

Title: Release 2000 Services and Capabilities

Source: BT

Background

The current working method of the 3GPP is to phase the production of specifications as annual releases, starting with Release 99 and with a current focus upon delivering Release 2000 in December.

For each release the work of the 3GPP TSGs and their subgroups needs to be planned and focused upon meeting an agreed set of design requirements, expressed in terms of the services and/or service capabilities that are to be supported. The establishment of these requirements is the responsibility of S1 and in order to facilitate work planning they need to be established and stabilised as part of the initial phase of the work for each release.

The delivery of Release 2000 by December (2000) implies that stable requirements will need to be available in the immediate future so that the work of TSGs RAN, CN and T can be planned and progressed.

An S1 ad-hoc group is currently in the process of producing a Technical Report (3G TR 22.976) "Study on Release 2000 services and capabilities" which is expected to contain sufficient high-level information for other groups to plan and commence their work. The TR is currently planned to be completed at a meeting of the ad-hoc group at the beginning of May.

Concerns

The current work of the S1 Ad-hoc group is clearly critical to the successful delivery of Release 2000 specifications from the 3GPP. However a number of concerns arise regarding the progress of work relating to the identification and agreement of Release 2000 Services and capabilities. These include:

The work does not represent main-stream S1 activity. Whilst the Ad-hoc group is meeting regularly, to date the prime focus of S1 has been the completion of Release 99 specifications. Consequently the resources and time available to the development of the Release 2000 TR have been diluted;

Timely communication of Release 2000 Requirements with 3GPP. The formal completion of the TR at an Ad-hoc meeting in May should not prevent earlier drafts of the document being made available to other groups within 3GPP. However the earliest opportunity to present it to other TSGs will be at the TSG#8 meetings in June - too late to have a significant impact upon the development of work plans and scope of Release 2000;

Proposal

To ensure that Release 2000 Service and Capability Requirements are identified and communicated with in 3GPP in a timely manner, it is proposed that:

S1 is asked to make the completion of TR 22.976 its highest priority by:

Ensuring the scheduled meetings of S1 (plenary) allocate appropriate time to the task;

The agenda is structured accordingly;

The meetings are structured such that lower priority tasks do not undermine this objective.

The draft report is given maximum visibility within in SA and other TSGs during its production. Updates should be distributed via the TSG email distribution lists.

TSG SA should consider appropriate mechanisms by which the report can be formally agreed and established as providing the definitive set of Service and Capability Requirements for release 2000, immediately following the May S1 Ad-hoc meeting. Waiting for formal approval at the June TSG#8 meetings is not acceptable.

End