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3GPP Organization Partners' Heads of Delegations:

Dr. Kohei Satoh - Association of Radio Industries and Businesses (ARIB)  
Ms. Wang Zhiqin - China Communications Standards Association (CCSA)  
Dr. Walter Weigel - European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)  
Dr. Byoung-Moon Chin - Telecommunication Technologies Association (TTA)  
Mr. Taku Kiyasu - Telecommunication Technologies Committee (TTC)

Technical Specification Groups (TSGs):

Mr. Stephen Hayes, Ericsson, Inc., Services & Systems Aspects (SA), Chair  
Mr. Hannu Hietalahti, Nokia, Inc., Core Network & Terminals (CT), Chair

Re: 3GPP's Continued Engagement of Standard Developers to Achieve a  
Converged Policy Management Solution

Dear 3GPP Organizational Partners and TSG Leaders:

As many of the companies that comprise the membership of each of the Organizational Partners (OPs) in the Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) know, there is a growing demand in the marketplace for converged policy management solutions to support industry's migration to an all IP network and the convergence of wireline and wireless services.

ATIS is writing to you in two capacities: as a 3GPP Operating Partner (OP); and as the senior business leadership of those companies which comprise its Board of Directors. From these perspectives, ATIS has observed that divergent wireline/wireless architectures and interfaces between the policy management systems and the data plane elements, as well as for the policy interface between service providers, are developing. We understand that efforts are ongoing in 3GPP to harmonize the policy management architecture with other standards organizations.

As Heads of the 3GPP OPs and as the leaders of relevant Technical Specifications Groups (TSGs), we encourage continued emphasis on the importance of strong collaboration with relevant standards developers to achieve a unified policy management architecture, inclusive of all access types – wireline and wireless. Part of this collaborative effort includes acknowledgment that there are already standards in place for wireline access networks and that the industry will not be well-served if another set of access standards are defined to support 3GPP's work.

We commend 3GPP for the steps already taken and the results already achieved. However, there will be the need for continued work to ascertain the feasibility of this desired outcome, including the identification of any barriers to this effort. The 3GPP TSGs that are primarily engaged in this work to-date include the Service and Systems Aspects (SA) and Core Network & Terminals (CT) groups; which were also the two responsible groups for advancing the scope of 3GPP to include Common IMS.

As you may know, the known groups that would be relevant to discussions to achieve a harmonized policy management architecture include, but may not be limited to, ETSI/TISPAN, ATIS/Packet Technologies and Systems Committee, the Broadband Forum, and the ITU. ATIS has received notice from 3GPP SA with respect to the February 2010 workshop on fixed mobile convergence between 3GPP SA1, SA2, and BBF to discuss interfacing the 3GPP EPC to BBF accesses ---including how to do policy management/control between the EPC and broadband networks defined by BBF.

To achieve and support progress in the above-mentioned effort, the Individual Members from ATIS will continue to provide technical contributions to 3GPP from its current work program on policy management including information on the recently launched Policy Management Focus Group (PM-FG). Commissioned by the ATIS Board of Directors, this FG was formed to develop a Policy Management Work Plan with a focus on assembling and studying policy management activities and addressing specific issues related to Packet Processing, Convergence and Policy Charging Control.

We thank you in advance for continued progress in this harmonization effort and your support in seeing it successfully addressed. We believe the industry, and ultimately, the users benefit from standards that advance global and harmonized policy management solutions. We also believe it is important to highlight the criticality of our concerns for any direction or output that would produce divergent architectures. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me as well as discuss this matter with the Individual Members of ATIS engaged in this 3GPP.

Sincerely,

Susan Miller  
President and CEO

cc: ATIS Executive Committee:

John Donovan, Chief Technology Officer, AT&T (Chair)  
Nick Adamo, Senior Vice President, U.S. Service Provider & Worldwide Service Provider Operations, Cisco Systems  
Harald Braun, President & CEO, Harris Stratex  
Asok Chatterjee, Vice President, Strategic Standardization, Public Affairs, Ericsson  
Bill DeMuth, Vice President, Chief Technology Officer, SureWest  
Joe Hanley, Vice President, Technology Planning & Services, Telephone & Data Services  
Paul Mankiewich, Chief Technology Officer, Americas, Alcatel-Lucent  
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Mark Wegleitner, Senior Vice President, Technology, Verizon Communications

