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Liaison Statement to 3GPP TSG SA on Video Telephony

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High Level Document Summary:

Liaison Letter from GSMA SerG to 3GPP TSG SA on Circuit Switch Video Telephony new high-level requirement.

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To: 3GPP TSG SA, 3GPP SA1

From: GSMA Services Group (SerG)

Subject: Video Telephony new requirement

Date: 20th of November 2003

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Attachment: PRD SE.34 ver 3.1.0

1. Background

GSMA SerG has identified a gap within 3GPP specifications regarding video telephony service rendering.

When a subscriber is heading out of a cell while having a circuit switch video call, the video quality gradually degrades and the call is eventually dropped. Circuit switched Video telephony (i.e. UDI 64 kbit/s bearer service) suffers from a lower coverage range compare to voice (e.g. 12.2kbps AMR).As such, uncovered areas for video telephony will exist through out operator networks (e.g. within buildings) and despite soft handoff benefits.

Most operators consider video telephony as one of the major service differentiator brought by UMTS in the early days and UMTS adoption take off might be jeopardised if the service is unreliable and user experience unacceptable.

In the current state of 3GPP specification, there are no appropriate mechanisms to handle this issue. GSMA SERG is then requesting from 3GPP SA that any Change Request introducing this new requirement and defining the corresponding mechanism can be incorporated in the specifications. GSMA SERG is aware that SA agreed in principle to freeze the requirements for Rel'6, but request SA to make an exception since this new requirement is essential for most operators. And considering the urgent need for such mechanism, it should be included in the earliest release as possible.

Operators will subsequently provide corresponding CR in a timely manner introducing the following new requirement:

It shall be possible to switch from UDI 64 kbit/s bearer service to voice service upon coverage triggering. This service switch shall be automatic without service disruption e.g. the subscriber will simply experience the removal of the video part of the call without disruption of the voice part. Subsequently it should be possible to switch back to UDI 64 kbit/s bearer service if video coverage is recovered.

2. Action

To 3GPP TSG SA:

GSMA SERG kindly requests that 3GPP TSG SA allows the introduction of new requirement within Release 6 and possibly within earlier releases on video switching to voice coverage triggered since considered as highly strategic for the operator community.