

3GPP TSG SA Ad-Hoc on Work Plan for next Releases

Helsinki, 22nd and 23rd of August 2000

DRAFT 02

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Chaired by: Niels Andersen, Motorola
Supported by: Alain Sultan, MCC

Note: for the hyperlinks to work, the tdocs have to be stored individually zipped in a sub-folder “\tdocs” of the folder containing these minutes.

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting took place on 22nd and 23rd of August 2000 in Helsinki, Finland. It was chaired by Niels Andersen (Motorola), supported by Alain Sultan (MCC, author of these minutes) and hosted by Nokia, and in particular by Teuvo Jarvela.

2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda, provided in tdoc [AHR00-0001](#), was approved without modification. It was underlined that items 5 and 6 (identification of features to be defined for R00 and after R00) can hardly be dissociated.

3 Principles of work planning and releases

All the related contributions were presented (next sub-section) before general conclusion and summary contributions were elaborated (reflected in next but one sub-section).

3.1 Presentation of contributions

[AHR00-0002](#), *3GPP Release Cycles and Project Coordination*, T1P1, Asok Chatterjee

This document proposes to have 3GPP release cycled content-based rather than slaved to a calendar date.

The other (main) proposal is to have a project coordination function moved from SA2 to a separate working group.

Discussion: The IGC in S2 are done in evening sessions, separately from S2. Moreover, having separate meetings might not be realistic from the practical point of view according to Vodafone (travelling, etc).

The reason why to change the current process was explained to be to provide more transparencies on the elaboration of the Work Plan: T1 mentioned that the problem is to be sure to have enough involvement and reviews performed by the operators.

But at the same time, and even if it is commonly agreed that it is an SA related task to take care of the Work Plan, it was recognised that it cannot be handled in a plenary for efficiency reasons, so it has to be handled in a smaller group making proposals. This explains the creation of the S2 IGCs, and there is no reason why to change it to another group of this kind.

In summary, there is a compromise to be found between the openness of the Work Plan, pushing for having as many people as possible and the practical handling, pushing for having a limited number of people. The current approach has given some actual results, and it has to be stressed that IGCs provide proposals and no constraints.

The detailed handling of future activities related to the Work Plan were discussed again more in depth and concluded during the presentation of tdoc [AHR00-0005](#) (see below).

Concerning the first idea of this contribution (3GPP releases not corresponding to year), this is lengthy discussed in the following documents and concluded below.

[AHR00-0003](#): *Principles of 3GPP Work Planning - Release Mechanisms*, Motorola

The main proposal is to abandon annual releases in 3GPP. A secondary proposal is to enable to refer to “Release X plus a set of frozen WIs of Release X+1”.

Discussion: T1 stressed that the key point is flexibility, and the principle of annual release is against this principle. Answering to BT’s question on how to describe a Release, Vodafone proposed that it should be feature based, and the work plan should be used to determine which WIs belong to a given Release.

Motorola proposed as definition of a Release a consistent (self-referenced) set of specifications.

[AHR00-0004](#): *Principles of 3GPP Work Planning*, Ericsson

The principle of maintaining a fixed release date as for Release 99 shall be followed also for future releases.

However, for releases following Release 2000, the release date can be separate from a calendar year.

Discussion:

Ericsson stressed that their main concern is that it is not acceptable to have the complete Release 2000 postponed to second half of June 2001 just because some of the R00 features will be completed by that time.

The idea of less than one year between two releases –mentioned as a possible solution- has some practical impacts on maintenance, and in particular the impact on MCC workload has to be considered.

[AHR00-0006](#): *Considerations on 3GPP Release planning: Yearly versus feature-based releases*, Siemens

It is proposed to go on using the principle of "yearly releases" for R00 and after.

Discussion: T-Mobil and Mannesmann support this view.

Motorola and Siemens agreed that there is no major difference between this contribution and Motorola's one. The real difference is that in Motorola's proposal, a new Release is produced every 12 to 18 months.

AHR00-0019: *Organisation of Releases*, Nortel

Nortel propose to have a Release corresponding to a well-defined set of functions. As for now, a Release can be corrected as much as necessary and in parallel a new Release can be created when new functions are introduced.

Discussion: no problem with the main part of the proposal. The use of a simple integer numbering scheme is more controversial.

