GSM Certification Forum Program Overview

Source: GSM Association

Background

- **The GSM Certification Forum was developed through partnership between the GSM Association and various terminal manufacturers**
  - **The GSM Association's initiative to develop a certification program began in 1996…**
- **The Certification Forum is based on policies which are flexible and adaptable to meet current as well as future needs**

Program Scope

- **GSM Certification Forum provides for the verification of devices against the program's technical requirements, with global recognition and acceptance of results, the avoidance of multiple testing and cost efficiencies**
  - **All GSM frequency bands/multi-mode devices**
  - **Complementary to regulatory regimes**
  - **Participation is 100% voluntary**

Agreements

- **Obtaining agreement of the Certification Forum policy has been challenging…**
  - **Agreement reached on all principles which are reasonable and form the basis for future Forum enhancement as the GSM technology evolves**
- **It has been agreed by terminal manufacturers and the GSM Association that the Certification Forum program will be modified and be extended to encompass future technologies such as 3rd Generation**

Benefits

- **Complementary to regulatory processes including Type Approval & RTTE Directive**
  - **Builds upon existing processes**
- **Customers benefit from reduced inter-operability risk and enhanced testing**
  - **Avoidance of multi-functionality testing based upon agreed standards and testing methods**
- **Global recognition with self-regulation**
  - **Cost efficiencies and reduced time to market**

Participation

- **Operators and terminal manufacturers participate in Forum upon the execution of a 'Declaration of Active Participation'**
  - **Voluntary program participation**
- **Others involved in the design, testing, test equipment development, etc. of devices apply for Observer status**
  - **Participation in technical standards development without formal voting rights**

Structure

- **Certification Forum within GSMA structure**
  - **Steering Group to decide matters of budget and administrative by meeting twice per year**
    - Operators and manufacturers participate with Chair/Vice Chair rotated annually between groups
  - **Secretariat implements Steering Group policy**
  - **Volunteer work groups develop and validate the certification technical requirements**
    - Agreement Group and Terminal Working Group
  - **Joint funding of operational costs 50/50 basis**

Certification Process

- **Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity**
  - **Successful laboratory testing of the program's technical requirements completed by the manufacturer or 3rd party test house**
  - **Successful field trailing of the device in a minimum of five (5) commercial networks for each frequency band supported**
  - **Manufacturer declares the device certified**
    - **Secretariat lists the device on certification website**

Technical Requirements

Certification technical requirements based upon the GSM core specifications

– **Standards Development Organisation published tests conducted on commercially available and validated test equipment**

– **Compliance folder contains evidence of technical conformity and field trial results**

  • **Annual audit of the manufacturers Quality System by an accredited ISO-9000 body or equivalent**

Quality

- **Quality matters not a part of certification**
  - **To be addressed in commercial agreements**
    - **New requirements may be incorporated in the certification program once they become part of the GSM core specifications and validated test equipment is commercially available**
  - **It is desirable that an operator's technical operations wishing to participate in field trials become ISO-9000 qualified**

Issue Resolution

- **Formal process to address disputes...**
  - **Bi-lateral discussions take place initially**
  - **Either party may call for a 3rd party test at a mutually agreed accredited test facility**
    - **Either party may challenge the 3rd party test results within 5 working days (loser pays)**
  - **Test failure is noted on certification web site**
  - **Matters not resolved within 90 days results in the automatic withdrawal of certification**
    - **Manufacturer may voluntarily withdraw certification**

Device Connection

- **Operators may purchase both certified and non-certified terminal devices which meet their market requirements**
  - **These decisions are left to market forces and are not a part of the Certification Forum**
- **Operators who do not purchase terminal devices are not impacted by the Certification Forum program**

Way Forward

- **Secretariat in place by 1 December 99**
  - **Program "Organisationally" functional**
- **Program "functionally operational" by GSM World Congress in February 2000**
  - **Begin accepting Declarations of Conformity from manufacturers if certified**
- **Program fully operational by 1 April 2000**
  - **Prior to 8 April 2000 start of R&TTE Directive**

Information

- **Available on certification website:**

  http://www.industry.gsm.org

- **A web based interactive program is currently under development to provide additional Certification Forum information and PRD information**

Summary

- **The agreed certification policy and principles will be implemented globally through the active participation of operators and terminal manufacturers**

- **The Certification Forum program should be recognised as the basis and starting point for 3rd Generation inter-operability and conformance assessment testing**

Summary

- **Thank you for the opportunity to provide this overview of the GSM Certification Forum to the 3GPP TSG SA**

  - **Details contained in this document are subject to further modification and change**

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