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(GP-011912, copy TSG-RAN) Response to LS (twg164_01r2) on GPRS testing

Title: Liaison Statement to GSMA TWG on GPRS testing

To: GSM Association Terminal Working Group
Copy: 3GPP TSG T, TSG SA, TSG CN, TSG RAN

Source: TSG-GERAN

TSG GERAN has reviewed your LS expressing concern on potential delays to GPRS terminals.

In order to secure speedy deployment of GPRS PCCCH/PBCCH functionality TSG GERAN has agreed the following program.

1. No change to R97
2. Definition of a recommended set of GPRS PCCCH/PBCCH features based on test capabilities and operator priorities, to ensure fast and safe mass market take-up of GPRS
3. IoT program that will first verify the recommended set, with the intention to verify the full PCCCH/PBCCH functionality, latest by the R99 implementation

The objective of this program is to reduce ambiguity and lower investment risk.

In addition, TSG GERAN would like to emphasize that in order for a system to evolve, the specification needs to mandate a number of features and functions in the terminal. GERAN is aware of the drawbacks of this approach, and (increasingly) considers this in its decisions with the aim to only mandate features and functions in the terminal when sufficient justification exists. Decisions on GERAN are taken unanimously, and therefore also require terminal manufacturers to agree.

This approach, as pointed out by TWG, requires a validation strategy. GERAN considers a mobile industry agreed test specification, which is implemented on commonly available test equipment, as an essential part of such a strategy. This is in addition to testing on networks.

GERAN informs TWG that currently participation in general, and especially of operators, in the groups responsible for the GERAN test specification (GERAN4 and GERAN5) is rather low, and should be increased to ensure test cases verify implementations for realistic (from the operators perspective) scenarios.

GERAN encourages the mobile industry to co-operate to ensure timely availability of commonly available test equipment.