

Source : France Télécom, Vodafone

Title : Purposes and documentation of Release 2000

Document for : Action

Agenda Item :

1. Introduction

Some clarifications are needed about the actual meaning of Release 2000 and about the way the different releases will be documented.

2. Present status of the 3GPP standardisation

The four TSGs of 3GPP are presently working very hard in order to complete within year 1999 a first release of the UMTS standard. It is now likely that some features will not be mature enough to be included in the standard within year 1999. Some more achievements can be expected until December 1999, nevertheless we may suppose that some features may not be completed in time, such as:

- real time packet services,
- TDD mode,
- some security services,
- some location services.

This should not preclude to obtain a consistent standard allowing to develop UMTS equipment. But this shows that there is a need to carry on adding features after December 99. In addition experience has shown that the first version of a standard contains a lot of errors that shall be fixed.

3. Purposes of Release 2000

A new release is created to specify new services/features.

As some useful features will not be ready before December 99, it will be necessary to include them in Release 2000. As a consequence an « all IP option » might be contained in Release 2000 but this is not the only purpose of Release 2000.

If there are several options in release 2000, the inter-working between those options shall be completely specified and documented in R00 specifications.

New features are needed in addition to those defined in Release 99 and we need the possibility of implementing them on the networks deployed according to Release 99. In other words one of the purposes of Release 2000 is to provide some new features on the architecture defined in Release 99.

In addition some players aim to introduce an all IP option. In a companion contribution entitled « Some requirements for an «all IP»option for UMTS we detail some service

requirements which shall be fulfilled by such an option. We insist on the fact that a new option shall be specified in a compatible way, the continuity shall be maintained with Release 99. It would be unacceptable to define a second core network incompatible with the one specified in Release 99. Roaming and handover shall be supported between a Release 99 network and a Release 2000 network, Release 99 MSs shall be accommodated in a Release 2000 network.

These different requirements shall be reflected in the way Release 2000 is documented.

4. Proposed course of action

4.1. Service requirements

Among others, roaming and handover are two essential features that shall be specified between all R00 options and between R00 and previous releases (R99 and previous releases). In particular this means that a R99 terminal shall be supported by all the options of a R00 network, if there are several options.

The requirements described in the contribution entitled « Some requirements for an «all IP» option for UMTS » shall be fulfilled.

The different working groups shall be instructed to specify R2000 according to these principles.

4.2. Documentation of the different 3GPP releases

(1) For each annual releases, a document shall contain the list of all specifications and reports defining this release. By default, all releases 99 specifications are part of R00. Moreover an architecture document shall describe the global architecture, with all the options and the interactions between them.

The specification 22.100 contains all the service requirements for Release 99, a similar document shall state the service requirements for Release 2000.

(2) Today the Release 99 specifications are allocated version numbers the general format of which is 3.x.y. When a correction to a feature already described in one of these specifications is needed, it is proposed for the corrected version to keep « 3 » and to increment x or y (y for an editorial change and x for a meaningful correction).

(3) When the inclusion of a new feature in a Release 99 specification (Hence the version number of such a specification is in the format 3.x.y) is approved by TSG SA, it shall become a version 4.0.0 specification while keeping generally the same title. All new documents of release 2000 shall be numbered 4.0.0 when approved by TSG SA.

(4) Generally all the specifications of Release 99 shall be part of Release 2000. They may be version 3 specification (if no new features have been added) or version 4 specification (if new features have been added)

(5) The previous rules imply that the specifications of Release 2000 will be in some ways a superset of Release 1999 specifications.

It is suggested that the different TSGs apply these rules.