3GPP TSG RAN Meeting #102
Edinburgh, UK, 11th – 15 December 2023

RP-233692

3GPP planning towards IMT-2030

Agenda Item:	15
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3GPP planning towards IMT-2030

Background

- LS from ITU-R WP5D on IMT2030 [RP-231518/SA-230790] received and briefly discussed at TSGs#101. The LS introduces the “Framework and overall objectives of the future development of IMT for 2030 and beyond” and “5D looks forward to collaborating with External Organizations”.

- ITU-R timeline for IMT-2030 sets out a window for submission of technology proposals between early 2027 and early 2029, and an expectation on delivery of IMT-2030 specification between mid-2029 and mid-2030.

- TSG#101 had a preliminary discussion regarding the 6G work plan and timeline. No decision was taken, and further discussions are expected at TSG#102.

- TSG chairs have scheduled a joint RAN/SA/CT session at TSG #102 for a discussion and decision on the 6G timeline.

Key considerations for 3GPP 6G timeline:

- Essential to be jointly planned across RAN/SA/CT, including joint 6G workshop
- Provide sufficient time for both study and normative phases of the work
- One study release + one normative release towards the IMT-2030 submission
- Avoid repeating some challenging aspects of the 5G process, e.g. late changes to the timeline, multiple drops in one release, etc.
- Co-ordinate and leverage the work done on IMT 2030 use cases by external regional research alliances and MRPs.

6G – ITU timeline and proposed 3GPP timeline

Proposal on 6G timeline

- 3GPP is at the very beginning of its discussion related to IMT2030 and it is not reasonable to expect that all details of a timeline toward IMT2030 can be agreed now. At the same time, it is useful to set some key dates for the early parts of the timeline, enabling all companies to adequately plan and prepare.

- Proposed key dates for the early stages of the 6G timeline:
  - May'24 – 3GPP Stage 1 workshop on IMT-2030 use cases (already endorsed by SA1)
  - Sep'24 – Approval of SA1 study on stage-1 service requirements/use cases
  - Mar'25 – 3GPP wide 6G workshop to kick off 6G technical activity in SA and RAN
  - Jun'25 – SA2 study approved to start in Q3'25.
  - Jun'25 – RAN WG studies approved to start in Q3'25 (R1) and Q4'25 (R2/3/4)

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