3GPP TSG-T WG3 Meeting #32   **T3-040531**
New York, USA, 10 - 13 August 2004

Title:	LS on USIM support by 2G terminals of Rel-99 and Rel-4
Release:	Release 5
Work Item:	n/a
Attachment:	none

Source:	T3
To:	SA1, SA3
CC:	SA

Contact Person:
    Name: Stefan Kaliner
    Tel. Number: +49 228 936 18474
    E-mail Address: stefan.kaliner@t-mobile.de

1. Overall Description:

During their last meeting TSG-T WG 3 have come to the question, whether or not it is an allowed option (and thus a valid implementation) for a 2G terminal of Rel-99 or Rel-4 to support a USIM application on a UICC.

While from Rel-5 onwards USIM support is clearly mandatory for 2G terminals (and SIM support is optional), the situation in Rel-99 and Rel-4 is less clear: The following quote from TS 22.101 requires a 2G terminal to support a SIM application on a UICC while there is no mentioning of support of a USIM application on a UICC:

12.1.3 UICC usage in 2G Terminals

It shall be possible to use the UICC in 2G terminals to provide access to networks supporting GERAN (including networks based on earlier GSM specifications). In order to achieve that option, it shall be possible to store a module containing 2G access functionalities on the UICC, which shall be accessed via the standard SIM-terminal interface.

USIM support by 2G terminals of releases earlier than Rel-5 is thus neither forbidden nor allowed.

As this has been adopted as a working baseline in T3, the support of USIM by 2G terminals earlier than Rel-5 (although not explicitly forbidden) is not specifically mentioned in current specifications. This gap will materialise if a 2G terminal of Rel-99 or Rel-4 with USIM support comes up. Problems in type approval testing will be one potential consequence.

T3 further noticed that also SA3 specifications are unclear at this point: TS 33.102 Rel-99 and Rel-4 gives the following statements,

6.8.1.4 R99+ ME

Release 99+ ME that has UTRAN radio capability shall support the USIM-ME interface as specified in TS 31.102 [20].
Release 99+ ME that has no UTRAN radio capabilities may support the USIM-ME interface as specified in TS 31.102 [20].

i.e. 2G terminals of Rel-99 and Rel-4 may support a USIM, while in TS 33.102 Rel-5 it is explained that

6.8.1.4 R99+ ME
Release 99+ ME that has UTRAN radio capability shall support the USIM-ME interface as specified in TS 31.102 [20].
Rel-4 ME that has no UTRAN radio capabilities may support the USIM-ME interface as specified in TS 31.102 [20].
Rel-5+ ME that has no UTRAN radio capabilities shall support the USIM-ME interface as specified in TS 31.102 [20].

i.e. no mentioning of USIM support by a 2G terminal of Rel-99 and a "may"-condition for 2G terminals of Rel-4. Besides the apparent inconsistency between the releases of 33.102 regarding 2G terminals of Rel-99, the question remains, where these requirements (for 2G terminals earlier than Rel-5) actually come from.

2. Actions:

To SA1: To kindly consider the question whether it is an allowed option for a 2G terminal of Rel-99 or Rel-4 to support a USIM application on a UICC and eventually clarify this in their specifications.

To SA3: To kindly check the consistency of TS 33.102 between Rel-99/Rel-4 and Rel-5 regarding USIM support by 2G terminals and inform T3 about the source of these requirements.

3. Date of Next TSG-T3 Meetings:

T3#33   16 – 19 November 2004   Sophia Antipolis, France (ETSI)