Title: **Importance of UTRAN to GERAN NACC within Rel-5**
Source: **Vodafone Ltd**
Document for: **Decision**
Agenda: **8.8**

1. Introduction

During RAN WG2 #26 meeting the introduction of Network Assisted Cell Change from UTRAN to GERAN was discussed, in R2-020089. R2-020089 discussed the performance improvement that may be obtained by the introduction of inter-system NACC for cell change from UTRAN->GERAN. In particular, the proposal examined the use of inter-system NACC for both the CELL_FACH and the CELL_DCH state. In the case of CELL_FACH, some doubts were raised about the need for improvement since a service that can be provided over CELL_FACH would typically be less time critical than those provided through CELL_DCH.

The level of improvement can be of the order of **5** seconds, which is rather significant based upon current experience with GPRS. Therefore, a compromise solution was reached to introduce the changes in the RRC protocol (and therefore in the UE) in Rel-5 and introduce the support in UTRAN interfaces in a later release, with the aim of completion within the time frame of Rel-6. This would ensure a wider terminal support of this essential feature when it is enabled in the network.

During the last RAN WG2 #29, the necessary CR was submitted to introduce NACC into the INTER-SYSTEM CELL CHANGE ORDER command. However, this was not treated due to lack of time. By the time Rel-5 functionality is available, there is likely to be many services provisioned over GPRS where continuity and good performance between UTRAN and GERAN will be essential - in order not to provide a noticeable degradation in service during this transition.

2. Proposal

Vodafone request
1) Sufficient time is allowed to include the CR into the Rel-5 RRC specifications as a TEI WI. It is expected that this work be completed for TSG RAN #17 (September 2002).
2) A new WI is created with the objective of completing the work required over the UTRAN interfaces.