Mr.
Sang-Keun Park
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd

Cc: Eric Lee

Vodafone D2 GmbH, D-40543 Düsseldorf
Armin Toepfer
Tel: +49 211 533-2838
Fax: +49 211 533-2804
E-mail: armin.toepfer@vodafone.de
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Funding of TTCN Test Cases

Dear Sang-Keun,

1. Most operators will launch UMTS based on the Release '99 specification. Debugging of R'99 meanwhile has led to a more stable set of specifications and therefore the number of Change Requests for corrections could drastically be reduced. Since the end of last year 3GPP T and RAN had some discussion on the possible and necessary adaptation of the test specifications and its implementation in terms of test cases. Finally this need was commonly agreed and 3GPP TSG T#15 has taken the decision that the TTCN test cases should now be based on the March 2002 specifications.
   This decision however will give rise to an estimated increase in budget requirement in ETSI MCC Task 160 of 15 man-months. One ETSI man-month costs € 13,000.
   Operators are very keen on a high quality deployment when 3G operations commence and will endeavour to avoid any delay of implementation of test cases based on the March 2002 Release 99. They will look after appropriate funding as requested by ETSI MCC.

2. As GSM is being further evolved in 3GPP GERAN, handset test specifications for GPRS and EDGE will need to evolve in the same way. With the 3GPP focus on 3rd Generation, evolution of GSM is no longer part of the commonly carried budget. Therefore, TTCN test case development to complete GPRS and EDGE is performed on a voluntary basis. Due to the shortage of member voluntary contributions (manpower and/or funding), GERAN has identified a 6 man-month deficit. To my knowledge no funding or manpower has been made available.
   Also in this area, operators are concerned at the risk to high quality handsets due to missing test cases and will take action to compensate the budget shortfall in an appropriate manner.

3. The operators community has started an initiative to come up with funding for development of test cases.
   Overall deficit according to ETSI MCC:

   - 15 man-month for 3GPP Release 99 update to March 2002 version,
   - 6 man-month for GERAN

   We are therefore seeking help and financial assistance, and would be more than happy if handset manufacturers could make funds of a similar amount available, i.e. half of the overall funding deficit.

I have submitted this request to your colleagues, representing the company in 3GPP T or 3GPP SA (see attachment, cc to GCF-Representatives).

I would like to ask you and your colleagues to come back with a joint proposal until end of April.

Kind Regards,

Armin Toepfer
3GPP Co-ordinator Vodafone Group
Member of GSMA Executive Committee