20 results.

2   The Support Team

2.1   Departures and arrivals

As already announced during TSG#20, Lidia Salmeron has now left the team to take up her new role as a mother. Below you can see mother and child, both of whom are fit and well.

Claus Dietze has now returned to his home company (Giesecke & Devrient). However, he will continue to provide support to WG T3 (and SCP) on a part time basis until the end of 2003.

2.2   Organization of MCC

The figure given below shows the allocation of resources to each entity within 3GPP and is a snapshot taken on 30 June 2003.

It can be seen that Alain Sultan now supports WG T1 following the departure of Lidia Salmeron. This does of course mean that he will have less time available for managing the work plan, but it is hoped that a reasonable level of service will still be maintained.

TSG GERAN has now restructured into three Working Groups and this rationalization is reflected in the resources shown in the chart. Following the departure of Lidia, the new Working Group 3 is now supported by Michael Clayton.

This chart is regularly maintained and the latest version may always be obtained from the 3GPP website at http://www.3gpp.org/
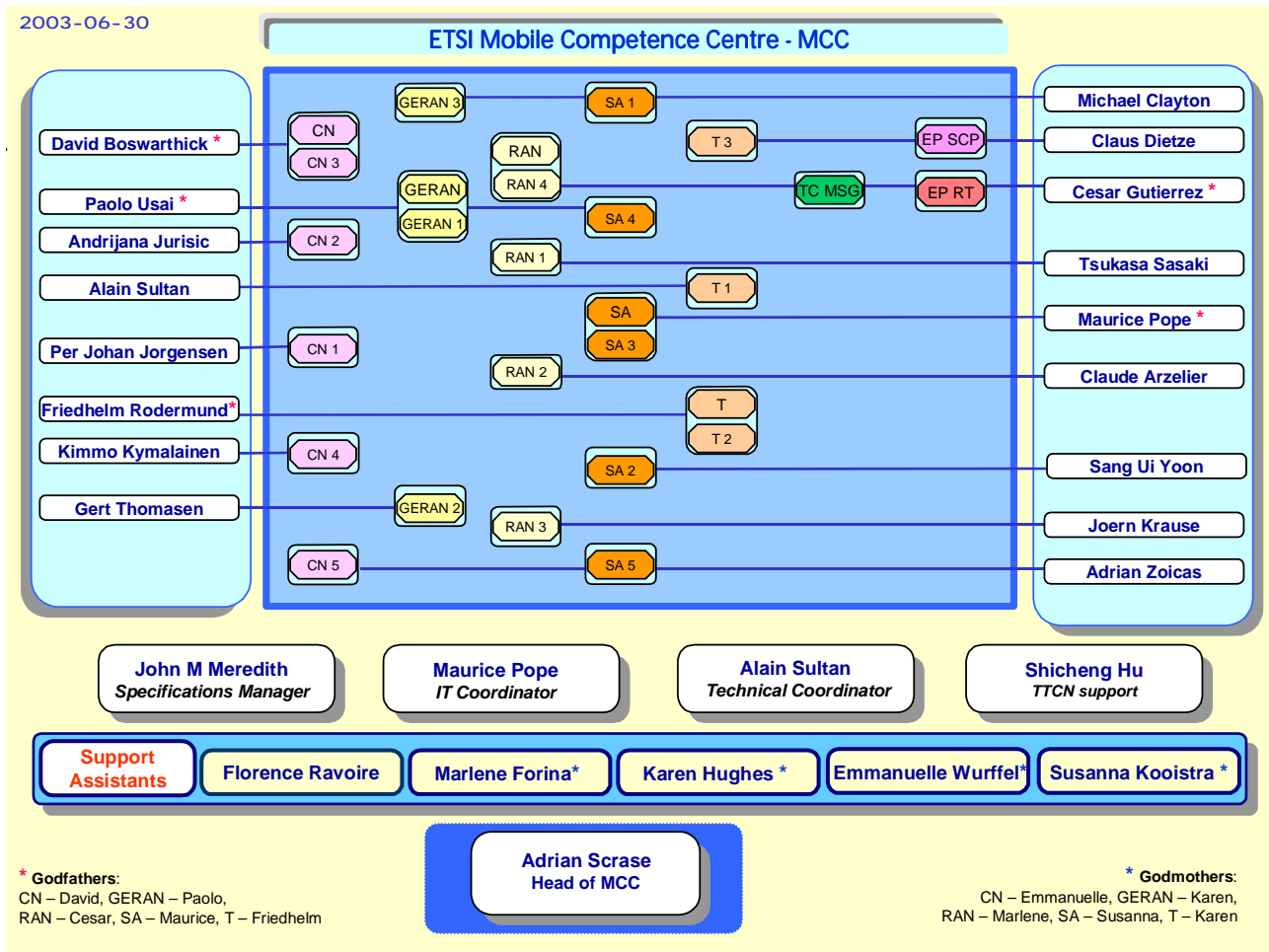
Figure 1:   MCC Organizational Chart