AHR00-0011: *Principles for 3GPP Work Planning*, One2One, Orange, Vodafone

Three points are stressed here: the R99 enhancements have to be delivered as soon as possible in a Release "1.1" (this means that a Release prior to the complete "All-IP" release is essential); a program of commercially driven enhancements should quickly be agreed for Release 1.1, with a timescale of completion by June 2001; and work should also continue on All-IP for R2.0; to achieve that, it is necessary to complete the main work on service requirements and architecture by end 2000.

Discussion: the requirements here fits to the first one by proposing to focus on the work plan and then try to arrange the Release according to it, and by dissociating the Features which take more than one year compared to the shorter term features.

AHR00-0016: *Considerations on 3GPP Work Planning methods*, Alcatel

Alcatel proposes some hints on the handling of releases:

There could be separate releases for CS-Domain and for PS-Domain, or there could be separate releases for PS-Domain and IM-subsystem, or the segmentation of work-items into building blocks and features could also facilitate bundling of releases.

Discussion: it can be dangerous to dissociate releases in CS and in PS. One consequence is e.g. to also identify the common parts to CS and PS into a third set. There is a problem to do it on the short term too.

3.2 General conclusion

As a first conclusion, there is a need to base the release on a detailed work program, with milestones to be regularly updated.

One issue to be solved by the drafting group is to decide whether a release has to be produced every twelve months and then the content is decided accordingly, or whether the release is mainly content based and the time it is decided accordingly.

A document is generated based on Nortel's and Motorola's proposals in [AHR00-0024](#), revised to [AHR00-0027](#).

The handling of sub-releases shall also to be clarified by the drafting group. In fact, this corresponds to the availability of the specs as soon as they are ready: e.g. real time fax was completed in June 2000, so the corresponding specs should be available before official R00 (12/00).

The group should handle the case of WI for which no progress is made, or if no progress is made by a specific WG.

AHR00-0027: *Draft Principles of 3GPP Work Planning - Release Mechanisms*, drafting group

Revised on line to [AHR00-0028](#), to clarify and enhance the text.

AHR00-0028: *Draft Principles of 3GPP Work Planning - Release Mechanisms*, complete group

It is proposed to have UMTS Releases independent of the calendar and to call them e.g. R4, this number corresponding to the first digit of the applicable specifications version number. It is expected to produce a new Release roughly every 12 months. The spec version numbering scheme is kept unchanged (second digit incremented when new corrections are incorporated, first digit incremented when the spec becomes applicable to the next release).

The use of a Work Plan is confirmed, with the clarification that it shall cover all the current and foreseen items independently of the Release they apply.

Conclusion: agreed by this group. To be sent on the SA, CN, T and RAN reflectors, and to be formally approved at next SA plenary.

4 Presentation and discussion of current work plan

The last available version of the Work Plan, in date of August 8th, is presented in [AHR00-0013](#) (MS Project version). Tdocs [AHR00-0014](#) and [AHR00-0015](#) provide PDF views of the work plan (the former showing only the features).

Some key improvements have been performed on the Work Plan since its previous version. It is now in MS Project format, allowing to show only the desired information (from Features only down to the Work Tasks, filter by responsible WG/TSG can be done, provisioning of a Gantt view of WIs making very visible the start and finish dates, etc.). All the WIs identified here (Feature, Building Block, Work Task) are now allocated to one single TSG or WG, as to clearly specify the responsibility of each group and MCC member for checking and updating the information. Also, in order to know the level of agreement of each WI listed here, the former field “approved” is now split into “WG approved” and “TSG approved”.

To clarify the handling of cross-references, the sign “(Master)” is following the name of the WIs which are re-used at other places, and “(copy)” is preceding the name of the image(s) of these WIs (e.g. “QoS in PS domain” is re-used by “Emergency calls in PS domain”, so it appears twice in the Work Plan, once as “Master” and once as “Copy”). More than three WI hierarchical levels (Feature/Building Block/Work Task or F/BB/WT) appear now in the Work Plan: this solves the fuzziness of the previous version, where in some cases a same Work Task was allocated to different WGs: now the WT is cut in a number of “sub-WTs”, one per involved WG, so that each WG has a single clear unrepeatable task to perform.

