TSGS#23(04)0362

Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects
Meeting #24, Seoul, June 2004

Source: **MCC Team Leader** (John M Meredith)

Title: **Report of Support Team activities**

Document for: **Information**

Agenda Item: **10**

---

1 Introduction

With the internal reorganization of the ETSI Secretariat, it now falls to me as MCC Team Leader to provide you with this status report, covering the period since SA#23.

2 The Support Team

2.1 Departures and arrivals

Per Jorgensen will leave MCC at the end of June after three years with us, almost all supporting CN1. He returns to Norway, to start a new venture with a young company running cellular networks on ferries. I am sure you will all wish him well in this new enterprise, and would wish to thank him for the good support he has given.

I can also give you advance warning that, after two and a half years supporting RAN1, **Tsukasa Sasaki** will leave MCC following the September plenaries. ARIB has kindly offered Mr **Yoshikazu Ishii** (Panasonic) as a replacement. As I write this, Yoshi is arriving in Sophia Antipolis, allowing a generous overlap period to enable him – who, despite being well qualified for the MCC role, has as yet little experience of standardization work– to learn the ropes.

Looking further ahead, **Sang-Ui Yoon** (S2 support) will leave MCC at the end of 2004, and TTA has already started the selection process to seek a replacement.

Following her six-month industrial placement, **Priya Kakkad** will leave MCC at the end of June. She will resume her studies in the new academic year. Some of you who have visited the MCC premises over this period will have had the pleasure of meeting her.

2.2 Organization of the Support Team

You will notice that I have made no reference to the call for candidates to replace Per Jorgensen. The hectic start up days of 3GPP are now well behind us, and the TSGs and their Working Groups purr along like a well-oiled machine.

Figure 1: For the well-oiled machine

With the increased efficiency of the motor comes less pressure on (some of) the Support Team, meaning that some Project Managers have capacity to take on a small amount of extra responsibility.

At the same time, CN2 has closed, and the work has been transferred to CN4.

Thus we are trying to reallocate the work (a) to make it slightly less onerous on those who, till now, have been excessively heavily loaded; and (b) to allow us to provide the same level of support to the TSGs and WGs but using fewer human resources.

Despite the improved operating efficiency of the Support Team, it has not been at all evident how best to achieve those savings. It is difficult and undesirable to split the support for a single WG between two individuals, and yet it would be disingenuous of us to recruit a full time expert to support CN1 when, at least on paper, we have one less committee to service.

Some savings in human resources can be made by making more use of automatic tools, such as Automatic Document Numbering. On-line registration for meetings already saves the Support Team considerable effort. We will continue to develop tools such as these, where a cost saving can be clearly demonstrated.

The figure given below shows the allocation of resources to each entity within 3GPP. This chart is regularly maintained and the latest version may always be obtained from the 3GPP website at http://www.3gpp.org/

