

Source: BT^{*}
Title: 3GPP Work Management, Release Planning and Vision
Document for: Decision
Agenda Item: 8 (and perhaps initially 4)

1 Background

The development and evolution of 3GPP specifications is based upon the release of complete system specifications, and following the successful completion of Release 99, work is now focused upon planning and progressing the development of future releases. This also needs to take account of the recent revisions to the 3GPP "Scope and Objectives" (OP#14, July 2000) where the need for 3GPP to study the Long Term Evolution of the system and the inclusion of the GSM Evolved radio Access Network (GERAN) have been included.

This contribution considers the ongoing 3GPP activities relating to day-to-day Work Management and co-ordination, Release Planning and the development of the Long Term Vision and makes proposals regarding the future organisation of this work within TSG SA.

2 General

The development of a coherent set of specifications representing a 3GPP "release" represents a considerable investment (expertise, time, travel costs etc) from 3GPP member companies. It is essential, therefore, that if the specifications are to be produced according to expectations, the work of the 3GPP is planned and managed to best effect.

The successful delivery of Release 99 (R99) specifications was achieved as a result of effective co-ordination and co-operation across the various TSGs and their Working Groups. R99 primarily represents an evolution of existing GSM specifications and the use of the UTRAN radio technology; this was established prior to, and during the formation of the 3GPP. As a result the 3GPP management activity relating to R99 focused upon relatively detailed technical issues relating to the delivery of the release - for example ensuring the co-ordinated delivery of stage 3 protocols between CN and RAN. This was achieved through the Inter Sector Co-ordination Groups (ICGs) which form part of SA2, in conjunction with the MCC.

Discussion in the 3GPP is now firmly focused upon future releases where the key issues are associated with their individual scope and timing as well as the overall direction for the future evolution of the system. These issues have already been addressed at a recent (August 2000) SA Ad-Hoc Work Planning meeting and at the "All-IP" Workshop in February. These "Ad-Hoc" activities attracted significant input from operators, vendors and, in particular, 3GPP Market Representation Partners (MRPs). The MRPs (now including 3G.IP and MWIF) have made a valuable contribution to this work and their market related "requirements" will form an important contribution in the future.

3 Future Work Planning Activities in 3GPP

The development of R99 and the discussions to date regarding future releases and the Long term Evolution of the system indicates that there are 3 main activities associated with the management and planning of 3GPP work. These are:

- **Work Management and co-ordination** - the day-to-day activity needed to ensure the coherent development of the set of specifications forming a specific release;
- **Release Planning** - the development of a high level plan outlining the scope (capabilities) and timing for successive releases;
- **Long Term Vision** - providing a 3 to 5 year vision as a target for evolving 3GPP releases.

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The Work Management and co-ordination activity is already established within the SA2 ICG group; there have been proposals to de-couple the work from SA2 and establish a separate group. These proposals require further consideration and need to take into account the increasing MCC resources available to support this work; it is possible that this could be done entirely by the MCC.

The Release Planning and Long Term Vision activities need to be given a permanent status within SA in order to ensure that the initial discussions which have taken place in ad-hoc activities are progressed and the results given appropriate status. Whilst these are distinct activities there is a significant overlap and dependency between them - they need to be carried out together. Together, these activities are seen to be of prime interest to the 3GPP MRPs.

4 Proposal

It is proposed, therefore, that a new permanent group is established to report to TSG SA, tasked to develop and maintain:

- a Longer Term (3 to 5 year) Vision for the 3G system specified by the 3GPP;
 - a Release Plan describing the scope and timing of 3GPP Specification Releases leading towards the Vision;
- both as 3GPP wide activities.

The new group is intended to progress the work initiated at the February workshop (all-IP) and the recent Work Planning meeting.

The following "high-level" terms of Reference are proposed for this new "Strategic Planning" group:

Draft Terms of Reference

Reporting

The group reports to TSG SA.

Responsibility

The development of a Long Term Vision and a Release Plan for the evolution of 3GPP specifications, within the scope of the 3GPP Agreement. The work of the group shall support the TSG SA responsibility for overall system co-ordination.

Specific responsibilities include:

- The production and maintenance of the Long Term Vision for 3GPP specifications. This will provide a high-level 3 - 5 year vision for the overall evolution of the 3GPP system and will include the target architecture, service capabilities and other aspects required for planning purposes;
- The production and maintenance of a high-level work plan, outlining the scope and timing for the production of 3GPP specifications leading towards the Long Term Vision;
- The identification, within the Plan and Vision, of specifications produced by other bodies upon which 3GPP is dependant;
- Providing a primary (but not exclusive) focus for contributions and input from 3GPP MRPs relating to the future evolution of the 3GPP system and other market related issues;
- Escalating cross -TSG issues to TSG SA for action and resolution;

The group shall not duplicate the work of existing 3GPP groups and, specifically, shall not address detailed work management and co-ordination issues.

End