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SMG Agreed Position at SMG#27

## STANDARDISING EMBEDDED APPLICATIONS IN UMTS

The recent SMG1, SMG4 and SMG12 meeting addressed the possibility of standardising codecs (voice, video and text) for use in UMTS. To date much of the SMG1 work has been based on the concept of “generic bearers” with the objective of avoiding limitations in upgrading the UMTS network for future applications. There is clearly a need for this but is there also a need to define some “standard” teleservices or “embedded applications” for UMTS?

In GSM we developed a number of bearer services but these are in general under-used for many reasons, mostly to do with usability and availability of applications. Any application can be written and run on a MeXe-enabled terminal using generic bearers but the key questions are:

- Will the market for individual applications be large enough to keep the unit cost low?
- How will real-time communications work (when each party has to have an application running the same standards)?
- Will developers bother to write applications needed by UMTS users when the extent of the market for these is unclear at the start (for example, would SMS exist today in every GSM terminal if we had developed a generic signalling bearer?)
- Can the use of radio spectrum be optimised for certain applications if those applications are known?
- Can the operator’s job of interworking with other devices, offering call forwarding and call store-and-forward (cf. Voicemail) be made easier if the content of the application is known?

In the light of the above, SMG has agreed the following:

*The market for UMTS applications is dependent on a common set of basic embedded applications which provide something better than “standard” facilities on today’s mobiles, for example video telephony, text telephony, email capability, fax capability. SMG needs to identify the appropriate embedded applications and recommend support of particular standards (pre-existing or new standards) in various categories of mobiles.*

PT SMG will create a distribution list (SMG\_APPLICATIONS@LIST.ETSI.FR) for a “virtual meeting” to discuss these issues and agree a list of embedded applications to go forwards into the SMG1 standards. Kevin Holley (SMG4 chairman) will act as “virtual chairman” on the list.

Initial output should be available in time for the next SMG1 meeting (2-6 November), although it is likely that the initial output will need to be refined a little after SMG1. The aim is to complete the final output by the end of November 1998.