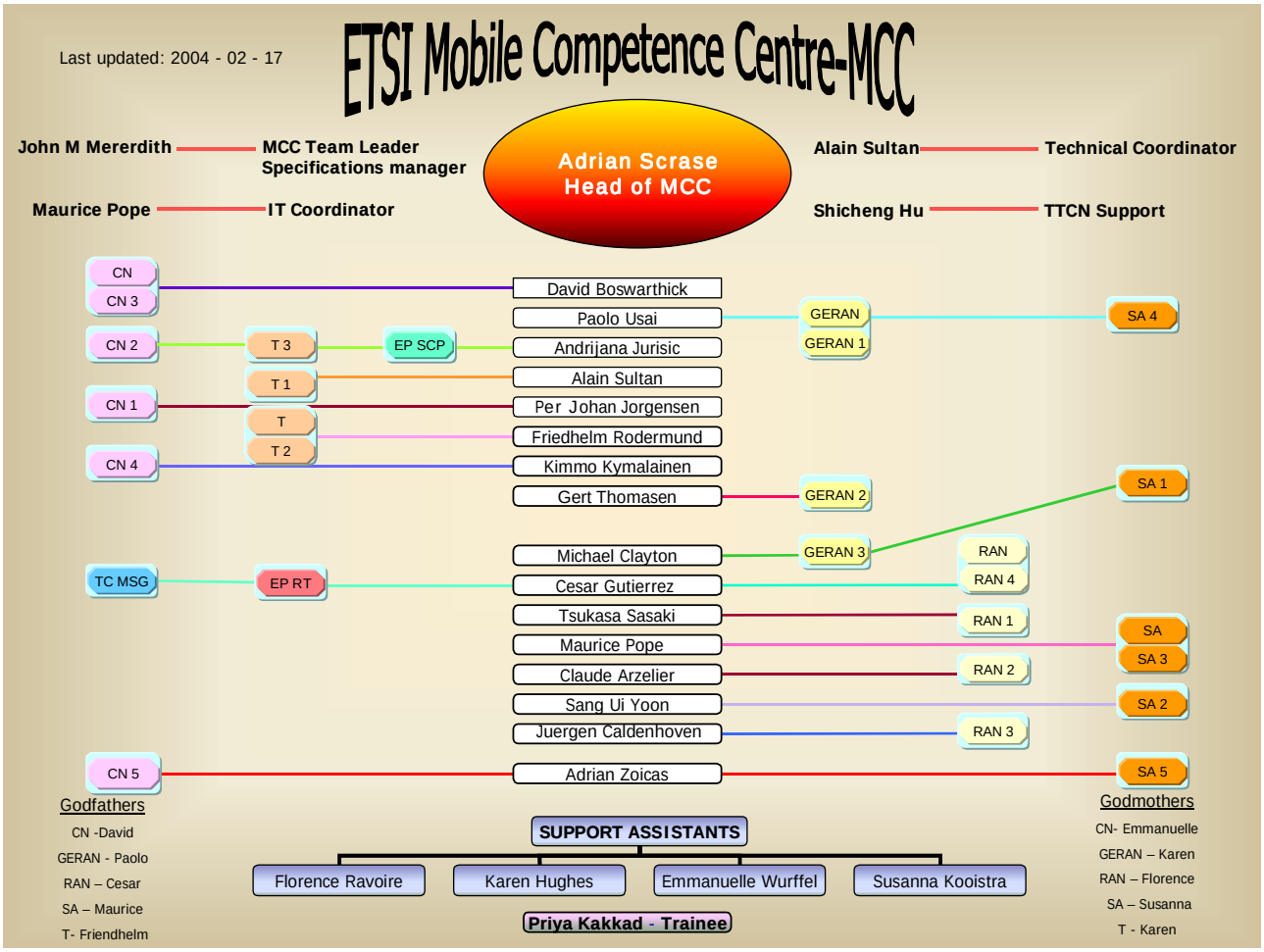


Figure 1: MCC Organizational Chart

3 Statistics and targets

3.1 Interesting statistics (yes, really)

The distribution of active specs amongst the various Releases was, prior to the start of the current TSG meetings, as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF ACTIVE SPECS
Phase1	122
Phase 2	182
Release 96	201
Release 97	220
Release 98	282
Release 99	440
Release 4	511
Release 5	566
Release 6	471
Release 7	3
TOTAL SPECIFICATIONS	**2998**

It is expected that **291** new versions of specifications will result from TSGs#24.

The table and chart below shows the number of approved change requests for these specifications across the different 3GPP Releases in each year of the 3GPP's life so far. In addition, it is expected that **1076 CRs** will have been approved during the TSGs#24 session.

Release / Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 to date	TOTAL
R99	1408	4398	2266	1003	581	123	**9656**
Rel-4	0	376	2828	1900	690	94	**5794**
Rel-5	0	27	644	3281	2840	719	**6792**
Rel-6	0	0	0	171	1088	500	**1259**
Rel-7	0	0	0	0	1	2	**1**
TOTAL	**3407**	**6801**	**7739**	**8357**	**7203**	**3442**	**23502**

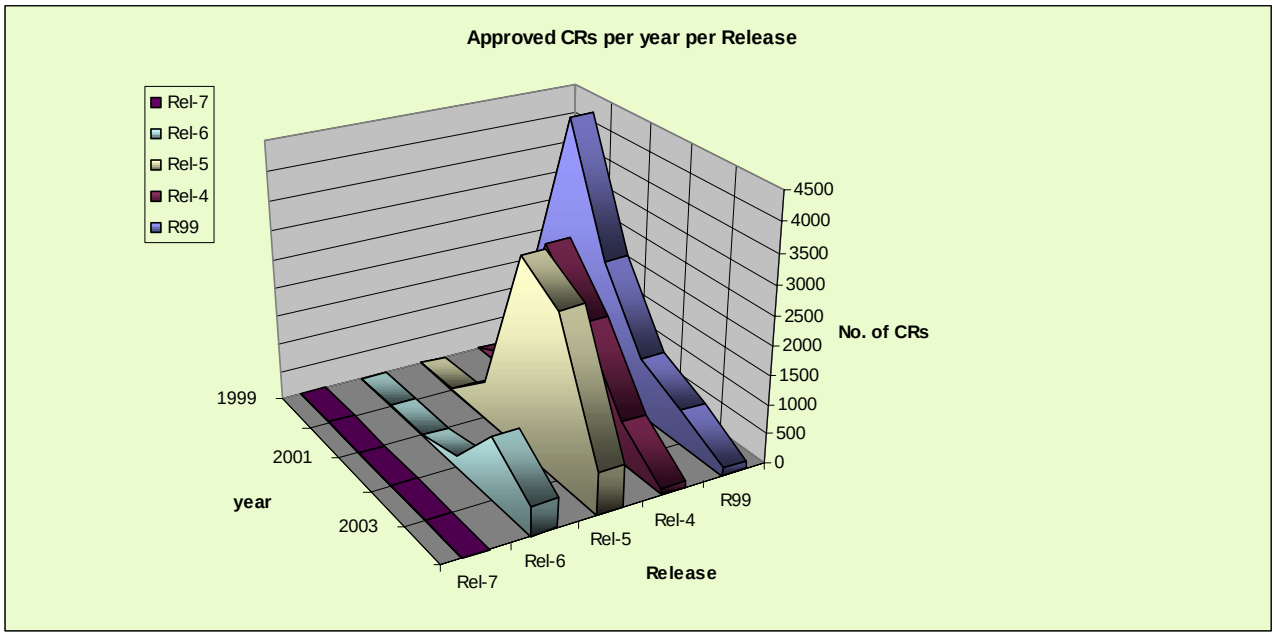


Figure 2: 3GPP CR evolution from 1999 to 2003

3.2 MCC performance

The chart below shows the speed of implementation of CRs. Performance is generally within the limits agreed with the TSGs (90% of revised specs available within two working weeks of the end of the SA meeting, the remaining 10% within a further week, allowing for resolution of implementation queries not identified earlier. The very small number of specs which are later than this final deadline have, for the last few meetings, been as a result of forces outside the Support Team's control (delivery of TTCN packages from member organizations). In fact, by appropriate prioritization, all specs have been made available in plenty of time for the next meeting of the responsible working group, so as not to delay their work, regardless of these formal deadlines.

