Source:	**O2, AT&T Wireless Services, Rogers Wireless, T-Mobile, Vodafone, Orange and Telecom Italia Mobile**
Title:	**Request for Workshop on Evolution and Management of 3GPP specifications beyond Release 6**
Document for:	**Discussion**
Agenda Item:	**8.9**

1 Introduction

During TSG SA#21 (22-25 September 2003) mmO2 inputted a discussion document on the topic of "Evolution and Management of 3GPP specifications beyond Release 6" (SP – 030520). This topic has been further discussed and the GSM Association operators attending 3GPP SA would like to request that TSG SA sponsor a 3GPP workshop to discuss the topic and examine the options for future specification management.

2 General

In their input document, SP – 30520, O2 highlighted the key issues of increased complexity of the specifications and the fragmentation of the standards with other SDOs, such as OMA, being responsible for the technical specifications of 3GPP services.

The O2 input also pointed out the need review the overall specification evolution and management processes within the 3GPP in order to ensure that they are meeting the requirements of both operators and vendors. Key requirements for the future include mechanisms that:

- Enable 3GPP specifications to evolve independently of other bodies (e.g. OMA), whilst ensuring the support of a mutually agreed set of capabilities which meet their requirements;

- Allow the rapid specification of new service enabling features, without necessitating a system-wide specification Release;

- Recognise that the constituent parts of the 3GPP system need to evolve reflecting different economic and technology life-cycles (e.g. UTRAN = large investment, mature, slow evolution. IMS = new, relatively low investment, rapid short term evolution);

- Simple and flexible specification management and publication processes – allowing the timely publication of 3GPP specifications;

- Maintain overall system integrity;

- Reduce cost (for both the MCC and individual 3GPP members).

This topic has been discussed by a number of the GSM Association operators and the conclusion of these discussions if that they have identified the need for 3GPP workshop to operators and vendors examine the current release structure, discuss alternatives and propose a way forward to the next TSG SA meeting (SA#23).

The workshop should be held well in advance of SA#23 to allow the conclusion of the workshop to be refined into a solid proposal to be put before SA#23. Therefore we believe early February 2004 would be the most appropriate time.

3 Proposal

It is proposed that TSG SA should sponsor and propose a 3GPP workshop to addresses the above requirements for the future evolution and management of the 3GPP specifications beyond Release 6. The workshop should be tasked with examining the current release structure, discuss alternatives and propose a way forward to the next TSG SA meeting (SA#23).