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Liaison Statement from EP UMTS to 3GPP TSG SA, TC SMG, TC SPAN

Title: Proposals for the next stage of work in 3GPP (i.e. 3GPP release 2000, 2001)

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We have considered the current status of work in 3GPP, together with future aims and vision. As a result interest has been expressed in the following for the next stage of the work. The principles which we have applied, for the programme in this relatively short term are:

1. Items which require further development;
2. Items which are important but which may not be completed for Release '99 (phase 1);
3. Some new items which are in line with the preferences/vision for 3G and based on a realistic view of what can and should be achieved for the next releases.

Interest has been expressed in the following topics. More work will be done by EP UMTS and justifications/guidance will be produced. Initial statements to support 3GPP Work Items will be made available for the next meeting of 3GPP TSG SA (Plenary) in June 1999. In parallel, it is suggested that the S1 and S2 WGs should begin to study these proposals which are:

Alternate layer 2/3 (UTRAN) – i.e. IP based. This is a key alternative implementation for better support of IP based core networks.

Multimedia call model to enable full interworking and compatibility between terminals and infrastructure (if not completed for Release '99).

Shared channels for optimal support of packet applications over the air interface – continuation of work which does not make R'99.

Support of Guaranteed QoS levels – mobile requires negotiated QoS throughout the call, not just at the beginning (i.e. QoS re-negotiation during call). We also support the principle of end-to-end QoS.

Dispatch Services – For example, multicast or fast call set up, prioritisation and other features including optimum use of the radio resources for multiple users/receivers and appropriate billing. EP UMTS are considering whether this should be standardised or instead whether a service capability should be required ?

Enable the separation of Mobility Management from Feature Management (e.g. to support ISP's). This may include the capability to split VLR and for distribution of HLR and other data bases (but preferably without the requirement for additional interfaces).

De-layering of services gateways and transport. E.g. capability for separate call servers, transport and media gateways.

Enable the separation of Service Provider and Network Operator (i.e. open standards to support the access but preferably without the requirement for additional interfaces).

Enhanced Network Management – Each standardised interface should support network management functions in a non-proprietary way. It needs standardised NM messages and management information.

Availability – Fault tolerant networks – i.e. replaceable distributed platforms. However, should this be a 3GPP standard ?

Default Video Codec with service compatibility for both circuit and packet implementations of UMTS.

Identification in the Network (e.g. identification of objects such as terminals, users, cards, capabilities, in order for the "services" to be able to identify the capability of the terminal etc. so that aspects such as appropriate billing can be applied).

Optimised Codecs – i.e. language/user/application optimised.

Software radio standards, adaptive terminals, downloadable terminals – although it may be too early to say which if any standards are needed for this.

Interworking for Global Roaming with other IMT-2000 family members – network issues and mobile issues (i.e. entries in HLR and VLR).

Smart Dialling - e.g. for accessing local intranet nodes, or for accessing roaming mobiles locally and avoiding tromboning.

Generic Variable Rate Channel Codes – application sensitive channel coding (or application driven channel coding – a sort of super AMR) i.e. independent of the codec.

Integration of Intranet (firewall) and Mobile Security – needed for corporate VHE.

Low cost location techniques, perhaps based on cut-down GPS techniques.

Other Topics

EP UMTS will be studying other topics in more detail and has set up working groups to deal with them These may result in further suggestions for standardisation work in future:

The ETSI OCG has asked EP UMTS to co-ordinate activities on VHE and to identify where further work needs to be done.

EP UMTS is in the process of listing the services for 3G, short, medium and longer term which have been proposed in the various vision documents (for example from the UMS Forum) and is identifying the key aspects of the standards which will be needed to support them.

EP UMTS is studying evolutionary and alternative UMTS architectures. It will produce a report covering the topics mentioned above.