Two types of features are in the Project Plan: the ones consisting in a set of independent building blocks, grouped because related to a same field of application and as to improve the reading of the Plan (e.g. “R00 evolutions of the transport”) and the ones which reflect a single consistent service (e.g. “Provisioning of IP-based multimedia services”). They differ by the following: the first ones can be divided easily (e.g. into a revised “R00 evolutions of the transport” and a new “R01 evolutions of the transport”, containing each one a part of the former “R00 evolutions of transport” BBs) but not the second ones, which can only be moved as a block from one Release to the next one if necessary. No distinction is made now in the Work Plan according to this criterion.

For the Work Plan to be useful and accurate, two ways of interactions are needed: from WGs/TSGs towards the work plan (in order to update it and correct it as necessary), and from the work plan to the WGs/TSGs. This way of interaction is needed for the WG/TSG chairmen to check before their meeting what are the points which should be covered by their meeting.

The tracking of the progress should be made by MCC and a new version of the Work Plan should be provided at least once a month. The last version of the Work Plan is always located on the 3GPP ftp site at the address: ftp://ftp.3gpp.org/informations/work_plan

Discussion: The Testing, Charging and O&M aspects are missing for some features: there should be added where relevant.

Lines 50 and 52 are equivalent.

The RAN WIs in general have to be reviewed.

There should be some mean of identifying the “level of uncertainty” of each WI more precisely than the present mechanism allows (not yet approved/WG approved /TSG approved). A solution could be to indicate the date of last review, to know whether it’s an old unreviewed proposal or something more recent.

[AHR00-0009](#): 3GPP Work Planning - Release 2000, BT

This contribution proposes a series of 7 actions to progress the Work Plan and the work of Release 2000.

Discussion: there is no disagreement on what is proposed here: points 1 and 7 are what is going to be covered by this current meeting, all the others are already in progress, except point 5. Point 5 says that there is a need for a WI coversheet for every single WT, and this is not the commonly agreed statement: on the contrary, it was concluded at last SA plenary that there’s no need to develop a WIC for each individual WT.

5 Identification of items for completion by/after December 2000

5.1 Presentation of contributions

[AHR00-0008](#): Critical Items to be developed as part of Release 00, BT

This contribution lists 7 issues to be standardised in priority for R00, linked to the PS domain, the IM subsystem and LCS.

Discussion: it is not clear whether all the other activities have to be stopped or not in the meantime.

AHR00-0010: *Release 2000 Planning, 3G.IP*

3G.IP recommend that 3GPP should move to a feature based release cycle to achieve the long term vision and should focus the next release on the support of IP Multimedia services on the PS Domain. The support for IP Multimedia services should be split in two steps according to the timing and content proposed in the contribution.

Discussion: It is not clear if the 2 proposed steps are referring to different Releases or if the first one refers to end dates in the Work Plan. If they relate to different releases, “Security for RAN and IP Multimedia Subsystem” cannot be in the second step, and stage 2 cannot be in one release and stage 3 in the other, as shown for the full IP Multimedia Subsystem. And for “Header Compression/Removal/Stripping in the RAN” and “Unequal Error Protection in PS Domain”, this cannot be done without the stage 3 to be completed.

Based on these observations, the contribution can be considered only as indications for end date in the work plan. But some end dates are already proposed in the work plan for some of the proposed features, and no explicit contradiction with the existing date or rationale to change them is mentioned in the contribution.

AHR00-0012: *Work items for Next Release, One2One, Orange, Vodafone*

This contribution is proposing to have a defined list of features to be defined between January and December 2001. This list excludes IM subsystem-related features.

Discussion: “smart terminal”, “Service Operations Management” and “browser in USIM” seem to refer to items of the work plan but do not appear as such in it.

Siemens noticed that it depends on operator’s individual strategy what is a “priority item”. Two different types of behaviour can be identified: the one putting forward the IM subsystem, and the one putting it as second priority. The list is seen as quite ambitious by some companies, like Motorola.

AHR00-0017: *Items to be included in Release 2000, Alcatel*

This paper stresses the importance that the user can be provided with a service without any notion / minor notion of the Radio Access Technology (RAT) available while he/she is moving. This is proposed to be done in the next release.

AHR00-0018: *Review of 3GPP Release 2000 Workplan, Mannesmann*

This contribution stresses that all the aspects of QoS in the PS domain (including e.g. charging, interworking, etc) should be completed for Release 2000. As long as this is not solved, plenty of other features cannot be finished.

