

**Agenda item:** 7.5  
**Source:** Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone, France Telecom  
**Title:** Position paper on cooperation between 3GPP and TM Forum  
**Document for:** Discussion

# **Service Providers' position on cooperation between 3GPP and TM Forum**

**Source: Deutsche Telekom (DT), France Telecom (FT), Vodafone (VF)**

This document underpins the position of the undersigning companies with respect to the ongoing discussion on cooperation between 3GPP and TM Forum.

## **1. Starting point and challenges for Service Providers**

An increasing number of Service Providers (SP) have to operate a variety of network and service production infrastructures, from mobile and fixed network environments up to converged networks and services across many countries. The increasing demand to maintain and improve customer experience requires full end-to-end service management and hence, multi-technology and multi-vendor network management capabilities. On the other hand, financial downturn has put even more pressure on operational efficiency improvement.

The undersigning companies (DT, FT, VF) and other major Service Providers are leveraging their strategy of 3<sup>rd</sup> party commercial-off-the-shelf management solutions, the OSS. Due to lack of aligned standardized interfaces between OSS and the production infrastructure the deployment of new technologies and services requires an ever growing integration tax. The undersigning companies are no longer willing to increase payment for this shortcoming of the Telco industry and the standardization bodies, respectively.

## **2. Automation is key - Standardization is a must**

The Service Providers are leading and supporting a couple of initiatives to drive automation of network operations. Examples are the concepts of Self Organizing Networks (SON) and Enhanced Operational Efficiency under the umbrella of NGMN, as well as the MTOSI and OSS/J specifications of TM Forum's TIP. Being successful with these activities requires the cooperation of the related standardization and industry forums, e.g.

- TM Forum for management functions (OSS)
- 3GPP – and other bodies – for network related functions (from access networks to the application layer, using legacy technologies or IP)
- NGMN for defining and aligning SPs' requirements towards the Telco standardization bodies and the industry

Next Generation OSS transformation programs are very often – and to a large degree – based on the elaborated management concepts of TM Forum's Integrated Business Architecture *Framework* (aka eTOM, SID, TAM, etc.). Service Providers have spent huge efforts and investments on deploying respective management solutions and expect the TM Forum to go ahead and focus on defining the basis for state-of-the-art OSS environments.

On the other side we strongly suppose the Telco SDOs, like 3GPP, to continue with their essential and highly appreciated network standardization work which allows billions of customers to use voice and data services across the whole world.

These areas of interest (OSS and production infrastructure functionalities) are clearly defined and agreed upon. The remaining issue is obviously the interface between them. By nature, this interface has to bridge the two different worlds.

Various cooperation options exist to develop this interface:

1. No interface standardization: both, OSS and production infrastructure, define and own their respective and independent information models and message formats. The Service Providers have to pay the full integration tax between management solutions and dozens of network technologies – this is not an option at all.
2. One common interface standardization: all involved parties agree on one common information model to support all management functions – this would obviously be an ideal situation for SPs, but hardly to be expected in a reasonable time frame.
3. A cooperative, federated interface definition: all involved parties agree on one common information framework – on a certain model level and acting as an umbrella for end-to-end management purposes. This umbrella should allow for federation / integration of the various network resource information models – mobile and fixed, today and in future.

**The third option is the one the undersigning Service Providers clearly vote for!**

### **3. Proposal and next steps**

The realization of the above mentioned option (3) strongly requires:

- Joint development of optimal interface standards (e.g. information model, transfer protocols, bi-directional message formats and semantics) supported by widely accepted specification methods and adequate tools.
- Close cooperation and common working groups between the standardization bodies
- Telco and OSS industry must drive the development and be fully committed to the common results. Ultimate target is “zero integration tax”!
- Service Providers must clearly define and state their business and functional requirements – most suitable through a common forum like the NGMN.

Therefore senior management of TM Forum and 3GPP are kindly asked to:

- Establish joint working groups with recognized and experienced experts and project managers
- Define clear objectives for these working groups (deliverables, results, timelines)
- Implement a senior steering group (SDOs, Telco/OSS industry, Service Providers)
- Monitor working group plans, results and milestones; allow for escalation

Last, but not least: the involved parties are asked to make any effort in resolving their legal issues, like handling of copy rights and bi-directional granting of access rights to make progress happen.

The undersigning Service Providers are fully committed to this approach and willing to support it on senior management level.

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