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Title: Report of Support Team activities

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Agenda Item: 10

1   Introduction

This report covers the period between TSG#15 and TSG#16 and contains detailed information concerning the implementation of TSG#15 results.

2   The Support Team

2.1   MCC Departures

A number of experts are leaving MCC at or about the time of this TSG.

Hans Van der Veen, (Ericsson), has completed his task in supporting TSG RAN and RAN2, and was suitably thanked for his work by TSG RAN#16. Hans has supported RAN for three years, during a period of extreme activity, and has sustained a very high workload. His commitment to the work has been much appreciated by all.

Carolyn Taylor, (Motorola) has also completed here work in supporting RAN3 and has now left MCC. Carolyn too has provided support during a period of very high activity and worked hard to maintain her workload.

Shinobu Ikeda, (ARIB) will return to Japan in September, but he will participate in TSG#17.

HoCheol Kim, (TTA) will return to Korea in the August/September timeframe.

2.2   Filling the MCC vacancies

An open advertisement was made to fill the RAN vacancies, and by 31 March (the closing date) 32 applications had been received.

Following a shortlisting process, 5 candidates were called for interview and 2 successful candidates were selected. **Joern Krause** (Siemens AG) and **Claude Arzelier** (Vodafone UK) have now joined MCC.

ARIB has seen fit to provide a successor to their present expert, Shinobu Ikeda. **Tsukase Sasaki** has now joined MCC and after a period of training will replace Shinobu.

TTA have indicated that they wish to provide a replacement for HoCheol Kim and the search for a suitable candidate is currently underway.

It is hoped that with these changes there should be a seamless handover of support with the future support arrangements for RAN looking as follows:

TSG RAN	Cesar Gutierrez
RAN1	Tsukase Sasaki
RAN2	Claude Arzelier
RAN3	Joern Krause
RAN4	Cesar Gutierrez

It was expected that the expert currently supporting CN1 (Per Johan Jorgensen, Ericsson) would also leave the team. He has, however, decided to stay for a further contract term.

Claude and Joern are both participating in these TSGs and pictures of them are inserted below to help you identify them. Tsukase is not participating in these TSGs but his picture is inserted for further reference.

Claude Arzelier

Joern Krause

Tsukase Sasaki

2.3   MCC future Vacancies

With the replacements detailed above, MCC will remain at full strength with all Working Groups continuing to

receive dedicated support. It is not expected that any vacancies will arrive before the year end and, hopefully, not until mid 2003.

