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Liaison Statement from EP UMTS to 3GPP TSG SA, TC SMG, TC SPAN

Title: Key Characteristics for Later Phases of UMTS
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The specification of UMTS Phases 2 / 3 will be comprehensive in nature and will include the following key characteristics:-

- UMTS will by then be fully part of the IMT 2000 family. This will mean that global roaming and global interoperability will be achieved via the support by all IMT 2000 family members of a world-wide common ITU-T defined set of interfaces.
- There will be a range of mass produced terminals with advanced data as well as voice services / capabilities. They will include 'Receive only terminals', basic voice terminals, multi-media terminals as well as the 'Walkman communicator'.
- Terminals will also need to be developed that can roam across different heterogeneous networks (including UMTS / IMT 2000). Customers will want to be able to use a common set of services on these different networks and it is proposed that these capabilities will be provided using the Virtual Home Environment (VHE) concept..
- The major use of UMTS terminals should have switched from voice applications to Multi-media applications.
- Service and Content Providers will generally be independent of Network Operators leading to the concept of 'Virtual Network Operators (VNO's).
- UMTS networks will be widely packet / cell based and access networks will include advanced radio / transmission capabilities such as the ability to offer flexible bandwidth on demand and asymmetric bandwidth.
- The use of 'Software Radios' and Smart Antennas etc. will become more widespread. Also both terminals and networks will have much greater programmable processing power.
- The target date for achieving the above should be 2005. This implies that the standards should be in place by 2002 or at the latest 2003.

Other Topics

EP UMTS will be studying other topics in more detail and has set up working groups to deal with them. These may result in further suggestions for standardisation work in future:

The OCG has asked EP UMTS to co-ordinate activities on VHE and to identify where further work needs to be done.

EP UMTS is in the process of listing the services for 3G, short, medium and longer term which have been proposed in the various vision documents (for example from the UMS Forum) and is identifying the key aspects of the standards which will be needed to support them.

EP UMTS is studying evolutionary and alternative UMTS architectures. It will produce a report covering the topics mentioned above.