

Source: Chairman TSG SA
Title: Report to PCG on work in TSG-SA
Agenda: 4.1

Document for:

Decision	
Discussion	
Information	X

1 Main events since last meeting

In the period April 2004 (PCG#12) to October 2004 (PCG#13) TSG-SA have held two TSG-SA plenary meeting, TSG-SA#24 (Seoul, Korea), 7-10 June 2004) and TSG-SA#25 (Palm Springs, California, USA, 13 – 16 September 2004). Further to TSG-SA plenaries, a number of meetings of the TSG-SA working groups have taken place.

At TSG SA#24 Mr Takashi Koshimizu was elected vice-chairman of TSG SA. This election has been confirmed by the PCG by correspondence.

2 Technical work in TSG-SA

The work of TSG-SA consists of three main parts: technical work within TSG-SA, technical co-ordination between the TSGs and project management. In the period TSG-SA have been working in all three areas. The technical work within TSG-SA is organised in 5 working groups dealing with the service aspects, architecture, security, codec aspects and telecom management.

2.1 Work related to Service Aspects

The service requirements and associated stage 1 documentation for release '99, release 4 and release 5 are considered complete and the necessary adjustments and clarification caused by the stage 2 and stage 3 work done. TSG-SA WG1 (S1) has now completed the requirements for functionality for Release 6 and TSG SA decided to "freeze" Release 6 in terms of requirements back in September 2003. Items potentially arriving from cooperation partners will be evaluated on a case per case basis. One of the key items in Release 6 is the further evolution of the IP Multimedia Subsystem beyond its first phase completed in Release 5. Further TSG SA have decided to target completion of requirements for the subsequent release, Release 7 by June 2005. This in order to leave sufficient time for the Stage 2 and 3 work when maintaining the original goal of one release every 12 – 18 month.

2.2 Architecture related work

The architectural work related to the IP based network has been stable in the period and the key decisions for the IM subsystem kept unchanged, i.e., the selection of SIP as Call Control model. Generally, releases 99, 4 and 5 are considered stable and the focus of the architecture related work is related to release 6 on items. TSG SA WG2 have completed all major parts of the stage 2 work for Release 6. It seems clear that the workload of TSG SA WG2 do not allow TGS SA WG2 to reduce the number of meetings to one per plenary period and thus with the rules agreed for MCC support might need to hold meetings without MCC support. However, so far MCC have managed to support the meetings held.

2.3 Security related work

Has reported earlier to PCG the introduction of IP Multimedia Subsystem introduces significant changes to the network architecture. Consequently there has naturally been a number of correction necessary in order to ensure that all security aspects are considered and handled correct, however the releases 99, 4 and 5 are all considered stable. Work on Release 6 is well underway and no major problems are identified for the time being.

2.4 Codec related work

The codec work in TSG-SA WG4 (S4) for release 99, 4 and 5 is found stable and no significant changes expected.

Based on the evaluation work performed by TSG SA WG4 and the host laboratories, TSG SA have approved specifications for audio codecs for PSS/MMS, Video and Speech Enable Services. TSG SA Working Group 4 has now completed the specifications for these codecs and the work is considered complete except for some additional characterization.

2.5 Work related to telecom management

TSG-SA has in the past reported to PCG that TSG-SA wished TSG-SA WG5 (S5) to complete the specifications at the same time as other parts of the release. However, parts of the telecom management specifications build on the core specifications and can therefore not be fully completed before the core specifications are completed. On this background TSG-SA have in the past found it acceptable that a delay of 3 month compared to close of the release could occur for some telecom management specifications. This goal was not completely fulfilled in the case of Release 99 and Release 4, however the majority the specifications were completed at the requested point in time and remaining specifications within the time of one additional meeting cycle (3 month). The telecom management specifications for release 99 and release 4 are considered stable. A similar situation occurred for Release 5 where the telecom management related specifications first were fully ready in September 2002. However, this represent a clear improvement compared to the previous releases and for Release 6 the telecom management work is now well progressed and it is the expectation that most of the telecom management specifications will be completed at the same time as the core specifications.

Also in the area of telecom management specifications some cooperation with the corresponding 3GPP2 groups has been established. According to information available to TSG-SA, 3GPP2 plans to build some of their telecom management specifications on basis of the 3GPP specifications as delta specifications. TSG-SA welcomes this harmonisation of telecom management specifications across standards. TSG-SA does not foresee any negative impact on the 3GPP timescales and workload due to this.

3 Technical co-ordination

3.1 Issues related TSG-CN

The cooperation with TSG CN has been running smoothly and there are no major issues to report.

