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In the light of the discussions within TSG-T3 on the mechanical interface of the USIM with respect to it being removable, TSG-T has agreed that the USIM shall be a removable, hardware module as the SIM is for GSM.

It should be noted that this decision is in line with both the ETSI SMG "Position Paper on the UICC for early UMTS systems" as approved by SMG #27 and endorsed with an additional sentence on plastic roaming by SMG #28 (see T3-99041 = Tdoc SMG P-99-178) and the position of TSG-SA as stated in TSGS#2(99)043 and approved by TSG-SA #2.