Discussion: one of the key problems is how to provide the requested bearers on the radio interface according to the requested QoS.

AHR00-0007: *Critical Items for IM-Subsystem, Nortel Networks*

This paper is proposing a way to structure the feature on IM subsystem in the Work Plan without proposing any concrete date.

AHR00-0020: *3GPP Work Planning for 2000-2001, Motorola*

It is proposed to have a first set of functions to be contained in Release 2000 , then 2 following sets, one in March 2001 and one in December 2001, both to belong to Release 2001.

Discussion: for IP transport in the CN, under December 2000, actually stages 2 and 3 are referred to.

It is clarified that there will be one Release for December 2000, another one to December 2001 (March 2001 is only a milestone for the work plan).

AHR00-0021: *Liaison on Service Continuity requirements for Release 2000, S1*

SA is asked to give its opinion to S1 on whether implementing the inter-domain service continuity is a requirement for Release 2000 or if it can be postponed: this is a strong operator’s requirement but it has a lot of impacts.

Discussion: this is an SA decision to be taken at next SA meeting.

AHR00-0023: *Release 2000 content, Nokia*

It is proposed that the Release 2000 (containing the IM services), be delivered in three phases:

- By 09/00, the contents of the Release 2000 should be agreed
- Stage 2 milestone in 03/01 with some Stage 3 work items, offering a stable foundation for the further work on protocol details and IM CN Subsystem
- Stage 3 milestone in 12/01, a fully standardised and complete system specification

Discussion: this is similar to the Motorola’s proposal except that Motorola proposes an additional Release in December 2000 or March 2001.

5.2 General conclusion

It was concluded that there should be 2 releases by December 2001:

Release B, which will contain the IP multimedia subsystem, to be finalised by December 2001.

Release A, to be completed by December 2000 or March 2001, containing a consistent set of features (self-referencing) which has to be defined. The completion date should be no later than March 2001, otherwise it would be useless to have 2 different features. A first draft of the features to be provided in Release A is provided in [AHR00-0029](#).

Note: later during the meeting, it was decided to finally call the “Release A” as “Release 4”, and “Release B” is “Release 5”.

[AHR00-0029](#): *Framework for planned content of next Release*, Vodafone

This contribution proposes a classification of the features of the Work Plan according to the Releases: it puts a mark for all the features which are essential for next release.

It is stressed that this is a working version only, to be presented in an enhanced version to next SA plenary.

Discussion: some features should be split, like Location Service, where it has to be distinguished whether it applies to CS or to PS so the pieces resulting from the cut can be allocated to different Releases.

It was stressed that the 3GPP activities should not concern only the next Release. A typical example for “big” features (i.e. requesting more than one year to be defined) would be to have S1 and S2 working on Release N+1 while the Stage 3 groups will be working on Release N.

Conclusion: The TSG_LEADER e-mail reflector can be used for discussion and further refinement of this contribution, and the result(s) should be sent on the TSG reflectors. It was finally decided to try to include this proposal in the work plan as soon as possible to keep all the material concerning 3GPP work planning in a single document, the work plan. Alan Cox and Alain Sultan shall provide the first proposal by next week.

[AHR00-0030](#): *3GPP Work Planning for 2000-2001*, AHR00 Top Level Workplan

This document refines the Work Plan for the IM subsystem feature.

Discussion: it was stressed that these are rough lines to be taken into account in the Work Plan. The analysis of these proposed rough lines has still to be performed to check if the proposed dates are realistic and to perform some consistency checking.

The title should be changed to “3GPP work planning for IM subsystem”.

It should be incorporated in the Work Plan as well as [AHR00-0029](#) just for practical reason, to avoid having the Work Plan spread out different document.

The document is revised with small clarifications not concerning the table to [AHR00-0031](#).

[AHR00-0031](#): *3GPP Work Planning for IM subsystem*, SA Ad-Hoc on Work Planning

To be included in the next version of the Work Plan as soon as possible.

It is remembered that the Work Plan itself is a living document, so it is useless and inefficient to have part of the Work Plan contained in other document(s): so this proposal, as well as the proposal for the content of R4 based on [AHR00-0029](#), shall be included in the Work Plan.

