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for all professional users

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Title: LS on Release 19 prioritisation D2D sidelink enhancement multi-hop
Source: TCCA
To: 3GPP RAN and 3GPP SA
Cc:

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TCCA as the Market Representation Partner (MRP) for Critical Communications sector wishes to highlight the importance of Device-to-Device (D2D) sidelink multi-hop relaying enhancements.

Connectivity is the lifeline for first responders to act on citizens to call for help. Everything to improve service coverage and capacity needs to be done. As incidents and disasters can take place underground as well as above ground, D2D sidelink multi-hop relaying is an essential requirement to bring connectivity to otherwise out of coverage locations. This is a major missing capability in the 3GPP systems in addressing the public safety's fundamental requirements.

Multi-hop sidelink provides also unique coverage extension use cases for Mobile Network Operators (MNO) as well as utilities while providing service for the first responders.

For MNOs, building underground coverage is rather expensive and generally a poor investment. But at the same time, power, gas and water utilities have a lot of (smart) meters located in basement facilities with a need for connectivity. If a MNO and utility service providers join forces, they can utilise the MNO's network boosted with a UE to network multi-hop relaying enhancements to cover vast areas as coverage extension. Thus, from an MNO point of view, UE to network multi-hop sidelink relay is a useful standard capability in the mobile devices.

With this, TCCA, consisting of public safety, utilities, transport, resource industries and many other critical user verticals, kindly requests 3GPP to include Device-to-Device sidelink multi-hop into the Release 19 content.

Yours faithfully,

Tero Pesonen
CCBG chairman, TCCA