3   Statistics and targets

3.1   Interesting statistics

At the start of TSG#21, MCC were managing approximately **2700** active specifications. The distribution of those specifications looks as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF ACTIVE SPECS
Phase1	121
Phase 2	183
Release 96	201
Release 97	219
Release 98	281
Release 99	440
Release 4	511
Release 5	564
Release 6	219
Release 7	2
TOTAL SPECIFICATIONS	**2741**

It is expected that approximately **200** new versions of specifications will result from TSG#21.

The table below shows the number of approved change requests for these specifications across the different 3GPP Releases as at the start of TSG#21.

CLASSIFICATION	CRs in 1999	CRs in 2000	CRs in 2001	CRs in 2002	CRs in 2003	TOTAL
Rel 99 Specifications	1408	4400	2266	1004	333	9411
Rel-4 Specifications		374	2807	1901	425	5507
Rel-5 Specifications		27	620	3281	1790	5718
Rel 6 Specifications				171	512	683
TOTAL	**1408**	**4801**	**5693**	**6357**	**3060**	**21319**

It is expected that approximately **1500 CRs** will be approved during the TSG#21 session.

3.2　　　　　MCC performance

The chart below shows the results obtained in the delivery of specifications following TSG#20 and compares that to the results following TSG#19. It can be seen that a total of 325 specifications were delivered after the TSG session and that 300 of them (92%) were delivered by the first deadline. A further 23 specifications (99,4%) were delivered by the second deadline. Only 2 specifications (less than 1%) were not delivered within the deadline. It is hoped that this performance level can be maintained for the future
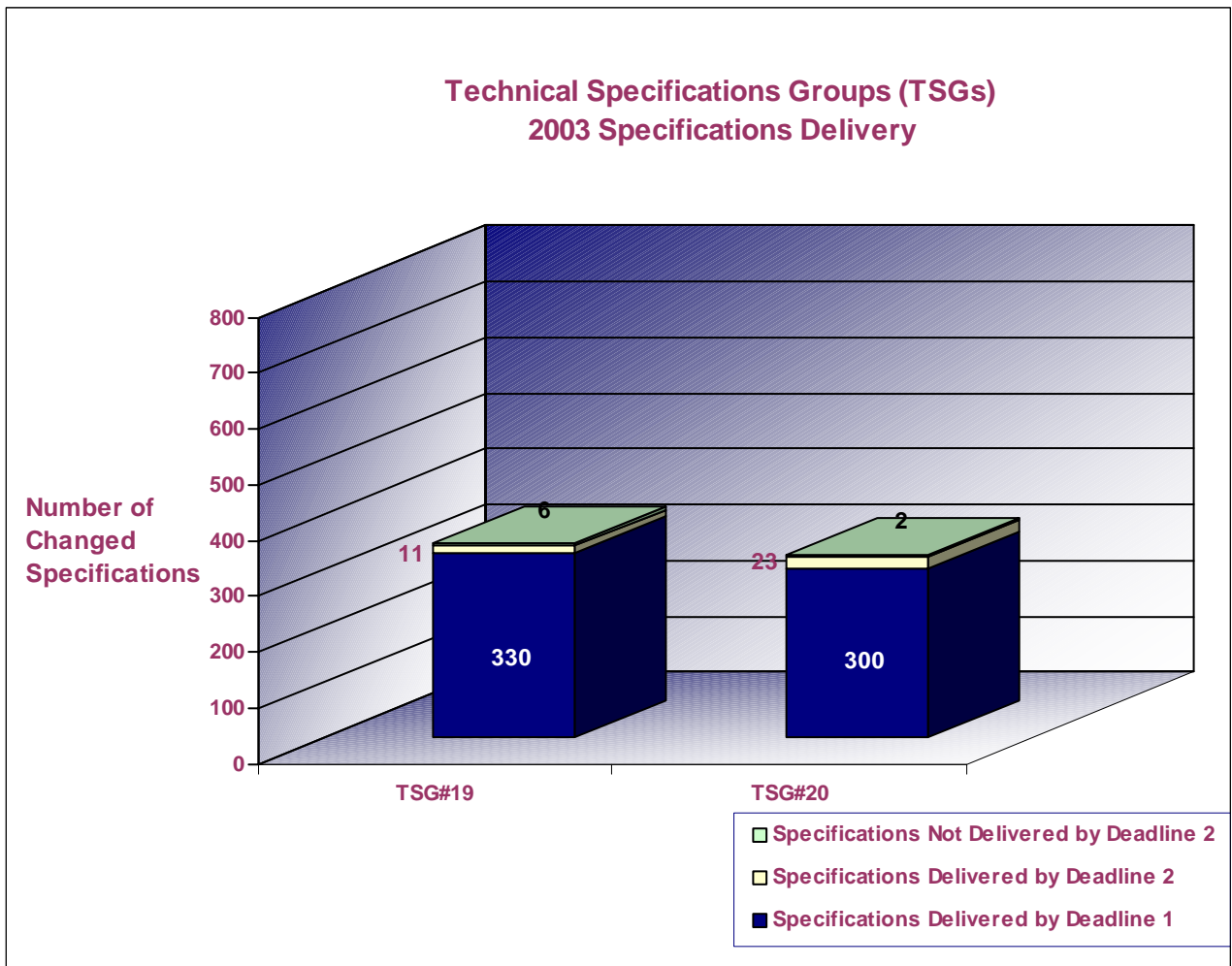
Figure 2:   MCC Performance following TSG#19 and 20

