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(GP-011437, to TSG-RAN) LS on Terminology clarifications

Title: LS on terminology clarifications
Source: TSG GERAN
To: TSG CN, TSG RAN, TSG SA, TSG T
Cc: TSG GERAN WG4
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Contact person: José Luis Carrizo Martínez
E-mail: jose-luis.carrizo@vodafone.co.uk
Tel: +44 1635 676093

TSG GERAN would like to share some concerns regarding the possible confusion that can arise from the new terminology adopted in the 3GPP specifications in order to differentiate between networks, Radio Access Technologies (RAT) and modes of operation.

In the scope of release 5, the *GERAN* may be connected to a *2G Core Network (CN)* via the A and Gb interfaces and to a *3G CN* via the Iu interface, whereas the *UTRAN* is connected to the (*3G*) *CN* via the Iu interface only. The two RANs may be interconnected via the Iur-g interface.

There is a one to one mapping of RATs and RANs: the *GERAN* is based on *TDMA*, whereas the *UTRAN* is based on *TDD* and *FDD*. TSG GERAN would prefer referring to the RANs, rather than to the RATs, unless strictly necessary.

TSG GERAN understand that the terms *GSM System* and *UMTS System* were initially introduced in order to differentiate between two relatively independent systems and to specify the applicability of some features or procedures to those systems. TSG GERAN would prefer the use of other terms in this LS, as they may be sufficient to describe the desired applicability, but with a more precise, unambiguous meaning. Considering the introduction of *GERAN Iu mode*, where the access network is a *GERAN* using *GSM/EDGE Radio Access Technology* and the *CN* is *3G*, the concept of *GSM system* becomes confusing.

TSG GERAN believe that there is also confusion regarding the usage of the terms *2G* and *3G*, since they are normally used to refer to different RATs. However, TSG GERAN understands that they actually refer to the *CN* that the MS/UE is attached to, as well as the protocols, interfaces or other features used to such effect. Because a *GERAN* is connected to the *2G CN* via the A/Gb interfaces and it is connected to a *3G CN* via the Iu interface, the terms *A/Gb mode* and *Iu mode* are applicable to *2G* and *3G*, respectively. Therefore, *2G* is only related to the *2G CN* and to *GERAN* (not to *UTRAN*) —although only to *GERAN* in *A/Gb mode*—, whereas *3G* includes the *3G CN* and both *GERAN* and *UTRAN* —although only *GERAN* in *Iu mode*. TSG GERAN is particularly concerned with the usage of the terms *3G*, *UMTS System* and *Iu mode* as synonyms, as well as their use normally not including the *GERAN*.

The terms *3G* and *Iu mode* are common for both RANs and in certain occasions their applicability may need to be restricted to one RAN; in those cases the combinations of terms *GERAN Iu mode* and *UTRAN Iu mode* should be used. Similarly, the terms *A/Gb mode* and *GERAN Iu mode* can be used to discriminate between the different modes within the *GERAN*.

If no issues are found regarding the definitions above, TSG GERAN would ask the TSGs to forward this information to their WGs. TSG GERAN would also kindly ask the different TSGs and WGs to ensure that these terms are used appropriately in the future and that the Release 5 Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Work Items, Study Items and Feasibility Studies under their control are modified accordingly if needed.