

Title: LS on Operating Frequency Band as a Release independent work item

Source: TSG-RAN

To: TSG-SA

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1.0 Introduction

TSG RAN approved the following process for the handling of new frequency bands. This document is provided to TSG SA for information.

The current procedure adopted in 3GPP is to introduce each new feature or work item as part of a specification release. When this new feature or work item from a Release is implemented, the particular implementation should support all mandatory features in this and earlier Releases. While this procedure is reasonable for most of the new features/work items, the Frequency Band is a work item we recommend is exempted from this procedure.

TSG RAN has approved the procedure that allows a frequency band of operation to be independent of a 3GPP specification Release. This policy is also in line with the release independent approach adopted in 3GPP / ETSI for new GSM bands [1]. This procedure would also allow for faster market launch for new WCDMA frequency adaptations becoming available in some areas.

When the frequency band is left as a Release independent work item, this would allow 3GPP to include each new frequency band into the respective open drafting Release without a need to include each new band into earlier Releases that are seen as 'frozen'.

2.0 Process

- 1) 3GPP accepts that Band of Operation may be independent of Release. This approach provides the flexibility that is needed when new frequency bands are being standardized. The release independence of frequency band may be applied to any new band of operation.
- 2) However in a case where frequency band is considered release independent it may be necessary to give instructions for implementation. For example;
 - A UE or Node B complying to release 99 but supporting UMTS-1800 shall comply with the minimum RF performance requirements specified in TS25.101 Release 5 and TS25.104 Release 5 which are considered essential.
 - A UE or RNC complying to release 99 but supporting UMTS-1800 shall support the use of certain message extensions that are based on Release 5.
 - This information for implementation shall be specified in a new RAN WG2 document similar to 3GPP TS 05.14 (Release Independent Frequency bands; implementation Guidelines) [2]

3.0 Reference:

- [1] Tdoc SMG2 1040/00 - Operating Frequency Band as a Release Independent Feature –Nokia
- [2] 3GPP TS 05.14 - Release Independent Frequency bands; implementation Guidelines.