3.2 Issues related to TSG-RAN

TSG-SA has taken note of the fact that TSG-RAN have significantly reduced the number change request to perform error corrections for the Release 99 set of specifications. Further TSG-SA has taken note of the completion of major work items such as HSDPA as part of Release 5. TSG SA has noted that the maintenance of major work items completed reduces the time available for work on the next releases TSG-SA. TSG-SA has taken this into account in the review of the overall project plan.

3.3 Co-ordination with TSG-T

TSG-T has informed TSG-SA about the progress in elaboration of test specifications and the associated abstract test suites. TSG-SA further has noted the elaboration of priorities for the completion of the remaining work based on input from the industry. In general no major issues has raised between TSG SA and TSG-T, only the usual coordination of the requirement and architectural work with the technical work of TGS T.

3.4 Co-ordination with TSG-GERAN

TSG-GERAN continues in a manner equal to that of the other TSGs to provide an overview of its activities and work plan. The work plan for TSG GERAN is now been integrated in the overall work plan for 3GPP. In the period the main areas of contact between TSG SA and TSG GERAN have been in the area of Architecture and security issues related to enhancements to A and Gb interfaces. These activities have mainly involved TSG SA WG2 and WG3. Also at TSG SA#2 TSG GERAN inform about the work on Generic Access and TSG SA have asked TSG SA WG1, WG2 and WG3 to study this in detail.

4 Requirements for support in 2005

As earlier reported TSG-SA does not see any major changes in its requirement for support in 2005 compared to 2004, and sees no reason to change the requirement that the same number of man month as for 2004 are budgeted for 2005 except for the consequence of the decision of PCG#10 to only guarantee MCC support for one working group meeting per plenary period. As reported earlier in this report TSG SA WG2 has so far not be able to limit is number of meetings and would therefore if possible desire increased support compared to one meeting per period.

5 Release 99, 4 and 5

As indicated earlier in this report TSG-SA have reviewed the status of the project in co-operation with the other TSGs. Based on the status report provided, TSG-SA concludes that all release 99, release 4 and release 5 items have been completed and the releases can be considered stable However, TSG-SA foresees there still for a while will be a need for corrective changes to Release 99 especially in the area of the radio access network. These corrective changes might reach a second peak when larger scale of network deployment based on the specification starts.

6 Release 6 and beyond

TSG SA has decided to “freeze” Release 6 in terms of requirements except for items already identified. Items potentially arriving from cooperation partners will be evaluated on a case per case basis to assess if they can be completed within the timescales for Release 6. It is expected that Release 6 will be frozen in December 2004 potentially granting a limited number of specific cases for completion no later than March 2004. TSG SA will assess the Release 6 completion further at its next meetings following Releases. It is perhaps worth reiterating that the work on defining a content of a release is based on the principles for a release agreed at TSG-SA#09 and confirmed by PCG#05. These principles are:

- A release shall consist of a well-defined, stable and internally consistent set of functions;
- A release shall be documented in a maintained, consistent stream of specifications;
- Essential corrections to a stable or frozen release shall be included in the applicable release;
- New or changed functionality shall be included in new (rather than retrospectively in old) releases.

As a part of these principles it was also agreed that the overall road map should be controlled by the 3GPP Project plan (i.e. a “3GPP Road Map”) and not as in the past by the Releases. The content of the Release should be based upon the work plan with a well-defined closing time for the content of a Release (6 – 9 months before completion of a particular Release).

7 General Management issues

Further TSG SA have had a discussion on how to quickly complete and “release” functionality for early implementation not awaiting the completion of the full release. It has been concluded that the basic mechanism already is catered for in the procedures for handling of work items and work plan. However, it was found that a practical mechanism needed to be defined and implemented. This keeping in mind that it shall be possible to administrate it with a minimum overhead. TSG SA expected to reached a conclusion on this matter by TSG SA #24 and have incorporated the necessary updates to TR 21.900 at TSG SA#25.

As reported earlier, when establishing the overall status for the release 1999 it was realised that it was been difficult to link together the work items of the different TSGs in order to understand whether or not all part of a service or functionality is being completed according to the target. To help overcoming this problem for future releases a working model was elaborated and agreed. This working model has now been in place for a while and allows the work items of the different TSGs to be linked into a hierarchical structure, based on three levels feature, building block and work task. This process has now enter a phase where it is a routine within the work of 3GPP and is very useful in the discussions around the content and target dates for releases. Extract of the overall work plan is provided to PCG for consideration in Tdoc PCG#12(04)14.