

Source: TrFO/TFO Harmonisation Workshop
Title: Status Report
Agenda item: 5.X
Document for: INFORMATION / APPROVAL

1 Introduction

This document presents an executive summary of the joint “*3GPP S2, S4, R3, N1 and N4 TrFO/TFO Harmonisation*” Workshop, held on the 8th of May 2000 in Stockholm (Sweden), hosted by Ericsson. The meeting was chaired by the N4 convener Yun-Chao Hu (Ericsson) and the MCC secretary was Franco Settimo. The meeting was participated by representation of the all the involved 3GPP WGs with a slight overhand of the R3 representation.

A detailed meeting report is available for the interested reader in Tdoc *NP-000317*.

2 Main Results

2.1 Scope

The meeting agreed to address the UMTS-UMTS, UMTS-GSM and UMTS-Fixed Interconnections for TrFO/TFO. A proposal was submitted to workshop to restrict the TrFO capability only to UMTS-UMTS interconnections. The meeting raised concerns that interconnectivity between UMTS-GSM and UMTS-Fixed needs to be addressed as well. It was pointed to the meeting that ITU-T has specified AMR Codecs as well that can be used by interested companies.

It was also raised that addressing TrFO/TFO harmonisation will result that the GSM and Fixed network interconnectivity could be supported as well. Furthermore in most cases the call needs to be provided via a fixed intermediate network, reducing the advantage of limiting the TrFO to UMTS-UMTS interconnectivity.

An issue on correct terminology has been raised for the cascading of TrFO and TFO operations. The meeting agreed that this issue needs to be addressed by S2

2.2 Framing Protocol

Several proposals have been submitted to the workshop, which addresses different perspectives on the issue. The final discussion resulted into two alternatives for the Framing protocol in the Core Network:

- I.366.2 – Framing protocol based on ATM AAL2 Signalling
- Iu Framing protocol

Indeed several advantages and disadvantages can be expressed on the alternatives, which is based on the suggestive perception one can have on this issue. No clear technical advantage was identified during the workshop to one of these alternatives.

Based on polling the viewpoint of the meeting a wide support was raised to support the Iu Framing protocol, but still some meeting participants expressed their support to the I.366.2 protocol. The meeting concluded as follows:

- The same User Plane protocol shall work on top of AAL2 transport and IP transport as well.
- Support to use Iu framing protocol and this could be the working assumption. As a second priority, assuming ATM based Core Network, I.366 seemed acceptable as a protocol between Core Networks. For IP networks, no assumption is made for the time being.

It was noted that a more detailed Work Item needs to be consequently created.

2.3 TrFO Break

A number of open issues have been agreed but no clear 3GPP Work Group has been assigned to these issues. Also it was not yet agreed if these issues are the only issues to be addressed. The meeting raised that the separation of the call & bearer control needs further be studied to complete the list of issues.

2.4 TrFO/TFO Harmonisation

An excellent tutorial document was made available to the workshop identifying all the issues that needs to be considered when discussing the TrFO/TFO Harmonisation. This document was considered extremely useful that it was attached to the meeting minutes. It is strongly recommended that each WG review this document for their “education” on the TrFO/TFO Harmonisation issue.

3 Conclusion

Considering the slower progress in the TrFO/TFO Workshop then anticipated at the beginning of the meeting, a follow-up workshop was agreed as required. However, the meeting was not in an agreeing mode and could not even agree on a follow-up date and place. Unfortunately, I have to report that all the participants in the meeting behaved not co-operative on this issue.

In the mean time several proposals for a follow-up workshop has been proposed. Even a conclusive proposal was not possible and therefore, *I would like to ask guidance from the CN Plenary how to proceed.*

A proposal from the Workshop Chair is to allocate the next TrFO/TFO Workshop with N4#03 meeting, specifically 18th of July in Helsinki (Finland), hosted by Nokia. This will provide the following advantages:

- In conjunction with the S4 Adhoc meeting on TrFO/TFO, also hosted in Helsinki
- The chair and secretariat are already available to take charge for the TrFO/TFO Workshop #02
- N4 expertise is immediate available to the workshop

Open Issues to be addressed:

- Completion of the Open Issues for TrFO Break
- Work Tasks for the Framing Protocol
- Work Tasks for the TrFO/TFO Harmonisation
- Work Tasks for Access Sign & BICC
- Work Tasks for RAN Capabilities
- Work Tasks for CN Capabilities
- Work Tasks for UP version negotiation
- Allocation of work tasks on TrFO/TFO to WGs