

Source: ITU-T SSG Chairman (J. Visser, Nortel Networks, Canada)

Title: Summary of recent progress in ITU-T SSG

Agenda item: 10

Document for:

Decision	
Discussion	
Information	X

1. General

1.1 The fifth meeting of the ITU-T Special Study Group on "IMT-2000 and Beyond" in the 2001-2004 study period, took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 4 to 8 November 2002. This summary report provides an overview of progress. The material herein is primarily based on meeting reports, with the summary at the end provided by the author.

1.2 In his opening remarks, the SSG Chairman stated his objectives for this meeting of the SSG:

- substantially progress the next level of detail of core network aspects of the Vision work
- progress draft new Recommendation Q.1741.2 "IMT-2000 References to Release 4 of GSM evolved UMTS Core Network with UTRAN Access Network" to the point where it may be proposed for AAP Consent at the closing plenary of this meeting
- progress draft new Recommendation Q.1742.1 "IMT-2000 References to ANSI-41 evolved Core Network with cdma2000 Access Network" to the point where it may be proposed for AAP Consent at the closing plenary of this meeting
- review the core network portions of the draft Handbook on deployment of IMT-2000 systems and prepare those portions for SSG approval per Recommendation A.13 at the closing plenary of this meeting
- substantially enhance the draft deliverables on harmonization and convergence, and related mobility management aspects, under development with a view to providing results from a global perspective that will be of value to, and directly influence, the bodies doing the detailed technical specifications
- ensure that the results achieved on working procedures are progressed independent of the issues in alternative deliverables, and assess whether we can reach a consensus on alternative deliverables

1.3 These objectives were substantially realized as described further below.

2 Approval of Draft New Recommendations

2.1 Draft new Recommendation Q.1742.1 "IMT-2000 References to ANSI-41 evolved Core Network with cdma2000 Access Network" was proposed for AAP Consent at the closing plenary of the SSG. After the normal procedures with respect to permission for references, patent declarations and copyright declarations, Q.1742.1 was consented for AAP. It was subsequently approved on December 16, 2002.

2.2 Draft new Recommendation Q.1741.2 "IMT-2000 References to Release 4 of GSM evolved UMTS Core Network with UTRAN Access Network" was proposed for AAP Consent at the closing plenary of the SSG. After the normal procedures with respect to permission for references, patent declarations and copyright declarations, Q.1741.2 was consented for AAP. It was subsequently approved on December 29, 2002. (The slight delay with respect to Rec. Q.1742.1 was due only to an administrative delay in receiving approval from ETSI to reproduce extracts of some of their copyrighted material.)

3 Approval of Handbook: "Deployment of IMT-2000 Systems"

3.1 The core network portions of the first edition of the Handbook, "Deployment of IMT-2000 Systems" were reviewed and agreed by the SSG. Per Recommendation A.13, the core network portions of the Handbook were therefore agreed as a Supplement:

3.2 Subsequent to the SSG meeting, there was some controversy over certain parts of the radio access portions of the Handbook and some further adjustments were made before it was approved by ITU-R WP 8F. The Handbook is now in preparation for publication and should be available soon. Work has begun on the next version, with emphasis on those areas where no or incomplete material was available.

4 Progress on Fixed/Mobile Convergence

4.1 Contribution D.108: "The Fixed Mobile Convergence: a Perspective from Developing Nations" provided an overview and justification for work under Q.7/SSG (Convergence) regarding support of roaming users into fixed networks where there is limited or no roaming capability. This perspective set the direction for work in this area in the SSG meeting and in a subsequent Rapporteur's meeting (further details below.)

5 Results from Selected SSG Rapporteurs Meetings

5.1 Q.2/SSG progressed its work at a face-to-face Rapporteurs meeting 24-28 March 2003 in Geneva, with substantial progress realized on the draft deliverable as a result of enhanced understanding of the requirements and the potential applicability of MobileIP for inter-IMT 2000 Family member roaming. Further work is required before the draft deliverable will be ready for circulation for review and comment outside the SSG. Such review is seen as a necessary step and will be carried out before approval is sought.

5.2 Q.3/SSG will be progressing the next set of IMT 2000 Family member referencing deliverables through electronic means with substantial progress anticipated for the next SSG meeting, although not expected to be completed until the subsequent SSG meeting in November 2003.

5.3 Q.7/SSG substantially advanced the work on a draft new Recommendation Q.FMCRReq

“Principles and Requirements for Convergence of Fixed and Existing IMT-2000 Systems” indicated in section 5.3 above. This is anticipated to be ready for approval on schedule (4Q2003) and the next deliverable, “Network architecture and interface requirements to facilitate evolution of existing public fixed networks towards converged core network, supporting IMT-2000 capabilities” is expected to take shape this year and be ready for consideration for approval in 2Q2004.

6 Summary

6.1 The SSG was formed at WTSA-2000, 27 September - 6 October 2000 in Montreal, Canada. Since its inception, the SSG has developed its structure, established a work plan and progressed a number of important topics, achieving a number of significant deliverables along the way.

6.2 The SSG has:

- globalized the regional IMT-2000 Family Member specifications
- given direction to core network studies through establishing a vision for systems beyond IMT-2000
- helped stimulate and supported key activities on the harmonization of IMT 2000 Family members
- progressed studies on inter-IMT 2000 Family member roaming
- substantially progressed the work on convergence of fixed and mobile networks
- delivered the core network portions of the first ITU cross-sector (R, T and D) Handbook on Deployment of IMT 2000 systems

6.3 The SSG has accomplished the above despite a number of negative factors, notably the protracted telecommunications industry downturn and the resulting scarcity of resources, and the initial resistance to the SSG taking on any role. The ongoing determination of the leadership team to add value on a global basis in a context of cooperation, collaboration and no duplication of work with other SDOs and forums has contributed to the successes the SSG has achieved to date.

6.4 There is widespread realization that mobile access will be the predominant subscriber access mechanism (already reported to be the case in some one hundred countries), and that it is essential for core networks to evolve to take this into account. The industry downturn has focussed attention on near and medium term aspects, with reduced emphasis on longer term matters. The SSG has been working towards the longer term view, and anticipates, now that the telecommunications industry is starting to come out of the protracted downturn, essential greater emphasis will be placed on longer term directions.
