3GPP/OP#7 Meeting
New Orleans, United States
26 April 2002

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Source: **Secretary**

Title: **A more formal relationship between 3GPP and external bodies**

Agenda item: 8

Document for:

Decision	**X**
Discussion	
Information	

1   Introduction

3GPP has been approached by several external organizations that are seeking to establish a much closer relationship. An example of such a request is attached in the form of correspondence received from the International Multimedia Teleconferencing Consortium (IMTC). A similar request has been received by email correspondence from the Tele Management (TM) Forum, the MExE Forum, and the WAP Forum.

2   Points to discuss

3GPP already has a process whereby authorization is granted to the TSGs to liaise with external bodies.   A   list   of   such   authorizations   is   kept   on   the   3GPP   web   site   at http://www.3gpp.org/Management/Liaisons.htm

What is sought by the bodies above is a much closer relationship which:

   i)   Sets down a documented understanding of the relationship, it's goals and expectations;

   ii)   Allows contributions to be sourced appropriately (e.g., TM Forum);

   iii)   To protect the autonomy of the source and to give credit to that source where appropriate;

   iv)   To enable high level contact between the officials of the respective bodies;

   v)   To better understand any IPR issues that may arise.

The above list is by no means exhaustive but contains the elements that are already contained within the agreements established between these external bodies and the SDOs, for example ETSI.

The Organizational Partners should discuss what possibilities exist for establishing formal relationships between 3GPP and external bodies and to decide how best to proceed.

International Multimedia Telecommunications Consortium

To: Mr. Asok Chatterjee, Chair PCG
         asok.chatterjee@ericsson.com

From: Dr. Istvan Sebestyen, IMTC President

Subject: Request for a More Formal IMTC Liaison Relationship with 3GPP

Date: December 27, 2001

Dear Mr. Chatterjee,

At the recent ITU-T Forum Summit in Geneva, I discussed with you the possibility of establishing a more formal relationship with the 3GPP. I believe that this could best be served directly through the Project Co-ordination Group, since the PCG is responsible for overall timeframe and management of technical work to ensure timely production of 3GPP specifications. The IMTC currently has liaison relationships with several 3GPP Organizational Partners, including ETSi, TIA and TTC. Additionally, I would like to move IMTC's organization forward by exploring a liaison relationship with the 3GPP.

Let me introduce the IMTC (www.imtc.org). The IMTC is an industry organization representing approximately 100 equipment manufacturers, service providers, and users of multimedia telecommunication systems around the world. IMTC's mission is to promote and facilitate the development and use of interoperable, real-time, Multimedia Telecommunication products and services, based on open international standards.

The IMTC does not set standards; however, it is an organization that complements standards. In that spirit the IMTC has been very successful in the support for and promotion of ITU-T standards (e.g. H.320, H.323, H.324, H.248, T.120) based related real-time multimedia communication. IMTC activities have included defining requirements for standardization; carrying out interoperability tests for products under development; providing feedback experiences (e.g. where standards are ambiguous) gained through implementation; defining specific IMTC profiles to reduce the number of options in standards for certain applications; carrying out promotion for the standards and technology; as well as providing tutorials on standards and technology.

However, the IMTC does not see itself as an organization that only promotes ITU-T. Our goal is to support and promote the real-time multimedia conferencing standards and the industry regardless of the protocol platforms and standards used. In other words, we would like to become more involved also, with real-time multimedia standards of organizations like the IETF (e.g. for IP: SIP and MEGACO-based) and of 3GPP (e.g. for mobile multimedia: H.324M, PSS – packet switched multimedia streaming). Recently the IMTC set up Activity Groups performing interoperability testing in those areas. In addition to our focus to support

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interoperability testing within one protocol class (e.g. within H.323), we need to interconnect with implementations of other protocol classes (e.g. H.323 with SIP based implementations). That is the space that we would like to see ourselves continue to explore.

The IMTC has maintained an official liaison relationship with the ITU, since 1995, through their ITU-T Rec. A.4 procedures. Whatever we do with the ITU falls officially under that category. Along those lines, I would like to explore with you the possibility of establishing a similar relationship with the 3GPP.

I would sincerely hope that we could establish a "political level" relationship as a first step. Subsequent steps would be to work out the details and put real substance regarding the liaison activities necessary to establish working level relationships with some of your Technical Specification Groups, and IMTC's Work Groups, such as Network Infrastructure, System and Protocol, Requirements, as well as Education and Promotion.

In conclusion, I welcome the opportunity for you to review our request and promote it for acceptance by the 3GPP. I am looking forward hearing from you.

I wish you a Happy New Year!

Kind regards,
Istvan Sebestyen
IMTC President

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