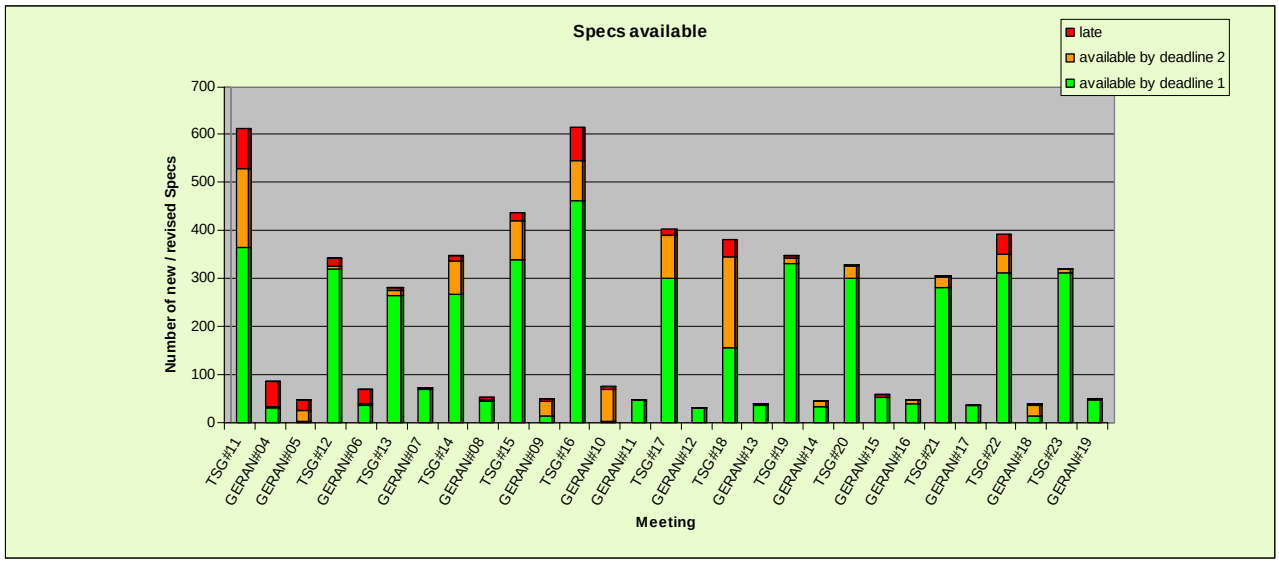


Figure 3: MCC Performance following TSG#19 and 20

The chart below shows the cumulative error rate for the implementation of CRs. It can be seen that the error rate remains constant at approximately 3,5 errors in 1000 implementations (0,35%). Whilst every error is inconvenient for somebody somewhere, we believe that the present figure is acceptable. Doubtless the TSG and WG chairmen and delegates will tell us if they consider it not to be so!

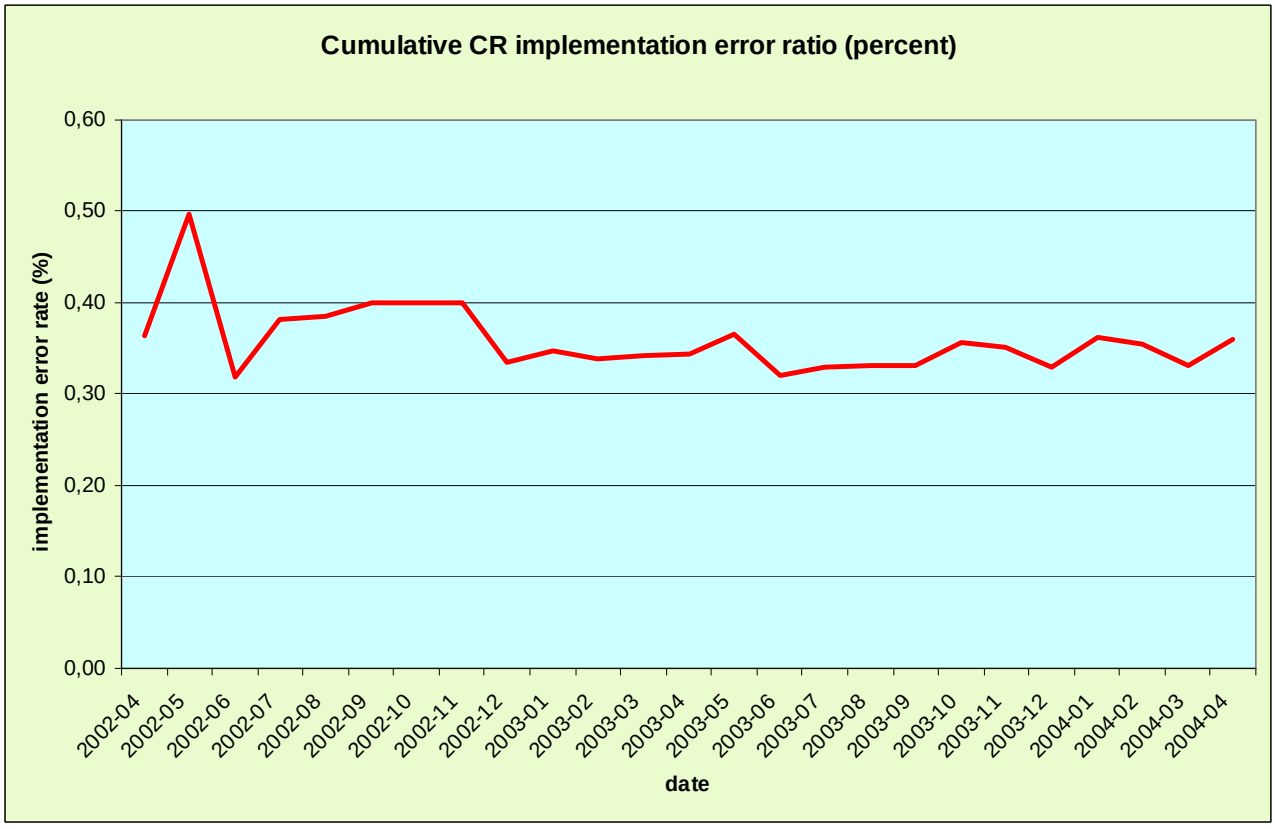


Figure 4: CR implementation error rate

4 Release Stability

4.1 Change Requests

The charts below show the rolling average of the number of Change Requests per Release but excludes Category A (mirror) CRs. The charts show the continued reduction in the number of CRs for Release 99, Release 4 and Release 5 which implies an increased level of stability. For the first time, the chart shows that Release 6 CRs have perhaps reached their peak, though a further two quarters are necessary to confirm this, and a further increment might be anticipated following functional freezing of the Release later this year.