6 Other issues

[AHR00-0025](#): *Detailed planning for GERAN*, GERAN convenor

The GERAN convenor (Niels Andersen) provides here a detailed proposal of the work plan for GERAN.

Discussion: the WIs listed here still have to be officially approved at next meeting: this is an initial proposal of the convenor.

[AHR00-0005](#): *3GPP Project Planning*, Ericsson

It is proposed to have the Work Planning activity performed by SA with the help of MCC, and then to dissolve the corresponding activity in SA2 (and by then the S2 IGCs).

Discussion: it is too early to dissolve the IGCs: together with MCC, they have a role in helping in performing the consistency checking and raising “red flags” to the groups when appropriate.

It was clarified that IGCs are providing only indications of the work to be performed by the groups but cannot task the groups to perform a specific work: the acceptance of work and creation of WIs is under full responsibility of the corresponding TSGs.

For the long term, this point has to be reconsidered by SA: SA should think in an efficient way to establish the long term vision for the strategic lines. How to establish the long term work plan based on these strategic lines has also to be studied.

Conclusion: Three levels of activity concerning the Work Plan are identified: the identification of strategic lines, the consistency checking level and keeping track of the progress. Different ways of handling these different levels

are also identified: the first one is handled by TSG SA plenary, the two others are handled by IGC and MCC. The transfer of work from IGC towards MCC is in progress: the chairman indicated that the completion of this transfer is a necessary condition to envisage any major change in the structure.

7 Review of conclusions

- Conclusions on Work planning and releases have been reached (see tdoc [AHR00-0028](#)).
- Outline for R4 content is proposed, with some enhancements to be proposed by e-mail (initial version in [AHR00-0029](#))
- Outline for work plan for the IM subsystem for R5 is proposed in [AHR00-0031](#).
- One of the key conclusion is that 3GPP is not working only on the next Release but in parallel on one, two or even more consecutive releases (e.g stages 1 and 2 of R5 features can be specified in parallel with stage 3 features of R4).

8 Closing of the meeting

The chairman thanks the host and the MCC support.

Annexes

Tdoc list

NUMBER	TITLE	SOURCE
AHR00-0001	Draft Agenda	SA Chairman
AHR00-0002	3GPP Release Cycles and Project Coordination	T1P1
AHR00-0003	Principles of 3GPP Work Planning - Release Mechanisms	Motorola
AHR00-0004	Principles of 3GPP Work Planning	Ericsson
AHR00-0005	3GPP Project Planning	Ericsson
AHR00-0006	Considerations on 3GPP Release planning: Yearly versus feature-based release	Siemens AG
AHR00-0007	Reserved Iain Sharp	Nortel
AHR00-0008	Critical Items to be developed as part of Release 00	BT
AHR00-0009	3GPP Work Planning - Release 2000	BT
AHR00-0010	Release 2000 Planning	3G.IP [MRP]
AHR00-0011	Principles for 3GPP Work planning	One two one, Orange and Vodafone
AHR00-0012	WI for next release	One two one, Orange and Vodafone
AHR00-0013	R00 Project Plan v.08/08 (MS Project version)	MCC
AHR00-0014	R00 Project Plan v.08/08 (PDF version)	MCC
AHR00-0015	Features of the R00 Project Plan v.08/08 (PDF version)	MCC
AHR00-0016	Considerations on 3GPP Work Planning methods	Alcatel
AHR00-0017	Items to be included in Release 2000	Alcatel
AHR00-0018	Review of the Work Plan	Mannesmann
AHR00-0019	Organisation of Releases	Nortel
AHR00-0020	3GPP Work Planning for 2000-2001	Motorola
AHR00-0021	LS on Service Continuity requirements for Release 2000	S1
AHR00-0022	Withdrawn	Nokia
AHR00-0023	Release 2000 content	Nokia
AHR00-0024	Withdrawn	drafting group

AHR00-0025	Detail planning for GERAN	GERAN convenor
AHR00-0026	Planned content of next Release	Vodafone
AHR00-0027	Draft Principles of 3GPP Work Planning - Release Mechanisms	drafting group
AHR00-0028	Draft Principles of 3GPP Work Planning - Release Mechanisms	complete group
AHR00-0029	Framework for planned content of next Release	Vodafone
AHR00-0030	3GPP Work Planning for 2000-2001	drafting group