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 30 May 2002. This chart is regularly maintained and the latest version may always be obtained from the 3GPP website at http://www.3gpp.org/
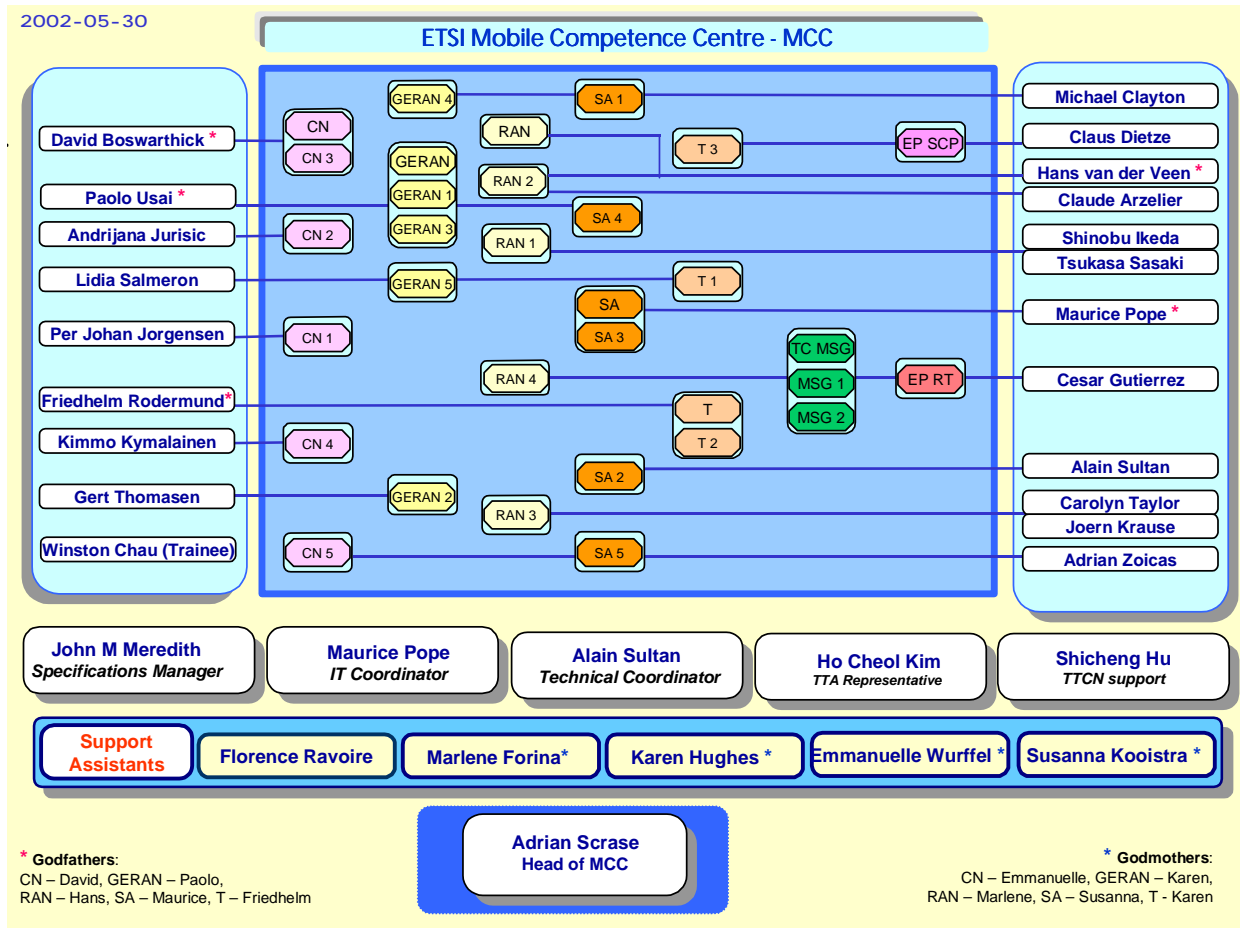

Figure 1:   MCC Organizational Chart

3   Statistics and targets

3.1   Interesting statistics

At the start of TSG#16, MCC were managing 2350 active specifications. The distribution of those specifications looks as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF ACTIVE SPECS
Phase 2	182
Release 96	201
Release 97	219
Release 98	280
Release 99	439
Release 4	521
Release 5	468
Release 6	40
TOTAL SPECIFICATIONS	**2350**

It is expected that approximately 600 new versions of specifications will result from TSG#16

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 at the start of TSG#16 (including the results of GERAN#8 and GERAN#9).

CLASSIFICATION	CRs in 1999	CRs in 2000	CRs in 2001	CRs in 2002	TOTAL
Rel 99 Specifications	1408	4400	2266	337	**8411**
Rel-4 Specifications		374	2807	745	**3926**
Rel-5 Specifications		27	620	544	**1191**
				0	**0**
TOTAL	**1408**	**4801**	**5693**	**1626**	**13 528**

It is expected that approximately 1500 CRs will result from TSG#16.

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. It can be seen from figure 2 below that following TSG#15, 453 specifications were delivered by deadline 1 (75%) and that a further 111 specifications were delivered by deadline 2 (94%). 36 specifications (approx 6%) 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.