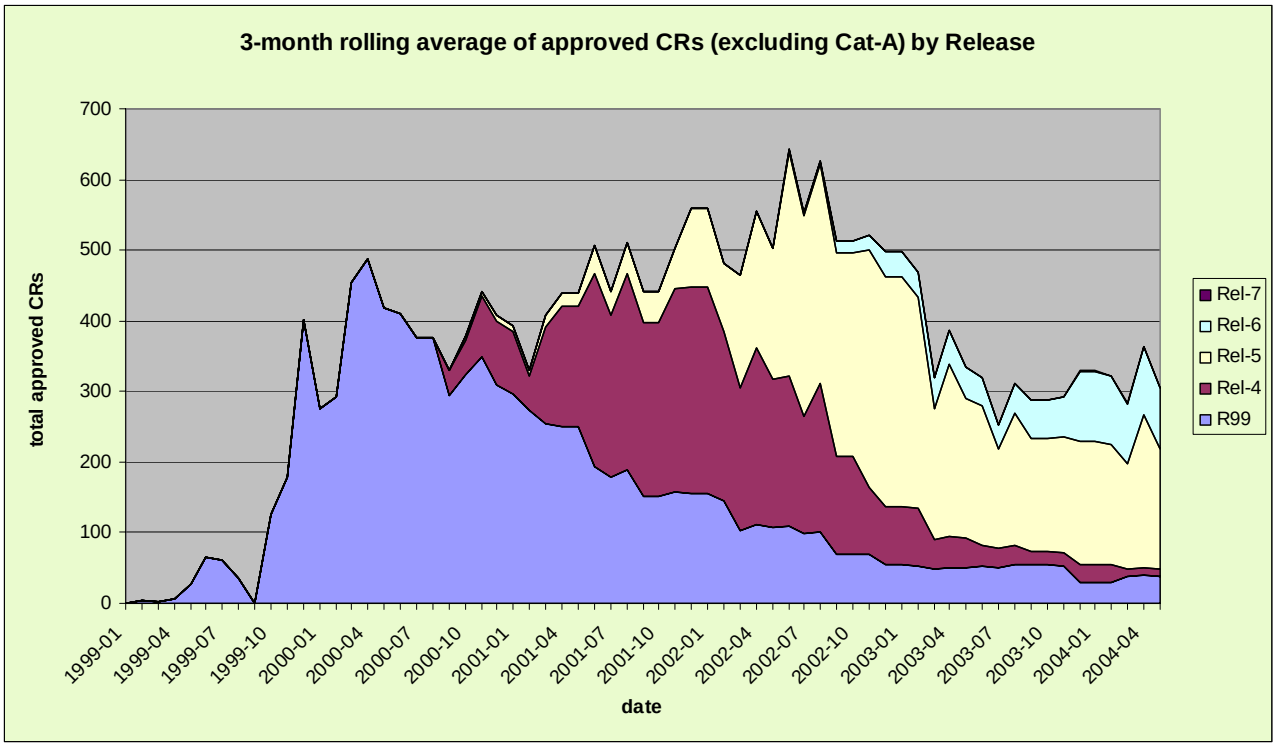


Figure 5: CR statistics (cumulative)

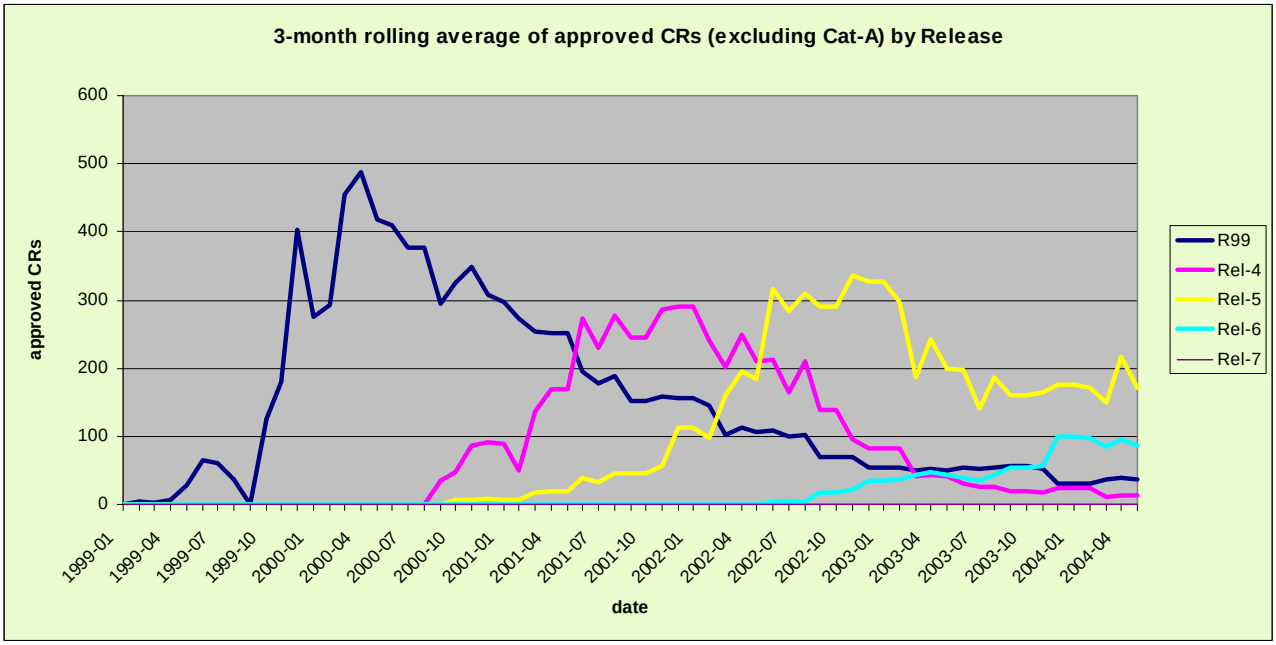


Figure 6: CR statistics

The figure below shows the overall workload on the Support Team related to CR implementation.

