

Source: MCC (Adrian Scrase)
Title: Report of Support Team activities
Document for: Information
Agenda Item: 10

1 Introduction

This report covers the period between TSG#14 and TSG#15 and contains detailed information concerning the implementation of TSG#14 results.

2 The Support Team

2.1 MCC Departures

Since TSG#14 there has been one departure from MCC. Michael Sanders, who previously supported TSG T and WG T3, has now left the team. There have been no other departures.

2.2 MCC Arrivals

One new expert has joined the team since TSG#14 to fill the post vacated by Michael Sanders. Mr Claus Dietze (Giesecke & Devrient) has now joined the team and is participating in these TSG meetings for the first time. The picture below will help you to identify this new MCC member.



2.3 MCC Vacancies

As previously reported, a number of vacancies are anticipated to occur during 2002, with the departure of the experts currently supporting RAN, RAN1, RAN2, RAN3, and CN1 expected to take place by the middle of the year. A formal call for candidates has been made and this has been widely distributed by the 3GPP Partners. The version of that call distributed to the ETSI membership is reproduced at Annex 1 for information.

The closing date for the call is 31 March, so there is still time for candidatures to be made for these positions. It is clear that the quality of service provided by MCC can only be maintained if suitable replacements can be found and Individual Members are therefore invited to respond accordingly.

ACTION 1: Individual Members to consider the open call for MCC Candidatures and to respond accordingly.

2.4 Organization of MCC

The figure given below shows the allocation of resources to each entity within 3GPP and is a snapshot taken on 1 Feb 2002. It can be seen that Friedhelm Rodermund has taken over the responsibility for supporting TSG T and that Claus Dietze now supports WG T3. This chart is regularly maintained and the latest version may always be obtained from the 3GPP website at <http://www.3gpp.org/>

