

(twg164_01r2, to TSG-RAN) LS on Lack of availability of GPRS terminals

To 3GPP TSG CN, 3GPP TSG GERAN, 3GPP GERAN WG 2, 3GPP TSG RAN, 3GPP TSG SA and 3GPP TSG T

Source GSM Association TWG

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The GSM TWG (Terminal Working Group) is very concerned about the lack of availability of GPRS terminals. One of the major factors is the problem of testing the GPRS broadcast control channel and it's other associated sub-features such as multiple configurations and Network Control Order 2. These features are so complex that live network testing is necessary for full verification.

The basic issue is that these features were made mandatory in the terminals and optional for the network infrastructure. This has led to the problem that network infrastructure is not available to sufficiently verify the GPRS broadcast control channel and associated sub-features. These features will be very important to operators for capacity, traffic management and other reasons as GPRS traffic increases. The operators and terminal vendors have the following three choices.

- 1) Deploy terminals without any of these features then upgrade/replace a large number of terminals as these features are added to the network.
- 2) Deploy terminals which have a partially verified implementation of some of these features. which will also result in the upgrade/replacement a large number of terminals as the complete set of features are added to the network.
- 3) Delay GPRS deployment until all these features can be fully tested (including live network testing)

None of these options are acceptable to operators (or should be to equipment vendors and subscribers). More delays in widespread GPRS deployment are not acceptable.

GSM TWG requests that 3GPP take the following actions.

- 1) Examine the current GPRS situation and see if any changes are necessary. GERAN appears to be the appropriate working group.
- 2) All the working groups in 3GPP should be urged to ensure that similar situations do not occur with 3G. It is not acceptable that major complex features are optional in the network while mandatory in the terminals, unless a test and verification strategy has been developed. In such a situation those features should also be mandatory in the network. Delays of months or years are not acceptable in 3G environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact the GSM TWG if more clarification is necessary.