



***GSM North America***

*The North American Interest Group of the GSM Association*

September 14, 2000

**Regarding the Proposal to Change IMEI Encoding**

To:

Alan Cox, Chair, 3GPP SA1

[alan.cox@vf.vodafone.co.uk](mailto:alan.cox@vf.vodafone.co.uk)

Cc:

Stephen Hayes, Chair, 3GPP CN

[EUSSRH@am1.ericsson.se](mailto:EUSSRH@am1.ericsson.se)

Niels Andersen, Chair, 3GPP SA

[NielsPeter\\_Andersen@Europe30.mot.com](mailto:NielsPeter_Andersen@Europe30.mot.com)

Sang-Keun Park, Chair, 3GPP T

[skpark@khgw.info.samsung.co.kr](mailto:skpark@khgw.info.samsung.co.kr)

Yukitsuna Furuya, Chair, 3GPP RAN

[furuya@ptl.yh.nec.co.jp](mailto:furuya@ptl.yh.nec.co.jp)

Niels Andersen, Convenor, 3GPP GERAN

[NielsPeter\\_Andersen@Europe30.mot.com](mailto:NielsPeter_Andersen@Europe30.mot.com)

Linda Melvin, Director, GSM-NA

[lmelvin@gsmna.com](mailto:lmelvin@gsmna.com)

Gary Jones, Chair, GSM-NA Standards WG

[gjones@omnipoint-corp.com](mailto:gjones@omnipoint-corp.com)

M.V. Thomas, Chair, GSM-NA Services WG

[mvthomas@powertel.com](mailto:mvthomas@powertel.com)

Philippe Lucas, Chair, GSM Association SERG

[plucas@dolphin-telecom.fr](mailto:plucas@dolphin-telecom.fr)

Dear Chairpersons,

The GSM-NA has considered the recent proposal to change the coding of the IMEI from BCD to hexadecimal, as articulated in the liaison statement in 3GPP SP-000360 (3GPP S1-000563). In the referenced liaison statement, concern is expressed that

- The need for the proposed change is questionable, and
- The current infrastructure will be considerably impacted.

We therefore respectfully request that the proposed changes to the IMEI not be accepted at this time.

If it is further considered opinion of 3GPP that a change to the IMEI is required, then to reach consensus on an acceptable cut-over date for deploying new IMEIs, we would respectfully request that the 3GPP provide further information regarding

- When the existing supply of IMEIs is projected to become exhausted, and
- An evaluation of possible alternative solutions and their impacts.

Sincerely yours,

[signed copy on file]

Jim Murrell

***GSM North America***

Chair, GSM North America