



Vodafone Group plc
1 Kingdom Street
London
W2 6BD
London

16th April 2025

To: Ms. Elisabetta Comin and Mr. Seonggu Shim
European Telecommunications Standards Institute
Mobile Competence Centre
650, route des Lucioles
06921 Sophia-Antipolis France

Subject: Nomination of Mr. Alexey Kulakov as a candidate for Vice Chair of 3GPP RAN WG 3

Dear Ms. Comin and Mr. Shim,

On behalf of Vodafone, I am pleased to nominate Mr. Alexey Kulakov for the position of Vice Chair of 3GPP RAN WG 3, representing Vodafone Group Plc, an ETSI individual member of the Vodafone Group Plc corporate group.

Alexey has been an active participant in 3GPP since 2004, firstly in GERAN 2, and then in RAN 3, RAN 2 and RAN plenary.

If elected, Alexey will work with the Chair and other Vice Chair to ensure fair, technically driven decision-making, while promoting the timely completion of high-quality specifications suitable for multi-vendor operation.

Alexey will also undertake 3GPP-supplied antitrust and competition law training to ensure full compliance with all applicable antitrust/competition laws and regulations while acting in the capacity of 3GPP WG Vice Chair.

Vodafone is fully committed to the success of 3GPP and the mobile ecosystem and, if Alexey is elected, will provide him with the necessary support to allow him to accomplish his duties as a RAN 3 Vice Chair.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Hammer', is positioned above the printed name.

Volkmar Hammer
Head of Network Standards
Vodafone Group

volkmar.hammer@vodafone.com



Alexey Kulakov, Vodafone: RAN3 Vice Chair candidate

After graduating in 2001 at Moscow Aviation University in Telecommunication Science, I joined Vodafone Germany in January 2002 in the department focusing on testing and integration of the Radio and Core network equipment from different infrastructure vendors. These activities enabled me to gain hands-on deployment experience of many 3GPP protocols, latterly including S1-AP, NG-AP, X2-AP, Xn-AP, RRC, MAC, etc).

In 2004 I then also started to participate in 3GPP meetings on behalf Vodafone Group R&D.



GERAN WG2 Delegate (2004-2006):

- My 3GPP work initially focused on maintaining the GSM-BSC to SGSN interface, facilitating the scalable growth of the 2G/3G packet core, multiple core network vendor swaps, and the addition of new RAN vendors.

RAN WG3 Delegate (2006-2012):

- As the leading Vodafone delegate in RAN WG3 during the LTE standardization, I developed the 4G RAN to Core Network and eNB-eNB interfaces, becoming expert in protocols such as S1-AP and X2-AP. I successfully drove Automatic Neighbour Relation handling to enable new base stations to connect in a “plug and play” manner, Quality of Service, Mobility, and many other features.

RAN WG2 Delegate (2012-2018, 2021-Present):

- I have been a Vodafone delegate in RAN WG2, designing multiple features over several releases and ensuring the openness of the air interface between devices and radio nodes. During my time, I often cooperated with RAN WG3 on multiple subjects such as definition of NB-IoT and 5G specification. The latest example of such a cooperation is the standardisation of LTM Mobility.

RAN Plenary Delegate (2015-2018):

- I served as one of Vodafone’s RAN Plenary delegation during the 5G standardization, focusing on plenary aspects of RAN3 and RAN2.

With over 20 years of experience in various standardization groups and a tenure in Vodafone’s legal department from 2018 to 2020, where I gained a deep understanding of patent-related activities, I bring a wealth of expertise to the table. My extensive technical knowledge of RAN 3’s interfaces and protocols, coupled with my experience in other groups and at the plenary level, and a proven track record in standardisation activities during the development of new generations such as 4G and 5G, make me a strong candidate for the vice chairman position in 3GPP RAN WG3.

This role would enable me to leverage my ability to unite the community and ensure the high quality of specifications demanded by the market, facilitating their implementation by operators.