Source: Alcatel, Ericsson, Motorola, Nokia, Nortel Networks, Qualcomm,
           T-Mobil

Subject: Errors discovered in the R99

For: Information and decision

1   Introduction

System design and specification are elaborated to allow establishment of commercial networks. This process is now taking place and it is of high importance to think to the future and define a process for bugs fixing in the specification affecting the functioning of User Equipment and hence not allowing the foreseen capabilities of the system to run normally.
 In order to fix this problem the contribution is aiming at providing means to solve this in a totally transparent manner in order to ensure the minimum cost of fixing this for the benefit of the whole industry.

II   Proposal

This proposal does not intend to cover the correction required because of an error found in an implementation of a specific infrastructure manufacturer. This should normally be done through bilateral agreements between the manufacturer and its customers.

The intention of this contribution is to restrict it to the error fixing, which is either coming from an error in our specification that will be called System error or to the ones coming within the implementation of User Equipment widely spread in the public.

It is proposed that the party identifying the issue, first of all, introduce it in the relevant groups – meaning the Working group in charge of the specification a detailed description of the issue. It is then the task of the experts in the field to elaborate a backward compatible solution with the existing UEs . Then this shall be proposed for approval at the earliest plenary. If this is discovered in a period where no meeting is foreseen it is recommended to contact the chairman of the relevant working group in order to speed up the process. If required an ad hoc meeting can be established for that purpose.

At this point of time is important to note that the process requires documentation to be provided and gathered in one specific place for each type of errors as identified above.

For this to take place it is proposed that 3GPP elaborate urgently to reports skeleton on each of the issue. Annex 1 provides a proposal for the scope statement of these two reports.

These reports shall contain a section per error identified including one subsection for the detailed description of the error and the following subsection the detailed specification of the correction to be applied in the infrastructure.

III   Conclusion and recommendation

It is proposed that 3GPP TSG RAN shall take the lead on the creation of these two reports and be allocated prime responsibility for them. This does not mean that it is only foreseen the errors to come from the UTRAN specification but as UTRAN is the part of the Release 99 specification containing most novel specification it is expected, that most of the bugs to be fixed will be found for the radio access network. For inputs coming from other TSGs it is possible that this might impact also TSG GERAN. As the technical reports already exist in the GSM environment it is proposed that in this case a similar entry is also created in the GSM reports.

It is also proposed that the entries, in the TRs, are elaborated as CRs. This should not be a problem as the purpose is to create a completely new section each time an entry is necessary.

If TSG RAN can agree to this proposal then this contribution should also be provided to the other TSG for information and support.

Annex 1

Proposed Scope Statement for UE Implementation Error correction

1 Scope

This 3GPP Technical Report (TR) clarifies recommended measures, which may be adopted by 3GPP infrastructure utilising UTRAN as access network to enable inter-working to be obtained between network and various User Equipment (UE) implementations of the 3GPP specification. The objective is to obtain compatibility without changing the consolidated set of specifications. This TR describes the recommended changes to the infrastructure to cater for faults within some types of User Equipment. A short description of the identified fault is provided together with the description of the recommend measures.
The lifetime of the herein described measures together with their potential impact on optimal network performance is out of the scope of this TR.

Proposed Scope Statement for the System Error correction

1 Scope

This report describes issues relating to the 3GPP specifications, which lead to the specifications being modified after the placement of 3GPP compliant User Equipment into the market place.
Where possible the present report clarifies any recommended measures, which may be adopted by the 3GPP infrastructure to enable interworking to be obtained between the 3GPP infrastructure and legacy User Equipment (UE) implementations of the 3GPP specifications.
For each issue this report also defines the time after which all new 3GPP mobiles are required to meet the modified specifications.
The lifetime of the herein described measures together with their potential impact on optimal network performance is out of the scope of the present document.