For completeness, the chart below shows performance since TSG#11 and includes data for TSG GERAN.
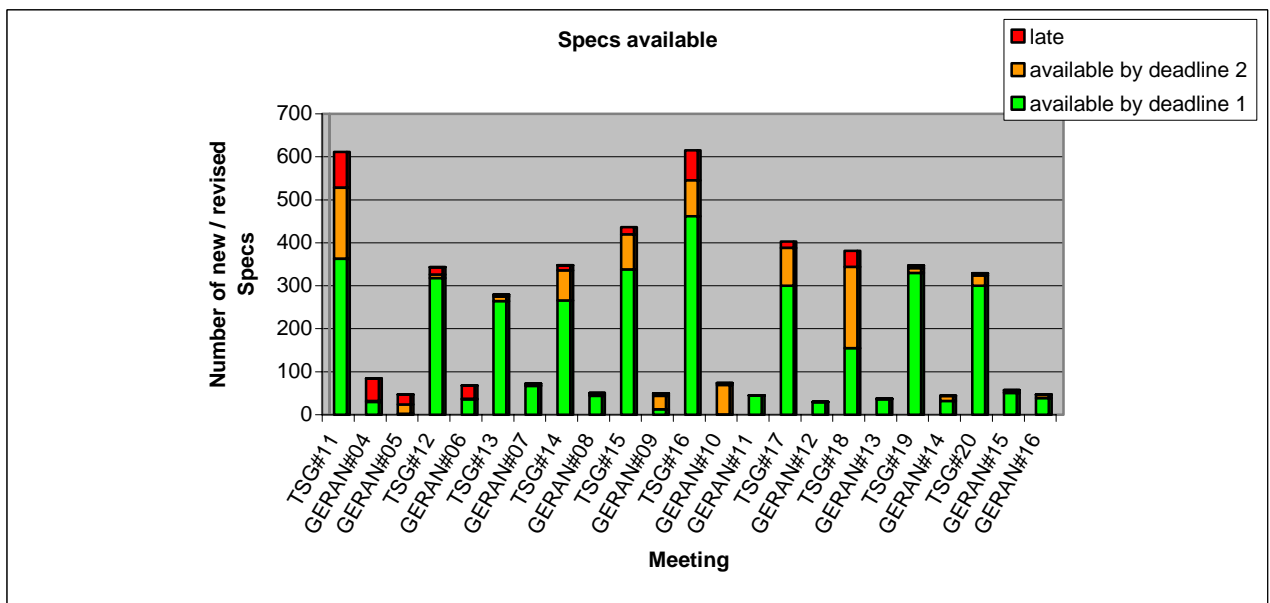

