

Source: VoiceStream Wireless, Aerial, BellSouth, Nokia, SBC Communications
Title: Request to Include T1P1 Number Portability Harmonization CRs in R99
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Introduction

Prior to the formation of the 3GPP, T1P1 and ETSI agreed that the ETSI specifications for GSM would be harmonized with the US standards for PCS 1900, such that common set specifications could be developed for GSM 900, DCS 1800 and PCS 1900. Currently, the Core Network specifications for existing GSM systems deployed in Europe and North America (NA) are the responsibility of TSG-CN. Therefore, we in North America can either have our regional/national requirements reflected in these core network specifications or we can develop separate regional/national standards. Since the formation of the 3GPP and the transfer of responsibility of core network aspects from SMG3 to TSG-CN, T1P1 has had to bring its proposals for NA requirements to the 3GPP for inclusion in its specifications as opposed to developing regional/national standards. Therefore, we in T1P1 are relying on the 3GPP specifications as the basis of core network GSM standards in the US/NA. (Currently radio aspects for PCS 1900 are still be dealt with in SMG.)

Discussion

The work on number portability in the US began in 1997. Two American National Standards were developed, T1.708-1998 PCS 1900 Service Provider Number Portability and T1.711-1999 Number Portability for PCS 1900 Short Message Service and Other Services. In addition, another method for number portability based on the one of the methods supported in GSM 03.66 (SRI) needs to be standardized. At the T1P1 meeting in November of 1999 it was agreed this necessary standardization would be accomplished via harmonization, instead of modifying the existing ANSI standards or developing a new one. GSM operators in the US are beginning to deploy number portability capability in the US in anticipation of providing this capability per the FCC's regulatory initiative.

At the January T1P1 meeting the CRs were approved to harmonize the US number portability requirements with the 3GPP specifications. These CRs were written such that the number portability requirements only apply to GSM deployments in NA. These CRs were discussed at the February CN2B meeting but not approved. CN2B asked that instead of incorporating T1.708 and T1.711 as separate annexes in 03.66/23.066, they would prefer the technical information be incorporated into the existing specification and annexes. CRs to accomplish this were provided for information to the CN2B for their most recent meeting in Stockholm. The CRs were provided for information on the basis that the CN2B had agreed no new CRs would be considered at its Stockholm meeting. Feedback from the CN leadership was that, at this meeting, time was very short (2 days), and it was doubtful that there would be sufficient time to fully consider these CRs. Thus work on these CRs must await the next CN2B meeting.

Proposal

Considering that number portability capability is beginning to be deployed in the US in anticipation of the FCC regulatory requirements and that US GSM operators strongly desire that these deployments be standardized, and also considering that the CRs being proposed only affect GSM deployments in NA, the contributors are requesting that TSG-CN and TAG-SA agree that the T1P1 Number portability CRs be given an extension for inclusion as part of Release 99. The objective would be to complete this effort in time for approval at the June TSG meetings.