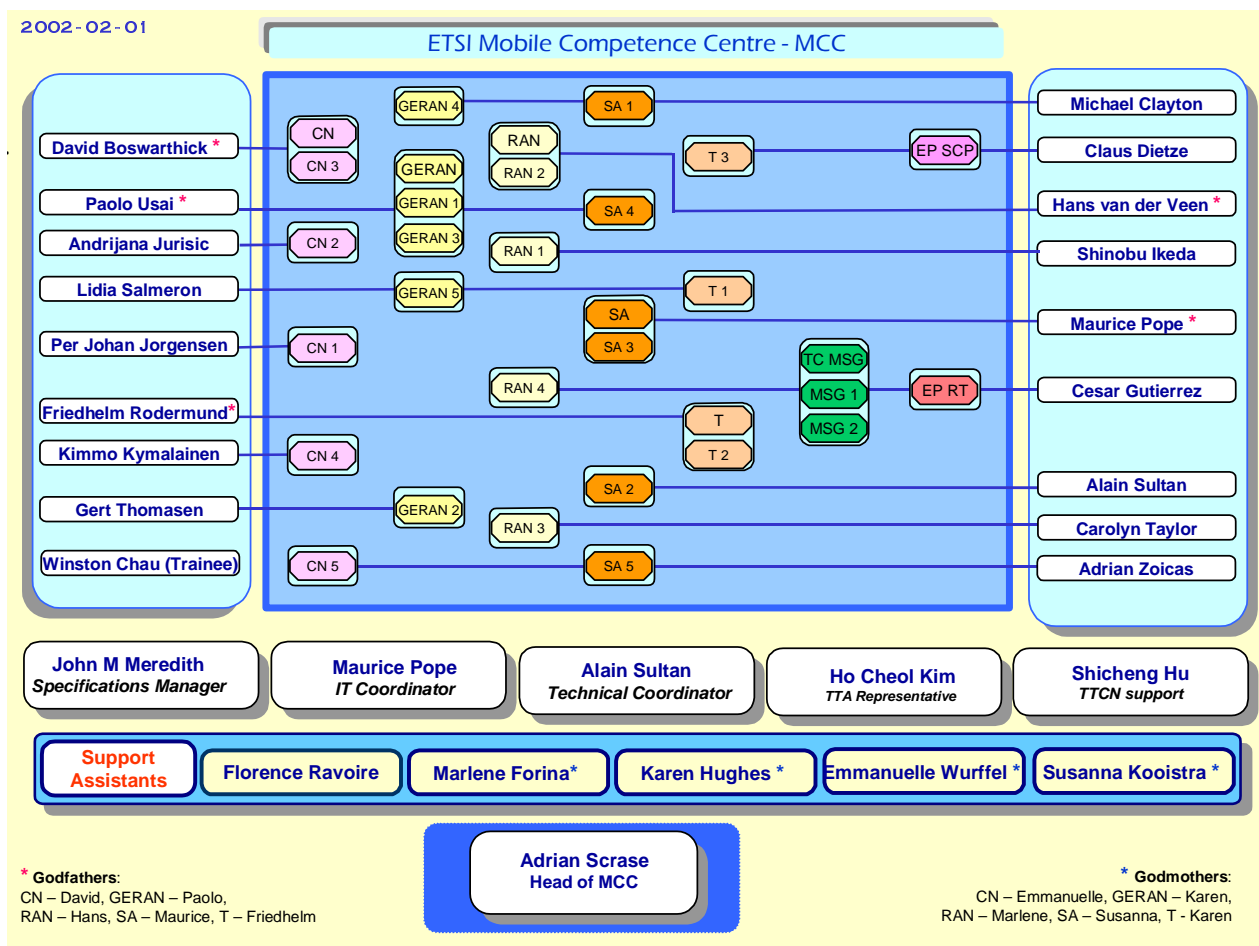


Figure 1: MCC Organizational Chart

3 Statistics and targets

3.1 Interesting statistics

At the start of TSG#15, MCC were managing 2290 active specifications. The distribution of those specifications looks as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER
3G Specifications	648
GSM Specifications	1306
Common Specifications	336
TOTAL SPECIFICATIONS	2290

When considering how those active specifications map per release the following figures are obtained:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF ACTIVE SPECS
Phase 2	182
Release 96	201
Release 97	215
Release 98	278
Release 99	438
Release 4	517
Release 5	571 (tbc)
Release 6	9 (tbc)
TOTAL SPECIFICATIONS	2290

The number of approved change requests for these specifications continues to be high. When looking at the trend of approved change requests across the different 3GPP Releases the following picture emerges (including the provisional results of TSG#15 up to lunchtime on Wednesday 13 March):

CLASSIFICATION	CRs in 1999	CRs in 2000	CRs in 2001	CRs in 2002	TOTAL
Rel 99 Specifications	1345	4662	2263	287 (tbc)	8557
Rel-4 Specifications		455	2804	496 (tbc)	3755
Rel-5 Specifications		36	628	446 (tbc)	1101 (tbc)
				0	0
TOTAL	1345	5153	5695	1229	13 422

3.2 MCC performance

The MCC task still having the highest priority is the implementation of Change Requests and the delivery of the revised specifications within the shortest possible time. Previous reports have shown an improving trend for the implementation of CRs and Figure 2 below shows that the improved performance is currently being sustained. It can be seen that following TSG#15, 369 specifications were delivered by deadline 1 (84%) and that a further 66 specifications were delivered by deadline 2 (99%). Only 4 specifications (approx 1%) were not delivered within the prescribed deadlines. (You will remember that the default targets are for 90% of the change requests to have been implemented by deadline 1 and 100% by deadline 2. [Note: deadlines 1 and 2 following TSG#15 were increased by one week in order for MCC experts to take Christmas vacation.]

