3GPP TSG-CN WG4 Meeting #24   **N4-041204**
Sophia Antipolis, France. 16th to 20th August 2004.

Title:	**LS on Evaluation of the alternatives for SMS fraud countermeasures.**

Source:	**CN4**
To:	**GSM-A IREG, GSM-A SG**
Cc:	**SA3**

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1. Overall Description:

During discussions on SMS fraud counter measures in CN4, a question regarding the desired scope of the solutions was raised. It was considered whether a solution addressing only the particular SMS fraud scenarios of 'faking' and 'spoofing' is desired, or whether in fact a greater remit is to be addressed. That remit could be to secure the SS7 network as a whole, whilst also providing a solution to the immediate SMS fraud issues.

SA3 have re-initiated the work on MAPsec within 3GPP which, when completed, would allow network operators to secure SS7 connections for all MAP messages passing between them. However, it was noted in CN4 that a similar solution would be to transport MAP over IP using SIGTRAN and to secure the IP links using IPSec. This then raised the question of the relevant timing of the two potential solutions, and hence the likelihood that MAPsec work would ultimately be deployed in networks. CN4 does not have the relevant expertise or the required operator attendance to evaluate this.

However, it would seem clear that IP and hence, SIGTRAN interconnect between operators will occur at some point in the future, whilst the work on MAPsec would also potentially lead to interconnect between operators on MAPsec secured links. It would not be good usage of 3GPP time to standardise MAPsec if IPSec interconenct will be available as a result of the widescale adoption of SIGTRAN in a similar timescale, and MAPsec would never be taken up.

2. Actions:

To GSM-A IREG and GSM-A SG group.

ACTION: CN4 asks GSM-A IREG and GSM-A SG to provide guidance to SA3 and CN4 on the expected relative timing of widescale SIGTRAN (with IPSec) interconnect between operators in comparison with MAPsec adoption and interconnect between operators.

3. Date of Next CN4 Meetings:

CN4#25   15th - 19th November 2004   Seoul, KOREA