

Source: Lucent Technologies, Siemens, Alcatel
Title: eTFO Conclusion
Agenda item: 7.2.2 eTFO
Document for: Discussion and Decision

Introduction

At the last TSG SA plenary meeting #18, SA2 was asked to study the benefits, drawbacks and impacts on the system for the introduction of enhanced Transcoder Free Operation (eTFO). Extensive study and discussion has taken place at SA2#29 and SA2#30.

The results of this investigation are provided in the liaison statement to SA in SP-030066 (S2-030998).

Conclusion and Proposal

We are very concerned at the non-end to end nature of eTFO and the impact that this will have on the MGWs and their need to understand eTFO PDUs on the Nb interface and the very real concern of the framing protocol and user plane impact to the overall system.

In the light of this discussion and the conclusions reached we take the view that for the bearer independent core network defined in 3GPP TS 23.205 by CN4, eTFO is an alternative solution for a problem which is already solved by TrFO and TFO/TrFO inter-working. In addition, no compelling advantages have been identified which would justify standardizing an alternative solution. Further, proceeding with the standardization of eTFO would provide too many options for the implementation of solutions to solve the same problem. Their interaction and deployment would be detrimental to the existing standardized solution of TrFO. TSG SA has agreed a directive to limit options for standardized solutions in the past. In consideration of this we recommend TSG SA not to accept eTFO as a work item for 3GPP.