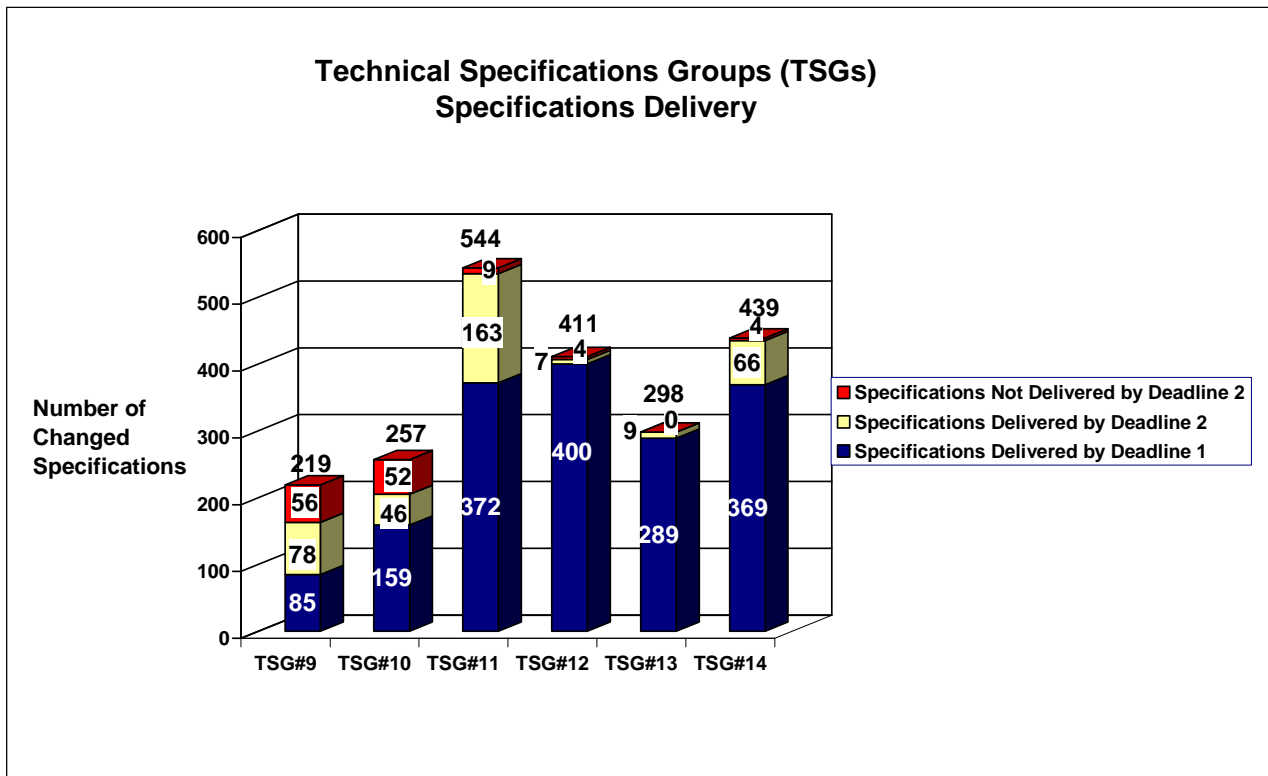


Figure 2: MCC Performance

TSG#14 expressed a clear wish for a quality indicator to be included within the MCC performance measurements. This has now been implemented, and the number of errors are now being measured in addition to the time taken for implementation. Since the close of TSG#14, 1803 CRs have been implemented by MCC (including 430 GERAN CRs). Two implementation errors have been detected representing an approximate error rate of 0,01%, or 1 error in 1000 implementations.

Of course, the detection of errors may take some time and it is possible that this figures rises. Nevertheless, these early results indicate that the quality of CR implementation is not being unreasonably compromised by the push for rapid implementation. (I have resisted the temptation to publish details of the 2 implementation errors!).

4 MCC Workload

4.1 Specifications Maintenance

Figure 3 below shows the number of new versions of specifications produced by MCC over time and shows how these are related to the Release mechanism.

It can easily be seen that the functional freeze of each Release gives rise to a peak of specifications production, but what is more alarming is that these peaks themselves show an increasing trend (cf the green

arrows on the chart). At the time of writing it was not clear precisely how many new versions of specifications would result from TSG#15 but it is estimated that this number could exceed 500. The precise number is still dependant on SA#15 decisions.

The accumulation of specifications, and the Releases to which they belong, contribute to an increasing workload for MCC, and the projection of these statistics towards Release 6 and beyond show that the current method of working could be unsustainable with the existing resources. Some corrective action is required and the TSGs should consider what action would be appropriate. The two most obvious possibilities are that either the workload has to be reduced, or the resources increased.

One possibility which TSG#15 may wish to consider, is the possibility of closing one or more of the earlier Releases such that their specifications need no longer be maintained. The implications of taking such a step would of course require serious contemplation, but this is a possibility that has certain attractions.