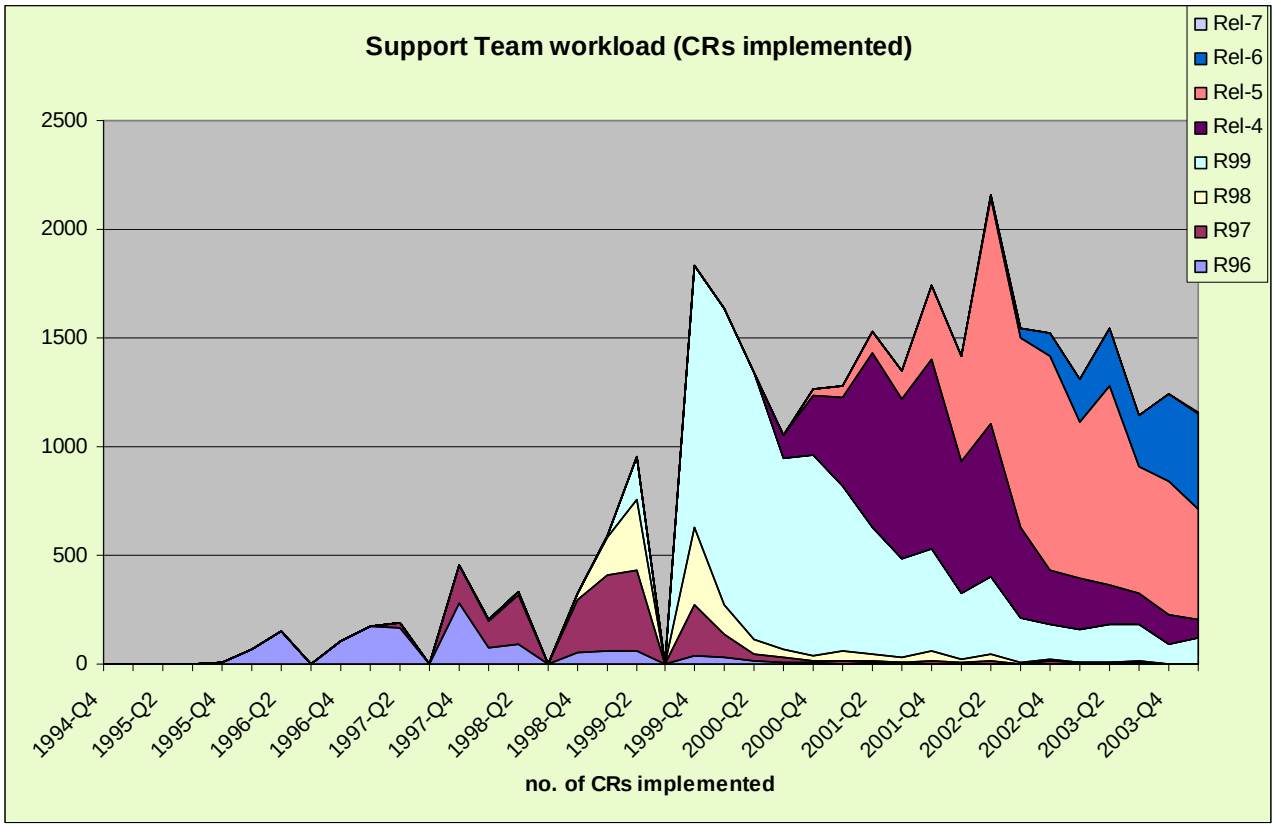


Figure : CR implementation workload

The figure below shows the average number of tdocs dealt with at each WG meeting over the last year. (Note that GERAN figures are somewhat approximate, since WGs 1 and 3 do not use WG tdoc numbers, but simply use GERAN plenary numbers.)