Figure 3:   MCC Performance since TSG#11

The chart below shows the cumulative error rate for the implementation of CRs. It can be seen that despite maintaining production performance the error rate is also being held constant at approximately 3 errors in 1000 implementations (0,3%).
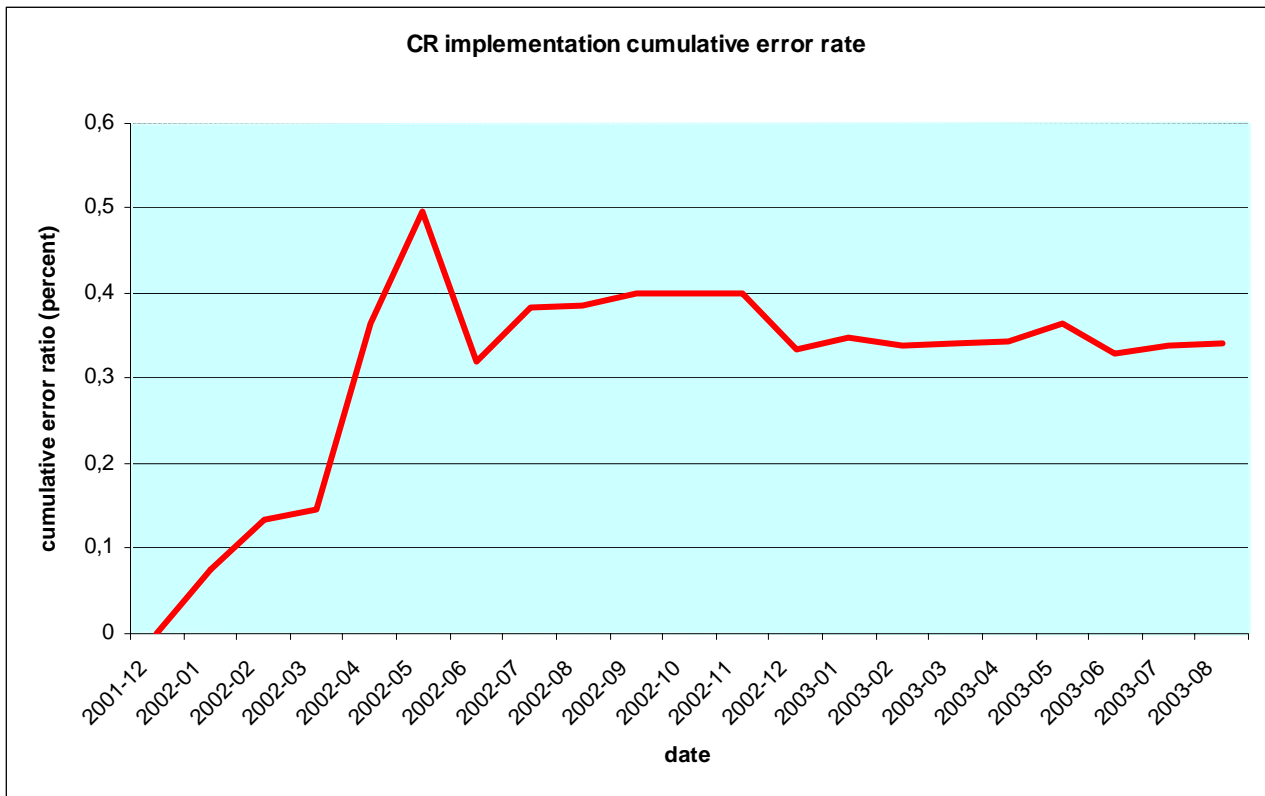
Figure 4:   CR implementation error rate