ACTION 2: TSG SA to consider whether it is necessary to maintain all existing Releases or whether it is feasible to close one or more of the earlier releases

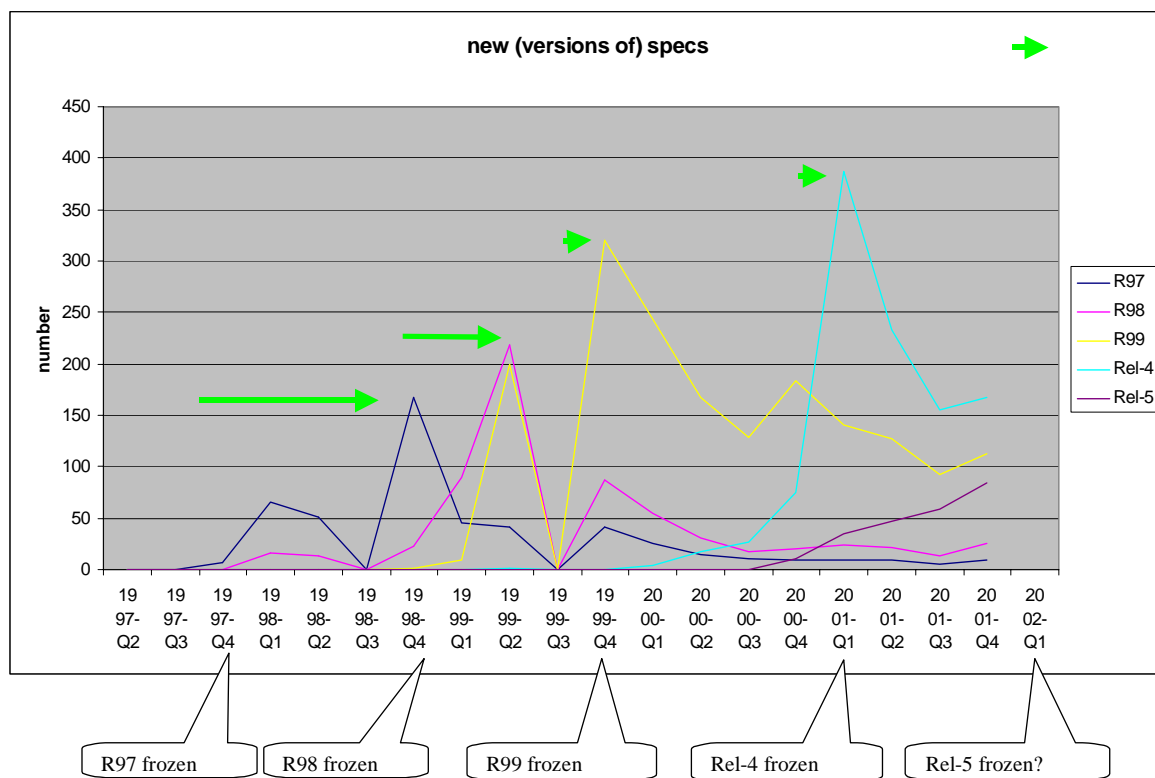


Figure 3: Chart showing production of new versions of 3GPP specs

4.2 Workplan maintenance

The maintenance of the 3GPP Workplan is taking an increasing amount of time. We are now in a position of having a very concise, but complete plan of the work being performed across the Project, but the resources required to maintain the current level of detail should not be under-estimated. This level of effort is fully justified *if* the Workplan is actively being used by Industry and some feedback from SA#15 would be useful to confirm that this is in fact the case. Assuming that the current level of detail and accuracy is merited, more resources may need to be diverted to maintain the Workplan.

ACTION 3: TSG SA to confirm that the existing comprehensive Workplan is being used by Industry and that the resources used to maintain it are therefore justifiable.

5 Budget issues

3GPP has benefited from a generous allocation of resources which have been used to fund comprehensive support services. However, as the Project matures, the Organizational Partners are indicating that they wish to see a reducing budget with time, and that they certainly would not wish to see an *increasing* budget. The dilemma is that, when considering section 4 above, the indications are that the workload is increasing with time and this is not commensurate with the concept of a reducing budget. The situation is containable at present but some corrective action may be required before the year end.

5.1 TTCN development and need for voluntary contributions

The budget for 2002 includes funding for the continuation of the development of TTCN test cases for 3G terminals, to a value of 754 kEUR (56 Man months). The Organizational Partners have agreed to fund this work but have made a plea that Individual Members seek voluntary assistance to complement the funded experts.

