Title:	**LS on clarification of MBMS charging issues**
Release:	**Rel-6**
Source:	**SA 3**
To:	**SA 1**

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Attachments: none

1. Overall Description

SA3 has considered the charging requirements in relationship with MBMS security issues. SA3 would like to query from SA1 if the following assumption made in a SA3 contribution (S3-030238) on charging is valid:

> *"The nature of the MBMS service (e.g. user occasionally listens in to a multicast transmission) makes it difficult for the network to charge for the exact amount of content that the user has consumed; the network may simply not have any way to find out this data. That is why it is more likely that charging has to be based on a model where the user and the network operator agree beforehand for a certain time unit during which the user is authorized to utilize the MBMS service; the user is paying for this possibility and there is no further counting about how many bits of the content the user actually received. In other words, the flat rate charging is applied at least during the agreed time interval. On the other hand, the time interval may be short, e.g a couple of hours, or it can last longer, e.g. a whole month."*

The assumptions made in the above quote seem to contradict with SA1 requirement that all charging models are supported, including time-based and volume-based.

Stage-1 TS 22.146 V6.2.0 states in chapter *7.2 Multicast mode* the following:

> *"Examples of the type of the charging information that could be collected include:*
>   *- multicast session duration*
>   *- time when joining and leaving a multicast subscription group, duration of membership to a multicast subscription group*
>   *- time when joining and leaving a multicast group, duration of membership to a multicast group*
>   *- multicast session volume of contents"*

In SA3 there were concerns raised that only such charging models should be supported for which effective verification mechanisms may be developed. SA3 would like to inform SA1 that the current solutions proposed in SA3 are primarily designed to support flat rate and pay-per-view charging models and may not be ideally suited to fine grained time or volume based charging of actual use of the service.

2. Actions to SA1

1) To kindly provide information if the work on security mechanisms can be based on the assumption that there is no need to verify the exact amount of:

    a. bits received by the user;

    b. time during which user received the content,

    or whether effective verification mechanisms need to be developed for these purposes.

3. Date of Next SA 3 Meetings

SA3 Ad-Hoc	03 – 04 Sep 2003	Europe (TBC)
SA3 #30	06 - 10 Oct 2003	Portugal
SA3 #31	18 – 21 Nov 2003	London (TBC)