Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects Meeting #19, Birmingham, UK, 17-20 March 2003

Title: Improving Cooperation Between 3GPP and OMA

Source: Nortel Networks

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Agenda: 6.3

The formation of OMA has created an important new forum for the discussion of service protocols for cellular networks. It is clear that in some cases OMA's scope includes work that has previously been done in 3GPP. In other cases features being specified by OMA will require enablers in the 3GPP specifications.

3GPP and OMA have made positive moves to cooperate on some topics. However in many areas there is still a lot of confusion and uncertainty about how the two groups will cooperate. This is causing problems progressing the work in some areas, and even risks incompatible standards for the same service being developed in other areas. For example, in release 6 3GPP is working on Instant Messaging and Presence work items based on IMS, and OMA has approved its own "SIP/SIMPLE Instant Messaging and Presence Service" work item.

The uncertainty over the respective roles of 3GPP and OMA is causing a number of problems. These include:

- Overlapping work (eg the Instant Messaging and Presence work described above)
- Lack of clarity on dependencies in 3GPP for work items that have been transferred to OMA. Similarly in OMA there is a lack of clarity in 3GPP's expectations for transferred work items.
- Confusion among some companies as to which group should receive contributions on a particular topic.
- Risk for "forum shopping" where contributors who are unable to have a proposal accepted in one forum reattempt the same proposal in a different forum hoping for a different result.

In order to improve the cooperation it is proposed that 3GPP and OMA form a detailed agreement covering:

- The scope and responsibility for existing work items of common interest
- General guide-lines for ownership of future standards topics
- What dependencies OMA specifications have on 3GPP interfaces and protocols
- How cross-dependencies will be managed between OMA and 3GPP
- How status information will be reported between OMA and 3GPP

So that this framework can be quickly established it is proposed that 3GPP and OMA should organise a joint meeting of the respective group's leadership and other interested parties. This meeting would be mandated to discuss the above points and agree a cooperation framework on behalf of the two groups.

3GPP are asked to consider this proposal and draft a letter to OMA inviting them to a joint activity as defined above.