



TETRA ASSOCIATION

The TETRA Association
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14th September 2011

Dear 3GPP SA Plenary Chair and delegates:

Device to Device Service

The TETRA Association is a non-profit making members' Association whose objective is to encourage the adoption of standardised communications solutions for users of private land mobile radio systems. These users include Public Safety, Utilities, Transportation, Fuel and Power Generation and others. We have supported ETSI in the development of TETRA technology for voice and low speed data services and are pleased to see the adoption of TETRA technology in more than 120 countries worldwide. We also recognise that Project 25 was created by the TIA in the USA and is also widely adopted within the Public Safety arena.

I am writing this letter today as it has come to our attention that the 3GPP community is currently considering a Study Item Proposal to add a device to device capability to the LTE standards.

Within Europe, and elsewhere in the world, the Public Safety network operators are looking to see what future solutions will provide Mobile Broadband Services for their users. Within the TETRA Association we are responding to that need and have already initiated a project within ETSI that will provide Mobile Broadband for our users. We have encouraged the Working Group to utilise existing technology wherever possible. Whilst I cannot prejudge the outcome of their work, I can tell you that LTE is a likely candidate for providing such a solution.

We recognise that LTE provides many of the capabilities that our users require. However, one feature that is considered critical to our users is the ability to communicate without transiting through the infrastructure i.e. a Device to Device capability. In TETRA this is called Direct Mode and is considered important by our users. We understand that such a feature is contained within the Study Item Proposal that is under consideration.

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As our colleagues at NIST have pointed out in the discussions of the Study Item Proposal, our user community, similar to the US public safety community and others, needs this capability primarily when not in network coverage. As the Study Item Proposal is currently written, this need would not be met and thus would negatively impact our analysis of LTE for future use.

Public Safety and many of the Critical National Infrastructure industries must be able to communicate at all times. Whilst the operators of TETRA based networks strive to cover as much of the service area as possible, in reality this is simply not feasible. Major incidents involving the safety of life sometimes occur in remote areas, in tunnels or other underground locations where network coverage may not be available. Our users must be able to communicate in such situations, which is why we are enthusiastic about 3GPP's consideration of this issue as long as it can address our needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we hope that this letter helps to inform your discussion about the global public safety need for this capability both in and more importantly, out of network coverage. Should you need further information on this subject please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Philip A.F. Godfrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Philip A.F. Godfrey
Chairman