These results show that as the number of specifications rises it is difficult to maintain the targets that have been set. This is the first occasion in the last five TSG sessions that the targets have been missed, but with a higher predicted number of specifications expected after TSG#16 it will be interesting to see what results can be achieved.
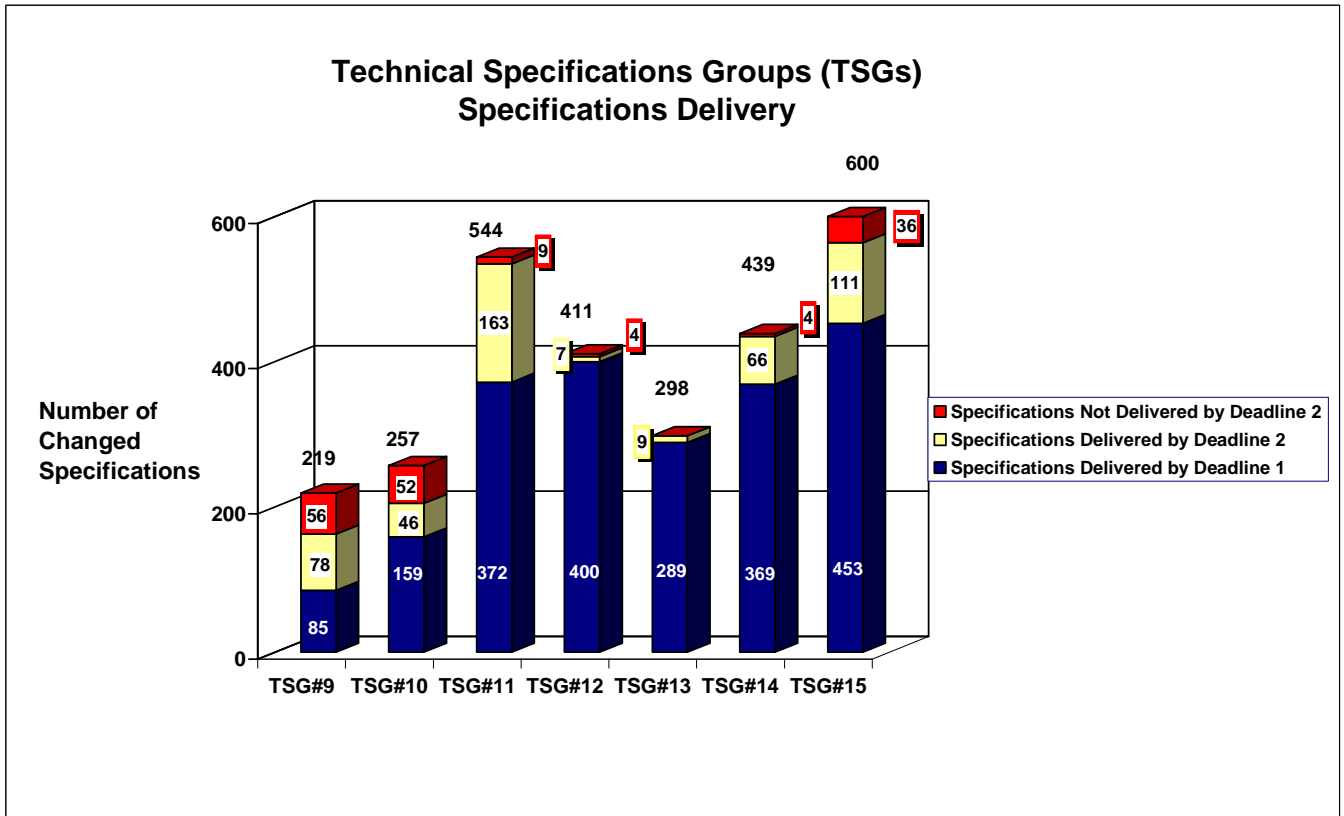
Technical Specifications Groups (TSGs) Specifications Delivery

Number of Changed Specifications

Legend:
- Specifications Not Delivered by Deadline 2 (red)
- Specifications Delivered by Deadline 2 (yellow)
- Specifications Delivered by Deadline 1 (blue)

Data:
- TSG#9: 219 total — 85 (Deadline 1), 78 (Deadline 2), 56 (Not Delivered)
- TSG#10: 257 total — 159 (Deadline 1), 46 (Deadline 2), 52 (Not Delivered)
- TSG#11: 544 total — 372 (Deadline 1), 163 (Deadline 2), 9 (Not Delivered)
- TSG#12: 411 total — 400 (Deadline 1), 7 (Deadline 2), 4 (Not Delivered)
- TSG#13: 298 total — 289 (Deadline 1), 9 (Deadline 2)
- TSG#14: 439 total — 369 (Deadline 1), 66 (Deadline 2), 4 (Not Delivered)
- TSG#15: 600 total — 453 (Deadline 1), 111 (Deadline 2), 36 (Not Delivered)

Figure 2:   MCC Performance

TSG#14 expressed a clear wish for a quality indicator to be included within the MCC performance measurements and this has now been implemented.

From the start of monitoring until the start of TSG#16, **1687** change requests had been implemented by MCC. 13 implementation errors have been detected representing an approximate error rate of 0,8%, or **8 errors in 1000 implementations**.

This is not an exact science and 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 unreasonably high.

