Next Generation Mobile Networks
NGCOR Project

Title:	**Liaison Statement from NGMN NGCOR to TMF and 3GPP - Project NGCOR Update**
Source:	NGMN Alliance
To:	TMF; 3GPP
Date:	20th July 2011
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Action Requested:	**For Information**
Attachments:	**None**

1. Introduction to NGMN

The vision of the NGMN Alliance is to provide a platform for innovation by moving towards one integrated network for the seamless introduction of mobile broadband services.

The NGMN Alliance is a forum to share, assess, and drive aspects of mobile broadband technologies focusing on LTE & EPC (Evolved Packet Core) and its evolution. The NGMN Alliance complements and supports the work within standardisation bodies and industry fora by providing a coherent view of what the operator community is going to require for successful deployment and in order to deliver mobile broadband technology quickly and cost-effectively and serve the benefits of the end-user.

For additional information see http://www.ngmn.org/aboutus/visionmission.html

NGMN is providing in this liaison information on the NGMN Project Next Generation Converged Operations Requirements (NGCOR) , so that **TMF and 3GPP** are aware of the project scope and the anticipated timelines of the work.

The Requirements are focused on 4 areas:

- Fault Management
- Inventory Management
- Modelling and Tooling
- Converged Operations requirements

2. Introduction to NGMN NGCOR

The Next Generation Converged Operations Requirement (NGCOR) project is approved by the Board of NGMN. The project is a continuation of the projects Self-Optimized Networks (SON) and Operational Efficiency (OPE) which issued the NGMN Top OPE Recommendations in 2010. SON focused on radio capabilities of a mobile network, OPE specified operations requirements for mobile networks.

The results of both activities are considered in the NGCOR project since the results are valid and essential for the management of a mobile network.

NGCOR is an enhancement of OPE, because NGCOR details specifications of operations requirements for both wireline and wireless networks. It is obvious that both networks will be merged in the near future. NGCOR is developing a view of requirements for converged operations. It is not the intention to specify the convergence of wireline and wireless networks.

Converged operation is one of the key issues for both operator and service provider, because the services will be delivered via a network, which does not distinguish between the capabilities of the network themselves. The current situation is caused by the fact that OA&M capabilities for wireline and wireless network elements are implemented by various standards if they are standardized at all. The impacts are high operational cost and slow time to market. The expected results from a common standardization are reduced OPEX and CAPEX and significantly shortened time to market. Without a higher grade of interface standardization a higher grade of automation is not feasible. This will render that optimization of commercial figures is not possible.

There is a need for the definition of converged OA&M requirements to ensure that the operational activities within the converged networks perform optimally.

The project has the aim to give guidance to SDOs and industry bodies (e.g. 3GPP or TM Forum) in order to prioritize the work, develop the solutions for most important requirements first and specify the recommendations for the best solutions.

An increasing number of service providers (SP) have to operate a variety of network and service production infrastructures, from mobile and fixed network environments up to converged networks and services across many countries. The increasing demand to maintain and improve customer experience requires full end-to-end service management and hence, multi-technology and multi-vendor network management capabilities. On the other hand, financial downturn has put even more pressure on operational efficiency improvement.
The key assumptions are:

- Existing standards shall be considered.
- Operations requirements have to be specified for
    - Fault Management

- Inventory Management
- Configuration Management
- Performance Management

NGCOR will focus in the first phase on:

- Converged operations requirements in general based on uses cases
- Fault Management
- Modelling and Tooling infrastructure of the management Interfaces
- Inventory Management Definition of operations requirements for EMS north bound interfaces

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Sub task	Sub task leader / main author	Contributors & Review (Operators)
GEN (Converged operations requirements in general based on uses cases)	Andreas Buschmann; VF	Bell Mobility, China Mobile, Deutsche Telekom, KPN/E-PLUS, France Telecom/Orange, SK Telecom, Telecom Italia, Telefonica, TeliaSonera, Vodafone
CON (Converged Operations)	Tayeb Ben Meriem, France Telecom / Orange	
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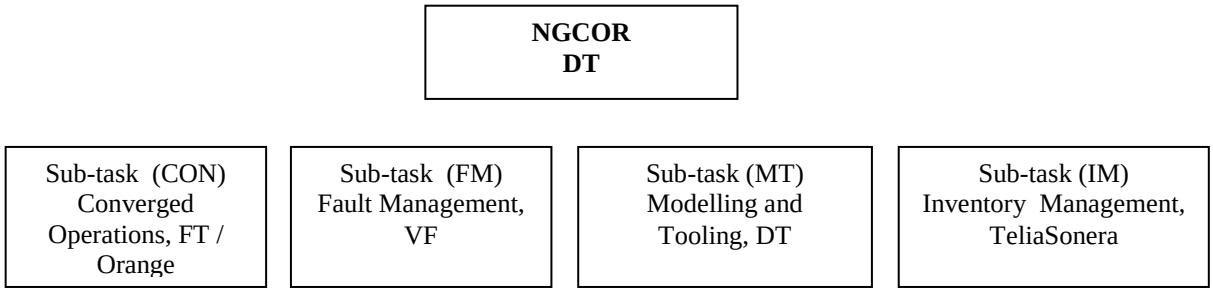
Table 1: NGCOR sub task, main authors and contributors

Out of scope are

Customer Care and Billing
Internal processes and organization of the operators & service providers.

The structure of the project is depicted in the following figure:



3. Timeline

The plan is to close the project by 28 February 2012.

Milestones in between:

- First feedback from partners and SDOs by the 15th of August, 2011
- Update by the 24th of August, 2011
- F2Fmeeting 7th-8th of September, 2011

Further milestones may be decided based on the input from the partners of NGMN..