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Liaison Statement

To: SMG1, SMG4 (+MExE), SMG9, SMG12
From: GSM MoU SERG

Title: Network Selection in UMTS

Network selection in GSM is defined by GSM 02.11 and is the result of long deliberations over many years and is seen to be successful in meeting most though not all market demands. It would also seem appropriate to keep this approach as the default basis for network selection in UMTS, while recognising that it may be necessary to extend it to permit selection from different classes of network (eg cellular and cordless).

However, with recent developments, it is becoming possible to be more selective and indeed support requirements of individual subscribers depending on their situation, by using MExE and VHE in GSM and UMTS.

Examples might include downloading new 'preferred networks', allowing (or disallowing) a mobile station to seek the Home Network when known to be close (or far away), allowing a more sophisticated approach to national roaming, perhaps on a geographic basis, as may be required by some regulators or between cellular and cordless networks. This latter might also be subject to change with time of day or levels of congestion. Such a feature might be particularly useful for corporate customers.

It is not proposed that SERG or even SMG1 define exact requirements, but that there should be a generic mechanism including support of appropriate APIs. Ideally parameters which are subscription related should be stored in the SIM, but this could be studied by MExE and SMG9.

This capability is seen as a vital mechanism in early UMTS. However, it is not foreseen, at least in the early releases, to treat the *whole* network selection process in this way, although later developments in 'soft terminals' might allow more flexibility.