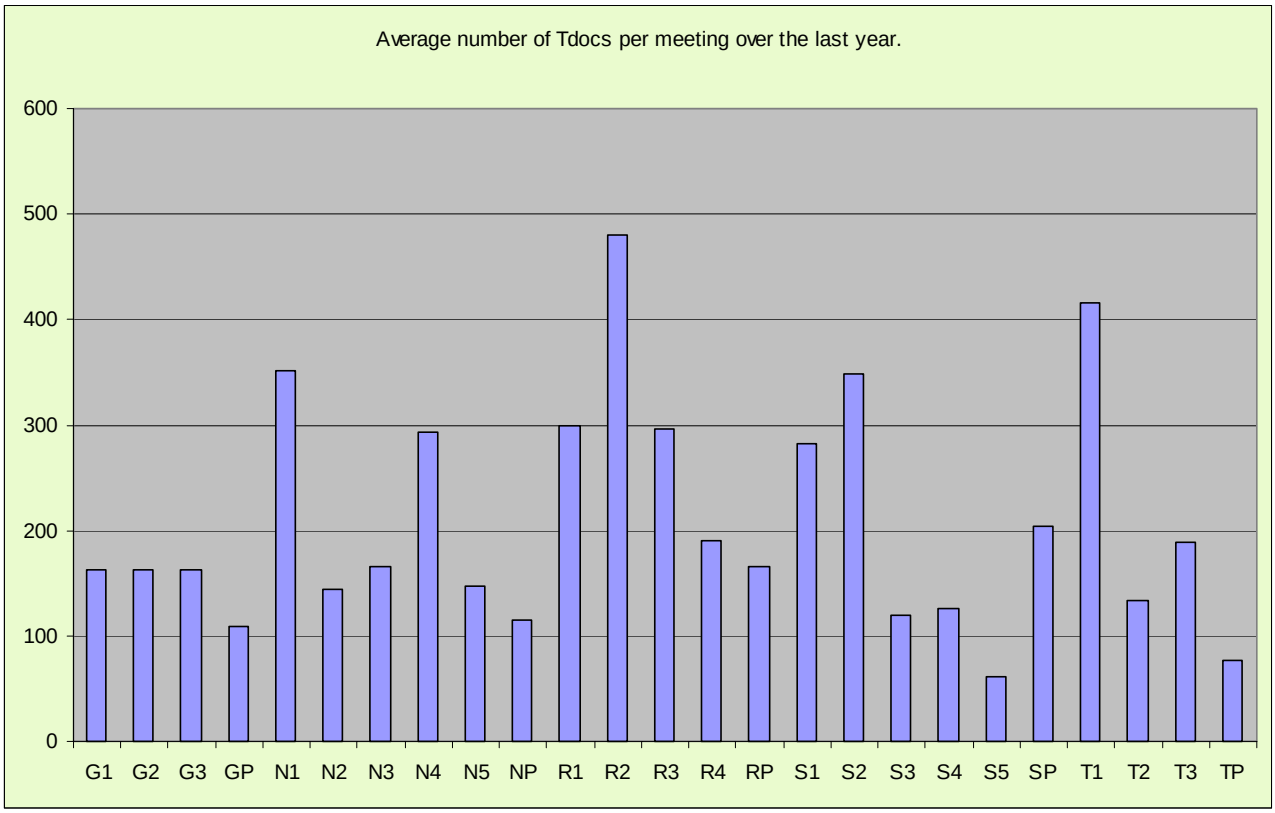
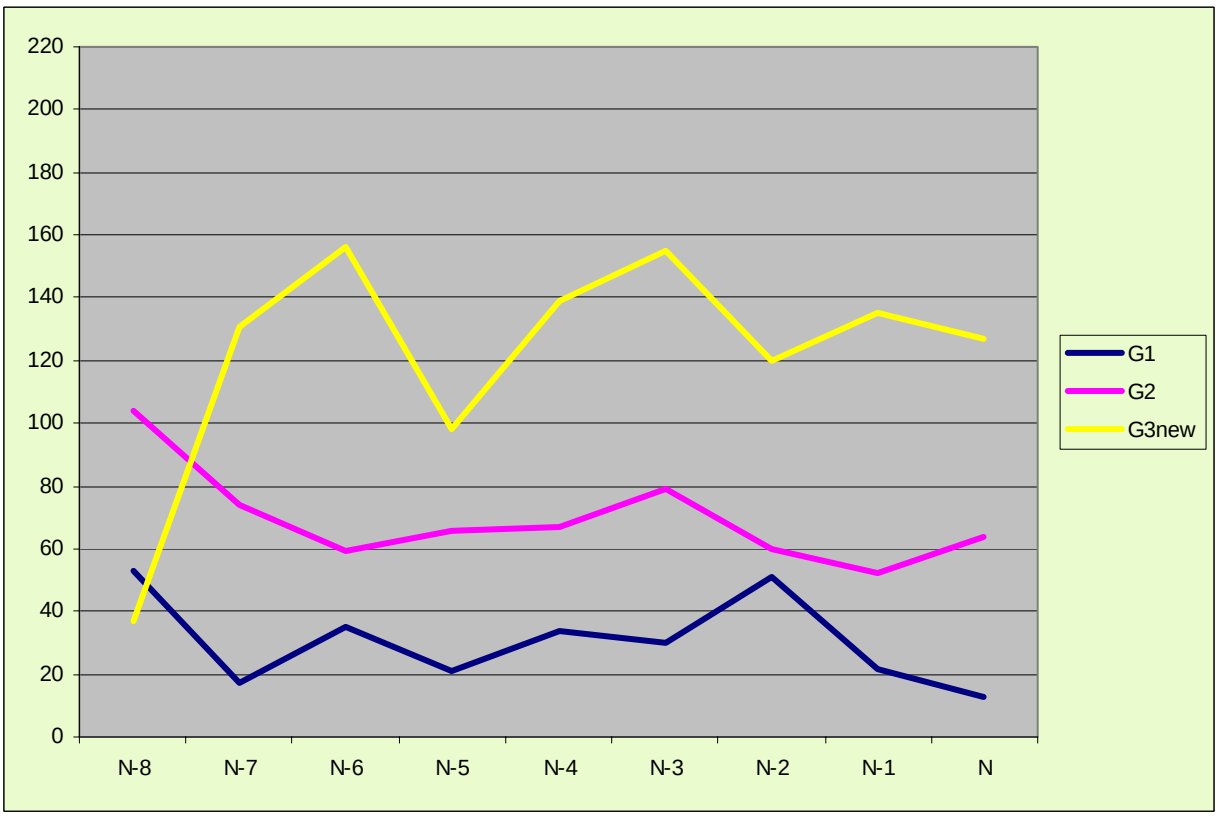
