

Source: Funding and Finance Group Chairman
Title: Funding and Finance Group Activity Report
Agenda item: 6.1

Document for:

Decision	X
Discussion	
Information	

1 Introduction

The Funding and Finance Group (FFG) has met twice since the last PCG/OP meeting. The meetings took place in Hameenlinna, Finland on 6 June, and in Frankfurt, Germany, on 19 September. Both meetings were held in conjunction with TSG meetings. The following representatives took part in the meetings:

Hameenlinna, 6 June 2003

Keiji Yoshino	TTC	Chairman
Byoung-Moon Chin	TTA	
Nobuhiro Horisaki	TTC	
Fumihiko Hada	ARIB	
Yukio Yoshimura	ARIB	
Adrian Scrase	MCC	
Kari Lang	ETSI	
Don Zelmer Committee T1		Reporting

Frankfurt, 19 September 2003

Keiji Yoshino	TTC	Chairman
Byoung-Moon Chin	TTA	
Fumihiko Hada	ARIB	
Yukio Yoshimura	ARIB	
Adrian Scrase	MCC	
Kari Lang	ETSI	
Asok Chatterjee	T1	Reporting

FFG has continued to monitor 3GPP expenditure for 2003 based on reports received from MCC, and has prepared a draft budget for 2004. These issues are addressed in the next two sections.

2 Year 2003 Expenditure to June 2003

FFG received and reviewed a comprehensive status report of the expenditure incurred by the Mobile Competence Centre for the first half of 2003. For completeness, the status report has been submitted to this OP meeting for information [3GPP/OP#10(03)06].

Whilst reviewing the Status Report, FFG noted that expenditure was being well controlled and that the year end prediction indicated that 3GPP would close within its prescribed budget. It was also noted that further costs savings had been made for Travel and Subsistence and that expenditure under this budget line was much less than had been originally predicted.

3 Year 2004 draft Budget

FFG has prepared a draft budget for 2004 which can be found in document **3GPP/OP#10(03)08**.

3.1 2004 Support Budget

Due note has been taken for the need to reduce cost where possible but, at the same time, to retain a service level which is expected by the 3GPP community. FFG had noted that two experts would leave MCC during the course of 2003 and that there was insufficient budget for them to be replaced. However, the restructuring of TSG GERAN, and the future merging of WGs CN2 and CN4, means that it should be possible for the service level to be retained with reduced resources. This cost saving is reflected in the 2004 draft Budget.

FFG also considered the good progress that had been made in reducing Travel and Subsistence costs and, based on this experience, the 2004 draft budget shows a further decrease for this budget line. However, it was noted that the TSGs had agreed that their WGs should only meet once between successive TSG meetings and that if they met more frequently then MCC support could not be assured. The reduced Travel and Subsistence budget line for 2004 is only achievable if this condition is respected.

In summary, the proposed 2004 Budget for 3GPP support shows a reduction of 5% when compared with the 2003 budget, and shows a 16% reduction over two years.

FFG recommends that the proposed budget be approved by the Organizational Partners.

Recommendation 1: FFG recommends that the Partners approve the draft Support Budget for 2004 **3GPP/OP#10(03)08**.

3.2 2004 Specific Tasks Budget

FFG was made aware of two requests for funding of specific tasks in 2004. These are for the further development of TTCN for the FDD mode and for start of TTCN development for the TDD LCR (low chip rate) mode.

The development of TTCN for the FDD mode is an ongoing programme of activity that will take place over several years and previous discussions had confirmed the commitment for this work to continue. The demand for 2004 is in line with previous years and FFG recommends that the demand be approved. However, the use of voluntary resources is still considered by FFG to be an essential element of this work and further efforts should be made by the 3GPP community in this respect.

FFG has considered the demand for funding for the development of TTCN for the TDD LCR mode based on discussions that have taken place in TSG T. It is clear that this represents important work but FFG were concerned that funding this activity from the central budget would raise the payments expected from the Organizational Partners beyond their means. FFG recommends that the Partners discuss this demand to examine what funding method is most appropriate.

Recommendation 2: FFG recommends that the Partners approve the continued funding of TTCN development for FDD mode and that the demand to start TTCN for the TDD mode be further discussed by the Organizational Partners **3GPP/OP#10(03)08**.

4 FFG future activity

FFG has planned the following future meetings:

12-13 Feb 2004	China/Japan
4 June 2004	Korea (conjoint with TSGs)
10 Sept 2004	US (conjoint with TSGs)