TSG-CN Plenary # 11 **Tdoc NP-0100169**
?th – ?th March 2001
Palm Springs, California, USA

Agenda Item : 8.3 Enable bearer independent CS architecture
Subject: Encoding of the (G)MSC Server – MGW interface (3GPP TS 29.232)
Source: Nortel Networks, Tellabs

3GPP have chosen to adopt H.248/Q.1950 as specified within the IETF and ITU-T for support of the interface requirements between (G)MSC Servers and Media Gateways. The reuse of the H.248/Q.1950 interface within the 3GPP architecture minimizes the standardization effort and enables alignment with other call server architectures specified elsewhere. This provides 3GPP operators with the ability to deploy a network using Media Gateways that have been developed by vendors who's products have been primarily been developed to be compliant to H.248 (with of course support for the 3GPP extensions).

In order to support 3GPP specific requirements for wireless networks, a number of 3GPP specific H.248 packages have been defined in 3GPP TS 29.232. In order for these additional packages to be used as legitimate extensions to H.248 (and therefore to ensure that the 3GPP (G)MSC Server – MGW interface is a true H.248 interface plus extensions, and not an incompatible variant) they must be registered with IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority).

Both the IETF and ITU-T have specified a text and binary encoding of all the H.248 packages. Each encoding choice is considered to have its own benefits, and therefore the IETF and ITU-T choose not to restrict the encoding to either binary or text. IETF and ITU-T believe that standards should not restrict the encoding. However this does not prevent the market from deciding which encoding type will be successful.

In support of the encoding agnostic vision, H.248 specifies a that a Media Gateway Controller (MSC or GMSC Server in the 3GPP Architecture) should support both text and binary encoding of H.248, and a Media Gateway may support both encodings. Additionally H.248 specifies that to register additional H.248 packages with IANA, both text and binary shall be defined.

Proposal:
Due to reasons detailed 3GPP should not restrict the encoding of the H.248 interface within the 3GPP architecture to one encoding type.
In support of an H.248 encoding agnostic approach both the text and binary encodings for 3GPP specific extensions to H.248 should be fully specified.