4   MCC Workload

4.1   Specifications Maintenance

Figure 3 below shows the number of new versions of specifications produced by MCC per semester and shows how these are related to the Release mechanism. The figure includes those specifications resulting from TSG#15 but not those expected to be produced at TSG#16.
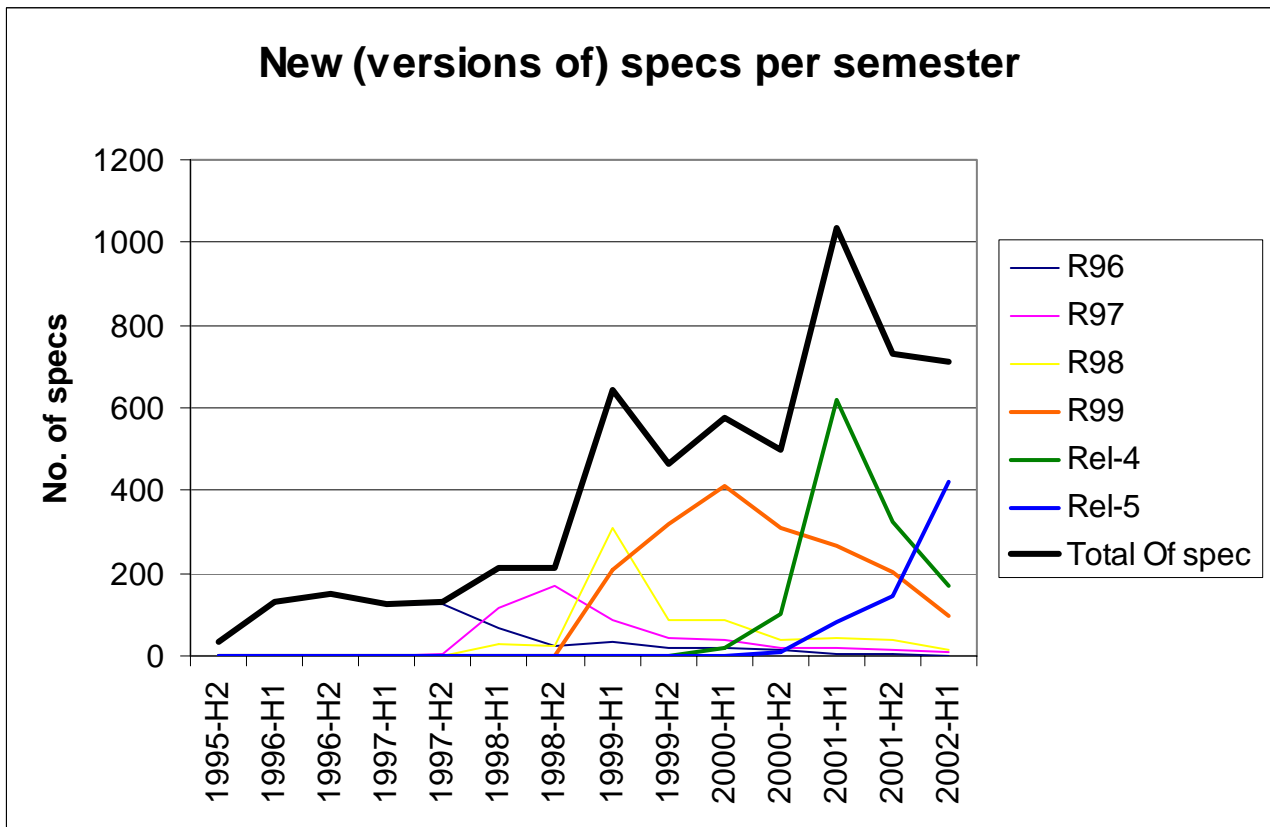
Figure 3:   New versions of specifications per semester

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. At the time of writing it was not clear precisely how many new versions of specifications would result from TSG#16 but it is estimated that this number could exceed 500.

This trend was already reported to SA#16 so the story is not new. Nevertheless, the rising number of specifications continues to be a source of concern for MCC for which some corrective action may be necessary.