4   Release Stability

4.1   Change Requests

The chart below shows the rolling average of the number of Change Requests per Release but excludes Category A (mirror) CR's. It can be seen that Release 99 and Release 4 are stabilising well with the number of CRs to those Releases continuing to fall. In a similar manner, the number of Release 5 CRs are also continuing to fall. It is too early to predict precisely what will happen when Release 6 is functionally frozen and the related specifications are placed under change control, but it is of course most likely that a similar increase will be experienced as for previous Releases.
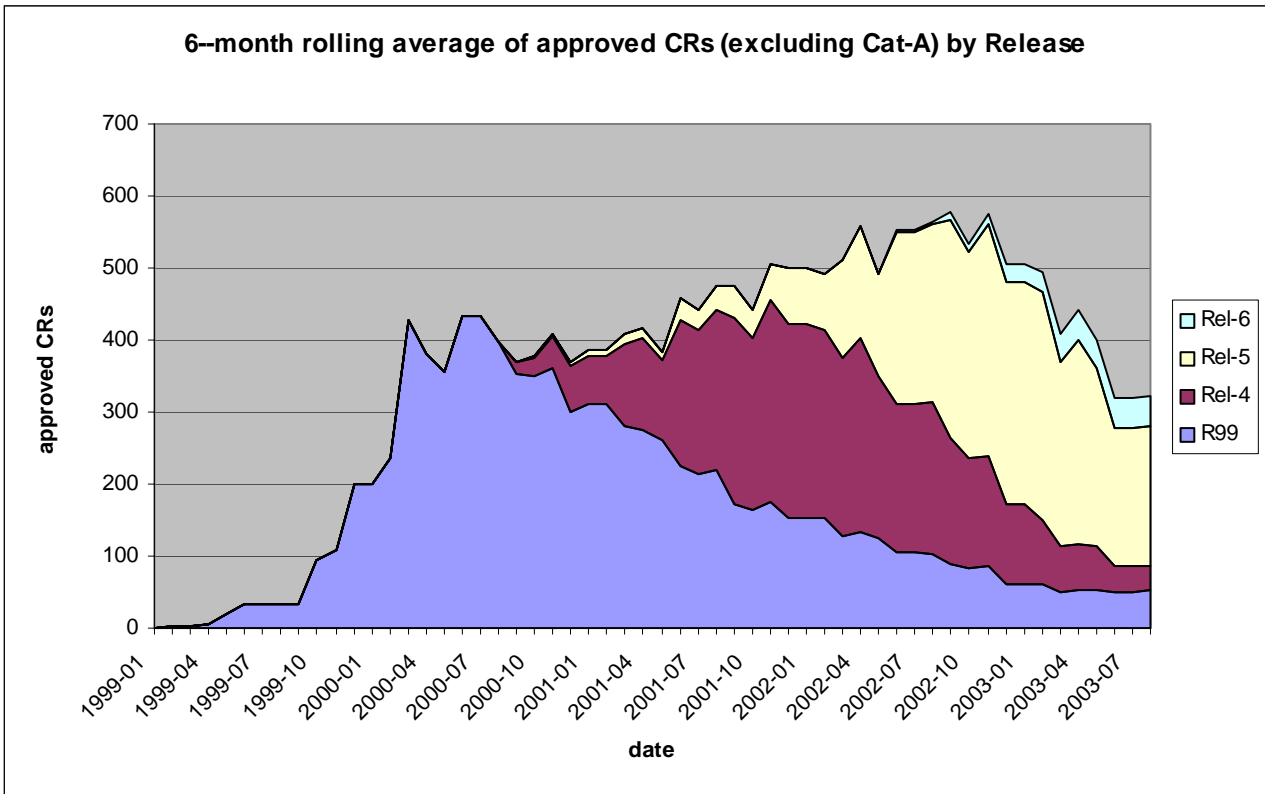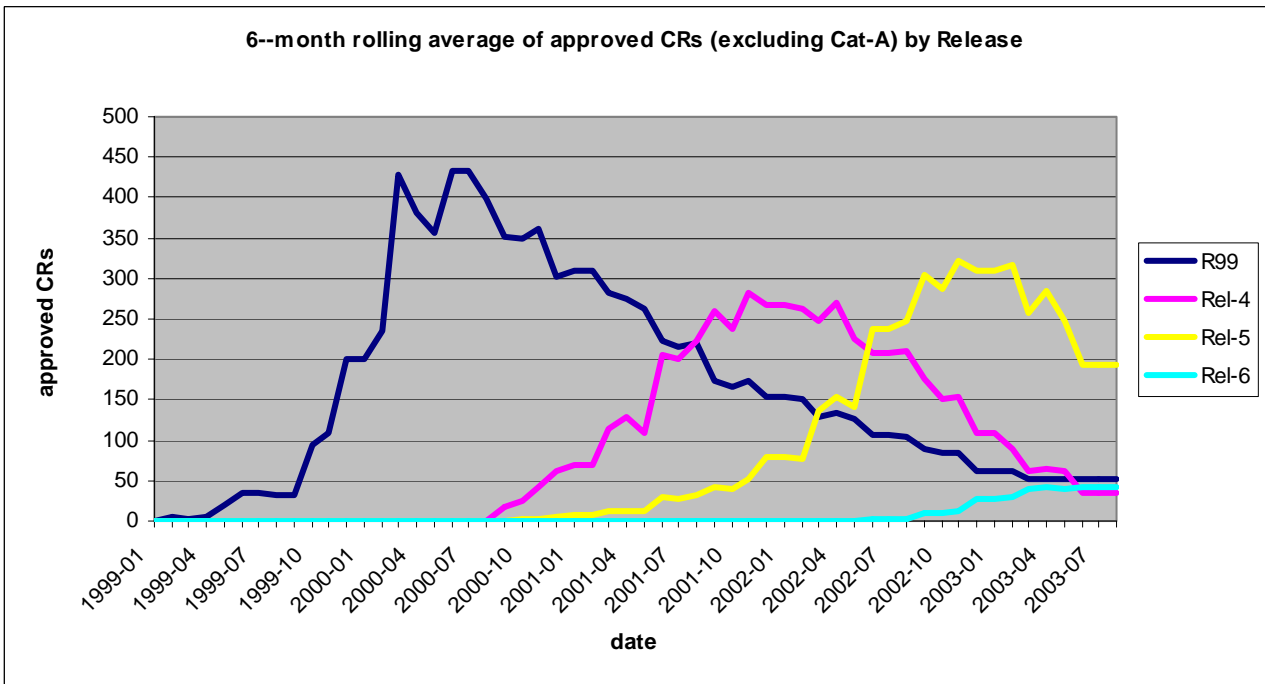
Figure 5: CR statistics (cumulative)