The decision has been taken by the TSG#15 that the TTCN test cases should now be based on the March 2002 specifications, and this decision will give rise to an estimated increase in budget requirement of about 15 man months. This increase places an even greater need for Individual Members to consider providing voluntary resources for this work. If voluntary resources are not made available then some alternative funding method will need to be considered.

ACTION 4: Individual Members to consider providing voluntary resources (human or monetary) for the development of TTCN.

6 Working methods

TSG#15 is the first occasion where document distribution has been conducted entirely by wireless means and where the meeting servers and access ports have been provided exclusively by MCC. This will of course result in considerable savings for future meeting hosts. MCC does not have a vast experience in providing meeting networks (and especially not those with exclusive wireless access), and to some extent the provision of this service is experimental. Nevertheless, the TSG#15 seems to have been satisfactory. Feedback from delegates is always appreciated in order that these services can be improved.

7 Concluding remarks.

2002 will be a difficult year for MCC. There are a number of personnel changes anticipated, indications show increasing workloads, and the allocated budget provided by the Organizational Partners must be respected. The role of the TSGs in prioritising the support services that they require will be an important one to ensure that the available resources are used to best effect.

Comments to: adrian.scrase@etsi.fr



ANNEX 1

To: 3GPP Organisation Partners and their members

Subject: Call for Experts for the ETSI Mobile Competence Centre (MCC)

Dear Madam,

Dear Sir,

The technical support services required by 3GPP are provided by the ETSI Mobile Competence Centre (MCC) which comprises of ETSI Secretariat staff, contracted experts coming from 3GPP Individual Members, and experts provided on a voluntary basis by the 3GPP Partners.

Vacancies will shortly become available for contracted experts to work on full time secondment as Project Managers in MCC according to the Task Description attached to this letter. Following satisfactory completion of a trial period, the contracts will extend until December 2003.

A general knowledge of mobile communications is required with a particular emphasis on GSM and 3G systems, together with good project management skills and Standardization processes.

Experts are particularly sought having experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Radio Layer 1 specification;
- Radio Layer 2 specification;
- Radio Layer 3 RR specification;
- Iub specification (including logical O&M);
- Iur specification;
- Iu specification;
- User Equipment - Core network layer 3 radio protocols (Call Control, Session Management, Mobility Management, SMS);
- Connection Management and Mobility Management related matters, both Circuit Switched and Packet protocols;
- Mobility Management, Call Control, Session Management, Short Message Service, and Location services L3 signaling between the user equipment and the core network;
- SIP Call Control protocol for the IM subsystem;
- SDP protocol for the IM subsystem;
- Signaling for interworking with GSM networks (e.g. handover and roaming);
- Core network signaling between the Core network nodes placed under its responsibility;
- Core network aspects of the Iu interface.

The Mobile Competence Centre is based at the ETSI Headquarters in Sophia Antipolis, where the Secretariat is offering the necessary support.

The specific tasks to be performed will be discussed during a Preparatory Meeting with short listed candidates.

Nominations for candidates to fill these positions should be received preferably before 31 March 2002, and should include a Curriculum Vitae of the candidate, in English, together with a short description of the relevant technical qualifications held and experience gained.

In order to speed up the procedure, would you please send your candidature in electronic form to the Recruitment Assistant Christine Voulgre <mailto:christine.voulgre@etsi.fr>.

Yours faithfully,

K.H. Rosenbrock
ETSI Director-General

Encl

Annex 1 Task Description

The contracted expert will perform the following standardization tasks:

Project Manager of 3GPP standardization groups

- support 3GPP meetings, (including subgroup meetings) prepare document list, meeting report, implement agreed actions and present results to parent body as appropriate;
- manage major work items and update/maintain a work plan for the work item indicating:
 - the affected specifications
 - necessary change requests
 - necessary new specifications
 - relevant standardization groups
 - meeting schedules and milestones.
- edit specifications under change control;
- supports relevant chairpersons by undertaking administrative functions and carrying out delegated tasks;
- progress liaison statements to relevant groups;
- implement change requests approved by the parent body in the specifications under change control;
- provide the resulting new working versions of specifications under change control to the standardization group experts.

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