

**Source:** Ericsson  
**Title:** SIP Integrity Protection for IMS  
**Agenda item:** TBD  
**Document for:** Discussion and decision

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### **Status**

Technical Specification on “Access Security to IP-based Services”, TS 33.203, under the responsibility of 3GPP TSG SA WG 3, defines the security architecture of the 3GPP IMS.

One of the main security features that shall be defined in TS 33.203 is the mechanism to provide integrity protection of SIP signalling between the UE and the P-CSCF.

It shall be noted that the latest available version of TS 33.203, version 1.3.0, contains two alternative approaches to achieve SIP integrity protection, both which are described in informative annexes:

- Annexes B and D define new mechanisms to SIP in order to protect SIP-signalling with IPsec
- Annexes C and E define mechanisms based on extensions to HTTP Digest for a SIP based solution

The main body of the specification does not provide any guidance on which of the alternatives shall be adopted in order to progress and complete IMS specification work in CN1. The following note is copied from TS 33.203:

*[Editor's note: At this stage both Annex B and Annex C provides with potential measures for integrity protection. One of these solutions will be the normative solution.]*

Ericsson would like to bring to the attention of CN the importance of having a decision on this matter as soon as possible. The joint session between CN groups and SA3 experts during the next CN WGs plenaries in Florida (April 8-12) could be a feasible meeting to achieve this.

Also, it should be noted that if the decision is deferred until the May SA3 meeting, the required stage 3 work can not be completed in time.

### **Proposals**

- Ericsson proposes that the CN/SA3-joint meeting shall have the mandate to take a decision, which of the two mechanisms in TS33.203 that shall be adopted for IMS Release 5.
- The affected IMS technical Stage 2 and Stage 3 specifications shall immediately be updated according to this decision.
- The issue should be raised to the attention of SA#15 such that SA can delegate this mandate to the CN/SA3-joint meeting.