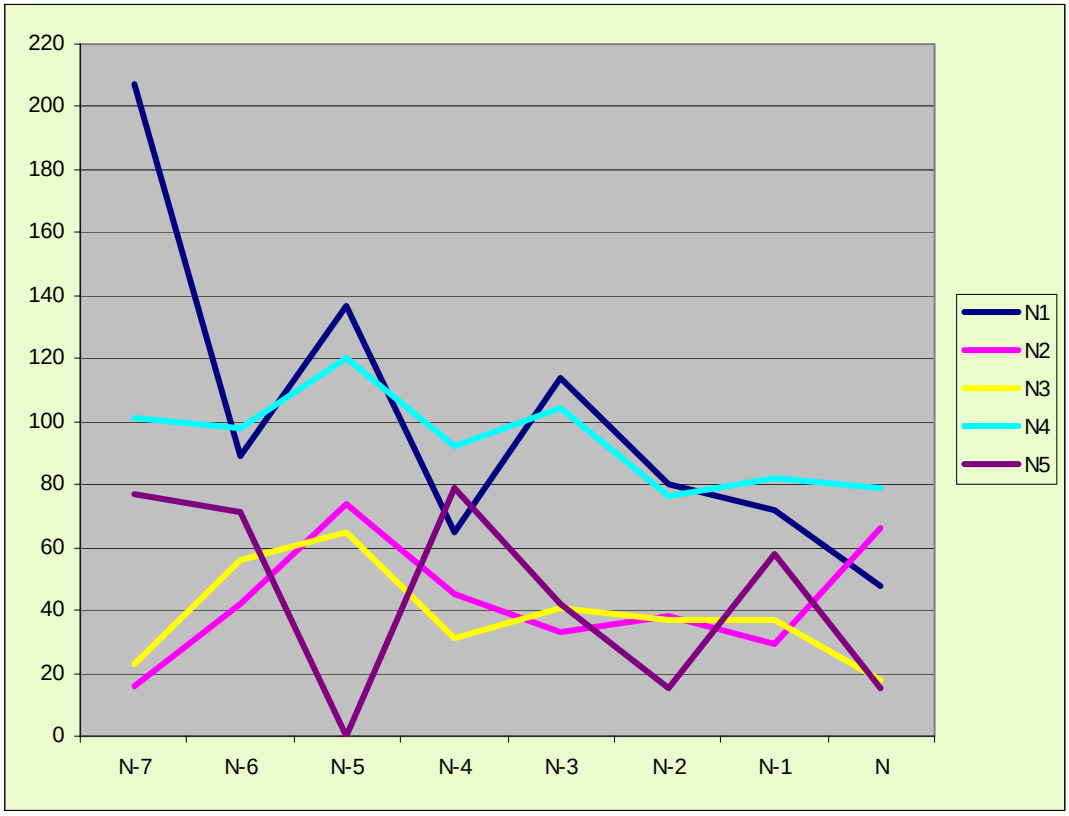
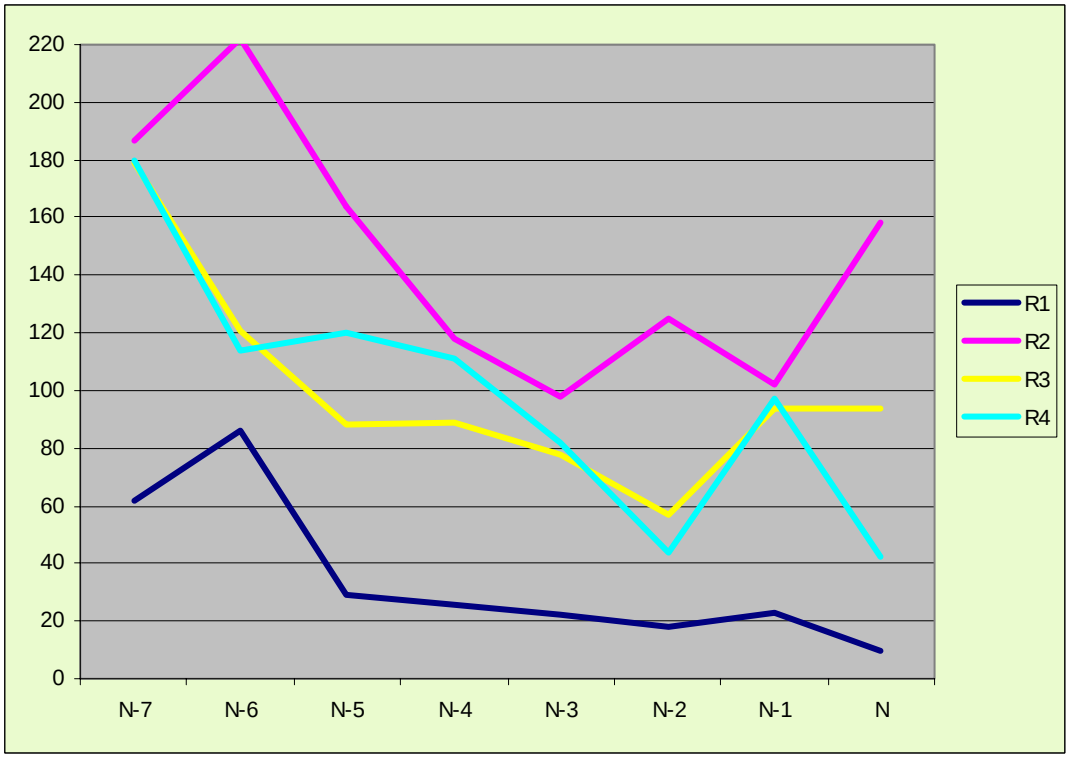


