

Source: Nortel Networks
Subject: Out of Band Transcoder Control Stage 2
Title: Clarification of Release'99 Functionality
Purpose: Discussion

The Out of Band Transcoder Control Stage 2 (TS 23.153 v2.0.0) describes end-to-end codec negotiation to establish Transcoder Free Operation (TrFO). However, this mechanism requires UE-MSC signalling. In addition, a TrFO Break procedure and signalling needs to be defined to allow transcoder insertion for the establishment of multiparty calls and/or the insertion of DTMF tones.

Based on the assumption that UMTS handsets are required to support Adaptive Multi Rate (AMR), TSG-CN1 has decided not to specify any explicit signalling for the support of UMTS speech codecs in R99. Furthermore, the requirement to specify the TrFO Break procedure was identified very late and consequently TSG-RAN3 has been unable to complete this new work in addition to its on going commitment to complete RANAP, Iu UP framing protocol and Service Area Broadcast Protocol.

For the reasons stated above the Out of Band Transcoder Control functionality should be restricted to BICC interworking at the MSC. This leaves a significant amount of information in the OoBTC Stage 2 that is surplus to requirement in R'99.

As the Out of Band Transcoder Control work item shall be completed in Release'00 it is essential that this information is not lost. At the same time it is extremely important that the capabilities defined in Release'99 are clearly identified. Therefore, it is recommended that the Out of Band Transcoder Control Stage 2 is restructured, moving the capabilities that are to be standardised in Release'00 into a separate Annex. This Annex needs to clearly state that the capabilities within are subject to change following the completion of work in TSG-CN1 and TSG-RAN3.