

Liaison Statement to 3GPP SA



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Date	05-09-2019	Meeting Time	California/USA: 9am – 10am (PST) London/Lisbon: 5pm – 6pm (GMT)
WG / Project	5G Work Group		
To	3GPP SA, SA2 TSG		
Work Group Chaired by	Nigel Bird (Orange); Mark Grayson (Cisco); Florin Baboescu (Broadcom)		
Topic	WLAN integration into 3GPP 5G systems		
Action ID Prefix	N/A		

Dear SA Chair Georg Mayer, and SA2 Chair Puneet Jain,

WBA thanks 3GPP TSG-SA for ongoing dialog regarding WLAN integration into 3GPP 5G systems. WBA has also taken note with great interest of the approval of the new Study Item proposals for Release 17 related to these topics including:

1. Study on enhancement of support for 5WWC (SP-190562), and
2. Study Extended Access Traffic Steering, Switch and Splitting support in the 5G system architecture (SP-190558).

It is the hope of WBA and our members that these Study Items are going to be prioritized with subsequent normative work defined in the Release 17 timeframe.

WBA would also like to bring to your attention the joint work between WBA and NGMN which has been captured into a white paper. This joint work describes some of the key opportunities, use cases, requirements and key challenges associated with being able to offer 5G experiences and services over both 5G NR and WLAN based access networks, highlighting gap items which need to be addressed by the industry to fully realize the opportunities presented by the convergence between 5G and WLAN ([link](#)).

Some of these gaps may be addressed in the above mentioned study items for further enhancing WLAN integration into the 5GC, e.g. update to RAN based signaling to include WLAN assistance information, enhancements to ATSSS functionality and a new interface definition to enable inter-TNGF mobility and the mobility between TNGF and NR nodes without access through the core functions. Also, a tighter integration between 5G-NR and WLAN for improved session continuity and better resource utilization between NR and WLAN is important for heterogeneous enterprise/verticals, residential and public WLAN environments

Further actions are needed by the industry and standards bodies to address key gaps highlighted in this paper for realizing new business opportunities presented by the RAN convergence between 5G and WLAN

Some of these challenges are:

1. to enable WLAN only devices, with or without 3GPP identity and SIM credentials on the device, to access 5G services on PLMN networks, to expand 5G experiences to existing as well as future WLAN only devices. Addressing this gap may require support for EAP-TLS/EAP-TTLS by the PLMN networks.
2. to improve network visibility between 5G and WLAN. To realize new business opportunities there is demand from cellular operators for a standardized interface providing improved visibility and control in the configuration and management of WLANs. Wi-Fi providers would also like to request 5G core network resources via a standardized interface for enterprise

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users/applications, to provide service differentiation to their users. In addition, the Wi-Fi operators could provide better user experience through a standardized solution providing improved visibility and transition management in the operation of overlapping cellular and Wi-Fi networks. These gaps might need to get addressed across different standards body including 3GPP, IEEE and/or WFA.

Proposed Action to SA and SA2

- WBA kindly asks 3GPP TSG-SA and SA2 to continue the work in Release 17 to normative stage on both
 - 1) Study on enhancement of support for 5WWC and
 - 2) Study Extended Access Traffic Steering, Switch and Splitting support in the 5G System Architecture.

- WBA kindly asks 3GPP TSG SA2 to take into consideration the conclusions of our work detailed above into both
 - 1) Study on enhancement of support for 5WWC and
 - 2) Study Extended Access Traffic Steering, Switch and Splitting support in the 5G System Architecture.

Thank you very much in advance and for any additional information please contact WBA PMO (pmo@wballiance.com).

Next WBA F2F Meetings:

- Sep 30 - Oct 3, Frankfurt, Germany – [Wireless Global Congress \(WGC\)](#)

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