Figure 6: CR statistics

5 Budget for 2004

The 2004 Budget for 3GPP will be set during the PCG/OP meeting that will take place on 1-2 October. The Draft Budget submitted to that meeting assumes that the two experts that have left MCC during 2003 will not be replaced and hence the size of the team in 2004 will be two less than in 2003. This will of course place additional work on the shoulders that remain. In addition, the Travel and Subsistence budget will be reduced by approximately 10%.

The Draft Budget takes into account the decision that Working Groups should only hold one meeting between each TSG session and that MCC support can only be guaranteed on that basis. It is clear from these TSG meetings than a number of Working Groups are planning to hold more than 4 WG meetings each year (with some planning to hold seven meetings per year) and this will place strain on the budget. There are currently 20 Working Groups in 3GPP and it is clear that if all of them hold more than 4 meetings per year then the budget will not be sufficient to support them. It should be noted that the intention here is not just to save travel and subsistence costs. The primary reason is to allow MCC experts to support more than one WG such that in the longer term the size of the team can be reduced.

6   Improvements to the handling of Liaison Statements

As a result of the Chairmen's Satisfaction Survey (which was reported at length during TSG#19) an action has been undertaken to improve the way in which Liaison Statements are processed. A web based tool has been developed which will enable each group to see the list of Liaison Statements that are targeted for their next meeting and to see the list of outgoing Liaisons that result from each meeting. The homepage for this tool will look similar to that shown below and the tool should be available within the next few weeks. It is hoped that this tool will enable much greater visibility of the handling of liaison statements and that it will streamline the process for handling them. It should be noted that MCC process approximately 1000 CRs per year. Any feedback concerning this new tool will be much appreciated. (comments to susanna.kooistra@etsi.org).

Figure 7:   New Liaison tracking tool

7   Release Feature Descriptions

MCC have now completed the detailed description of each Feature within Release 5 and this document has been submitted to this meeting as SP-030526. This is the result of considerable effort by all within MCC and it is hoped that it will serve as a useful guide within Individual Member companies. The document can be found on the 3GPP website at

ftp://ftp.3gpp.org//Information/WORK_PLAN/Description_Releases/Rel5_features_v_2003_09_09.zip

although it is intended to find a more prominent place for it.

Work has started on similar Feature description documents for Releases 99, 4, and 6. This represents quite a challenging task (especially for Release 99!) but it hoped that these can be completed within a reasonable time frame. There are conflicting views on which Release should take the highest priority and **any guidance in this respect from TSG SA would be useful**.

8   Chairman's Survival Guide

Work continues on the preparation of a Chairman's Survival Guide. It had been hoped that this would have been completed by this TSG meeting but this target has not been met. The Guide (which has been prepared in consultation with 3GPP leaders) will hopefully be completed by the year end.

9   Concluding remarks.

MCC is managing to maintain a consistent service level and to meet its production targets. The process of continual improvement will hopefully lead to gains in efficiency such that the same service level will be maintained with reduced resources. This of course also depends on 3GPP Individual Members playing their part in the process. Suggestions are always welcome on how efficiency can be improved.

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