Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects   *TSGS#28(05)0322*

Meeting #28, 06 - 08 June 2005,

Quebec, Canada

Source:	**Lucent Technologies, Cingular Wireless, SBC Communications**
Title:	**On TSG SA WG 2 current and expected workload and achieving workplan objectives**
Document for:	**Discussion and Decision**
Agenda Item:	**7.2.2**

Introduction

3GPP has accomplished and continues to accomplish outstanding results in delivering timely standards that meet the needs of the communications industry. 3GPP is now considering the system, architectural and radio interface aspects related to its evolution into the next generation. This is a necessary activity that deserves particular attention and care, as the transition between generations of mobile systems has always been a critical aspect of the long-term viability and success of the mobile communications industry and its stakeholders.

However, the recent increase of the amount of meeting time devoted by SA2 to the handling of the 3GPP System Architecture Evolution and the related Joint meetings with RAN groups is starting to severely impact the equally important need to complete Release 7 work items according to their schedule and timelines. It is critical that these Release 7 work items are completed according to their schedule and timelines.

This paper reports about the issue SA2 currently faces and attempts to submit to TSG SA some potential solutions oriented to making sure that while the 3GPP SAE work progresses, other important Release 7 work items also have access to sufficient SA2 meeting time in order to complete according to plans.

The issue

At the last SA2 meeting in Athens, approximately one day of meeting time was taken by the system evolution and joint RAN meetings, and at the next SA2 meeting in Montreal, the expectation is that this meeting time will more than double, according to the latest information available. The joint meeting with RAN3 alone will take place between 9AM of the 28 of June to 5PM on the 30th of June taking approximately 1.5 days of SA2 meeting (representing 30% of the available time available to SA2), on top of the 3GPP SAE specific time that will be scheduled during the SA2 meeting. Perhaps, drafting sessions associated to the joint meeting will also be scheduled.

The meeting time allocated to the joint meetings with RAN is currently taken in a mutually exclusive way, i.e. the drafting sessions for other work items cannot be scheduled in parallel.

Since the first morning and (typically) the last day and a half of each meeting are devoted to incoming/outgoing LS's, revised documents, drafting session reports, etc., there are usually 3 days of meeting time available to schedule drafting sessions in parallel with the plenary. If joint meetings with RAN groups and plenary time devoted to SAE take 2 days of this time then other work items must share the remaining one day between them. These include drafting sessions for topics like VCC, CSI, FBC, and E2E QoS. With MBMS, IWLAN now being handled in the plenary, the plenary is also backlogged with many contributions that could not be handled due to lack of available time. The drafting sessions and plenary are already starting early morning and typically last till late night. Therefore we see a severe shortage of time for ongoing critical Release 7 activities. It is likely this shortage will continue to affect subsequent meetings, if no action is taken.

This clearly shows that there is a need to balance SA2 activities between the longer-term evolution of the system and the Release 7 features that are required more immediately by the industry.

Discussion

Adding some early morning or late night sessions can stretch meeting time, but experience shows that albeit this can be an "extrema ratio" that can be adopted to complete outstanding work, it normally proves to be not so effective, and a bit controversial as understandably delegates need time to interact with the company and other delegates offline. They also need to have some rest!

So, while evening or early morning sessions are a remedy that will be assessed and adopted on a case by case basis, and certainly may help in some particular cases, this is not the solution to the general problem. There appear to be a number of possible other solutions that might be adopted:

- Adding a further SA2 meeting to the calendar. This may not be an efficient way to address the real issue at hand, that is devoting meeting time necessary to progress Rel-7 work items and providing 3GPP SAE the time it deserves.

- Reducing the time devoted to 3GPP SAE. Given the importance this bears for the long-term viability of the industry, this may not be generally acceptable.

- Increasing of the degree of parallelism allowed during SA2 meetings, by relaxing some mutual exclusivity constraints. This may not be acceptable to some delegations with a small number of delegates.

- Scheduling ad-hoc meetings devoted to 3GPP SAE and/or progressing work for some Rel-7 work items. For 3GPP SAE, this would have the added advantage of allowing joint discussion with RAN WG as required to progress the work. This approach may be especially relevant if it's apparent that contributions are being provided to drive the work forward, but insufficient time exists in the currently scheduled meetings to address the contributions. This seems to have been the case for some work items at the last meeting, including 3GPP SAE.

Recommendation and Action

In view of the analysis provided above, it seems clear that having ad hoc meetings (either for 3GPP SAE or for the Rel-7 work items that require them) is the most practical and efficient way to address the issue, perhaps along with allowing for a higher degree of parallelism.

It is therefore requested that TSG SA consider the options in this paper and provides general guidance as to the way forward.

If agreeable, it's suggested that TSG SA recommends:

1. Balanced meeting time is provided between evolution-related work and other Release 7 work items.

2. If insufficient meeting time exists during working group meetings to address all received contributions with serial session scheduling, then more parallel sessions should be scheduled to address contributions in a timely manner, if possible.

3. If sufficient time cannot be allocated within the scope of working group meetings to address contributions despite points 1 and 2 have been taken into account, then ad hoc meetings should be scheduled.