Subject: Handling of IMS/CS Interworking

Souce: Nortel Networks

Agenda: 9.1

                For Agreement

Interworking between the IMS and CS services is a critical part of Release 6 and it is important this work is included in the Release 6 deliverable. 3GPP has decided to use ITU specifications as the basis for standardising the interworking between SIP and CS protocols such as BICC and ISUP. Difficulties in progressing the work in ITU have lead to the question of whether it would be better to change the decision and finish this work in 3GPP.

Even though the work in the ITU has been difficult it should be noted that most experts agree that the part of the ITU work relevant to 3GPP is already 90% stable.

There are two key factors in deciding whether to retain the work in ITU or not:
- What is the risk that ITU will not deliver suitable output in time for 3GPP's requirements?
- What are the benefits of using the ITU to do this work, which originally influenced 3GPP to go down this route?

There are two key areas where using the ITU provides benefits:
- The ITU community has much more experience and knowledge on the use of ISUP and BICC protocols then 3GPP. Previously a lack of knowledge in 3GPP on ISUP issues has caused problems (eg for line identity interworking). The ITU is specially knowledgeable on how these protocols are used in networks other than 3GPP networks which 3GPP may want to interwork to.
- The ITU is able to set specifications for all types of networks - providing an aligned technical solution. For all 3GPP members this benefits them by providing services that interwork properly across networks.

The main cause of delay in ITU has been disagreement on the scope of the work (basically how far we exploit the second benefit above). However, despite this ITU has made good progress on the aspects relevant to 3GPP. Now this has been achieved in ITU, the additional technical work required to meet the whole of the ITU scope is small. As ITU has indicated (NP020632), it is possible for them to generate a fully approved recommendation by November 2003. According to the ITU's plan the outstanding technical issues on all aspects should be covered by a rapporteurs meeting 7-11 April 2003. Given that a realistic date for Release 6 approval may be September to December 2003 the ITU's timetable is feasible. 3GPP will be able to review the output of the April meeting in good time for Release 6.

Proposal

Completing the work in ITU does offer direct benefits to 3GPP, and it is desirable to retain the original agreement while making sure the release 6 timetable is still met. It is proposed that:

- At this meeting, 3GPP agrees to keep the work in ITU.
- 3GPP closely monitors the work in ITU and reviews the plan after the ITU rapporteurs meeting to make sure that the release 6 deliverable is not risked.
- Companies supporting the work on CS/IMS interworking are encouraged to focus on technical contributions to progress the work in ITU according to the scope that ITU has agreed.