Figure 4 below shows the volume of CRs implemented by MCC per quarter. It is expected that approximately 1500 CRs will result from TSG#16 but an increase is predicted for TSG#17 as a result of the functional freeze performed at TSG#16.
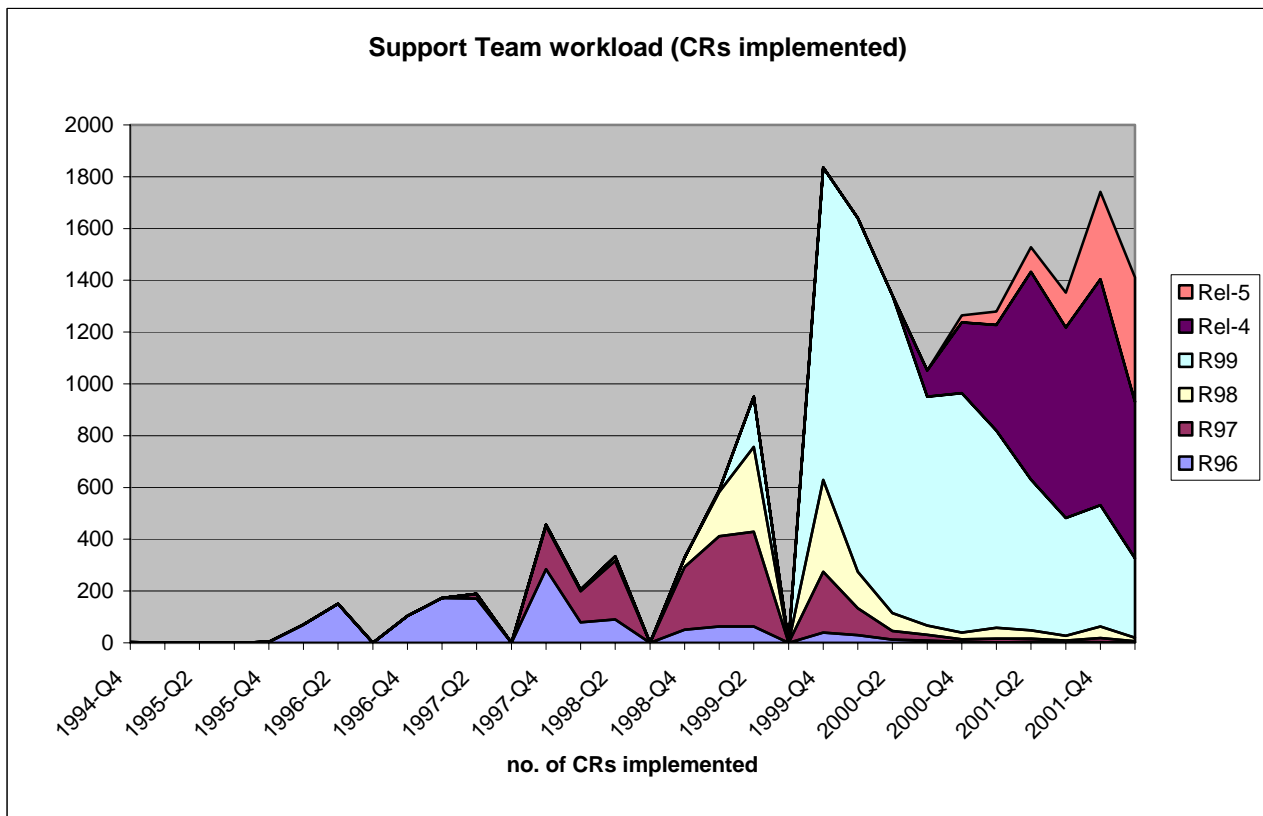
Support Team workload (CRs implemented)

Figure 4: CRs implemented per quarter

4.2 3GPP Work Plan maintenance

The maintenance of the 3GPP Workplan is taking an increasing amount of time and this led to a demand made at SA#15 for confirmation that the Workplan is being actively used by 3GPP Individual Members. Following that confirmation, and specific feedback from members that the Workplan is an important tool, it will be necessary to reassign resources within MCC so that sufficient time is made available for Workplan maintenance. It is expected that the reassignment of resources will take place during the Summer.

5 TTCN development and need for voluntary contributions

TSG#15 confirmed the proposal made by TSG T that the TTCN currently being developed for 3G terminals should be upgraded to the March 2002 specifications. This increased the budgetary requirement for that work and a plea was made for additional voluntary resources. The GSM Association has recently offered to provide half of the additional resources required on the understanding that the manufacturing community provide the remaining half. It is believed that efforts are being made to find these resources, but some clarity is required before additional experts can be recruited.

6 Concluding remarks.

A number of new experts have now joined MCC and these will be suitably trained over the coming weeks to ensure that they continue with the tradition of providing a high level of service. It is hoped that Chairmen see a seamless continuation of service that meets with their expectations.

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