
GSM Association, 2nd May 2003

Title: LS on Error Handling in Pre-R99 Networks

Source: B. Best GSMA CTO
M. Schröter, GSMA EMC Chair (and GSMA Board Member)

To: **3GPP TSG CN**

Cc: 3GPP TSG GERAN, 3GPP TSG CN WG1
GSMA TWG, 3GPP TSG SA

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Attachments: N/A

Overall Description:

The GSM Association acknowledges the liaison statement (NP-030146) from 3GPP TSG CN on the interoperability problems between R99 UE and legacy pre-R99 network equipment. The GSMA has considered the issue in detail and provides the following response.

GSMA Response:

The GSMA Board, after consultation with the Terminal Working Group (TWG) and the Executive Management Committee (EMC) of the GSM Association agrees with the view that the solution to this interoperability issue is to correct the errors in network implementations. The EMC considers that since the problem lies within (legacy) network implementations, then it is within these networks that the necessary corrections should be applied.

To this end the GSM Association is in the process of adopting a (non mandatory) policy which recommends that all members correct the network faults as a matter of urgency using network patches supplied by their vendors. The GSMA has initiated an activity to quantify the scale of the problem and identify when it is likely to be resolved in the various networks. As a consequence of the recommendation the GSMA will ask Members to refrain from using terminal workaround solutions but recognises that commercial pressures may force this course of action to be considered by individual operators. In this event the GSMA will introduce a database identifying UE introduced with workaround solutions.

The EMC acknowledges that these interoperability issues need to be resolved in order to facilitate the deployment of commercial R99 UE and to maintain GSM Global roaming.

The GSMA is in the process of sending a communication to senior operator executives informing them of the problem, it's possible impact on service and recommending that they (with the assistance of their infrastructure vendors) correct their networks as a matter of urgency, so that R99 UE will work correctly. While aware that it is an ambitious goal, we are aiming to ensure correct network support of R99 devices by end Q3 2003