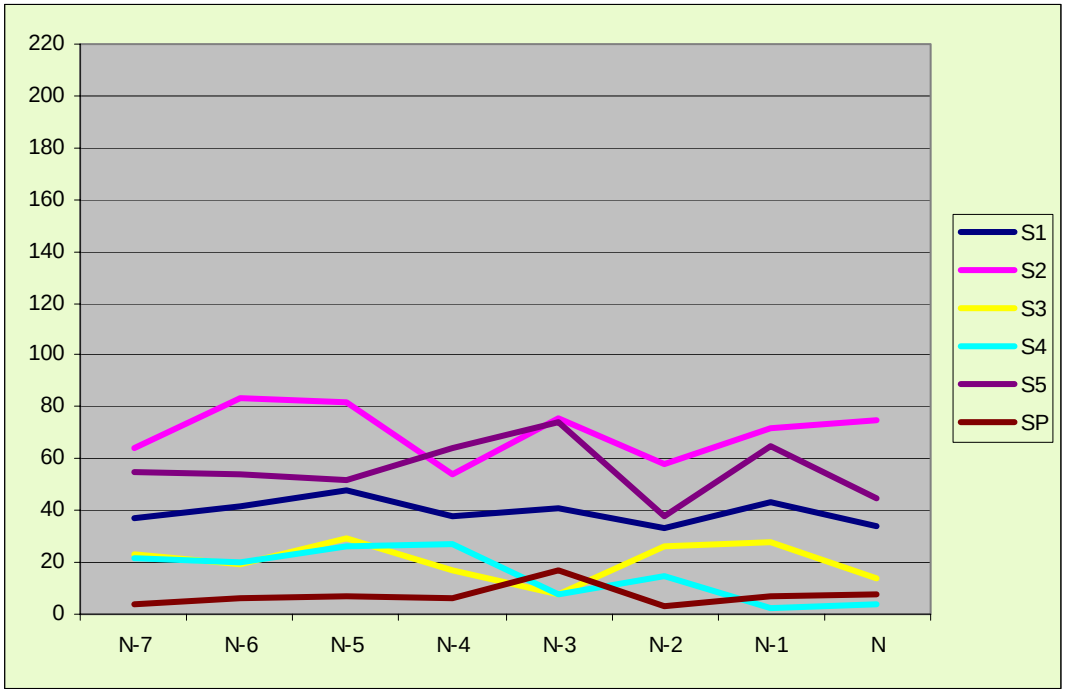
Figure: Tdocs per meeting per WG

The following set of figures chart the evolution of the number of approved CRs for each WG over the last two years. (The GERAN figures are a little approximate due to the use of plenary numbers for WG documents handled at the collocated WG-TSG meetings.)




220
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
N-7
N-6
N-5
N-4
N-3
N-2
N-1
N
N1
N2
N3
N4
N5


220
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
N-7
N-6
N-5
N-4
N-3
N-2
N-1
N
R1
R2
R3
R4



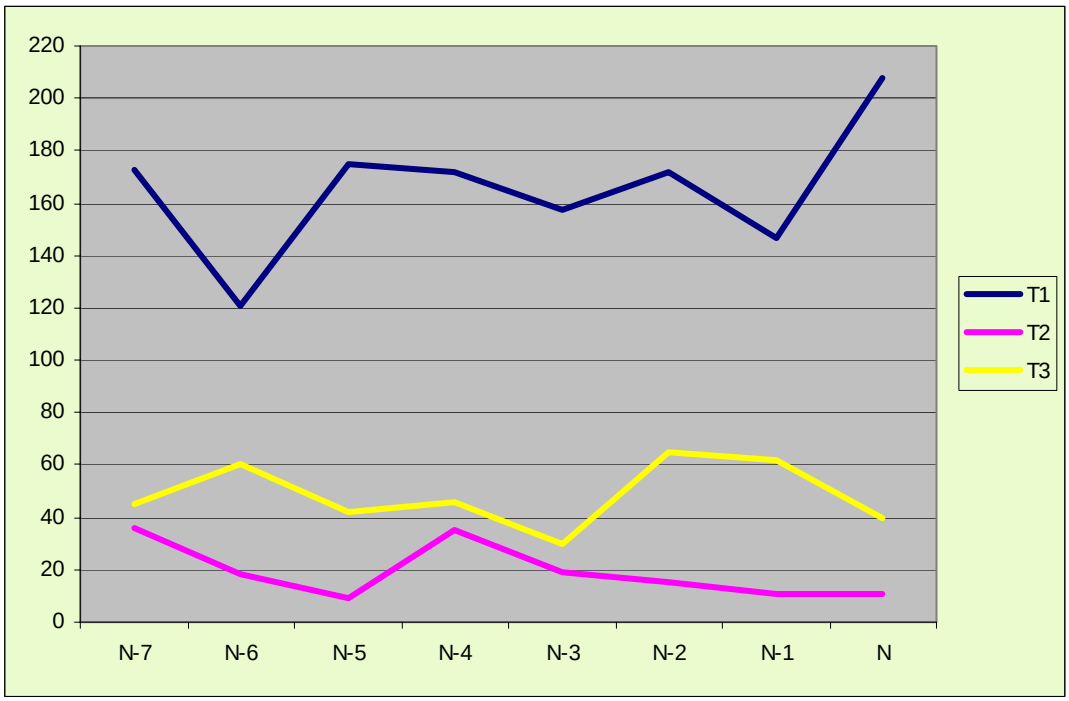


Figure : CR evolution over the previous two years, by WG

5 Release Feature Descriptions

Following the rapturous receipt of the Release 5 Features description document (ftp://ftp.3gpp.org//Information/WORK_PLAN/Description_Releases/Rel5_features_v_2003_09_09.zip) and the Release 99 document (a maturing draft is available at the present meeting), work is well under way with the Release 4 document (also available at the present meeting). It had been hoped that both might have been finished by now, but perfection cannot be rushed. Bear with us, these documents will be worth the wait. And of course, we encourage feedback from experts in the relevant fields, to ensure these documents are as accurate and useful as possible.

6 Concluding remarks

With the continuing slowly changing personnel of the Support Team, we hope to be able to offer the TSGs and their WGs the level of service they expect and need. Discussions on work division between 3GPP other bodies such as OMA and Liberty Alliance continue and are areas which cause some uncertainty for planning purposes, but we are confident that an appropriate level of service to the Project can be maintained.

Finally, may I offer the Support Team's thanks for the warm reception we have received by the TTA crew at this meeting, and for the excellent infrastructure they have provided.