**3GPP TSG-SA5 Meeting #139-e *S5-215484***

e-meeting, 11 - 20 October 2021

**Title: LS to 3GPP OPs on Multi-SDO Autonomous Networks (AN) formal cooperation proposal**

**Response to: S5-215480 / AN-SDO2021-10(TMF)**

**Release:**

**Work Item:**

**Source: 3GPP SA5**

**To: 3GPP Organizational Partners (OPs)**

**Cc: 3GPP SA, MCC**

**Contact person: Thomas Tovinger (SA5 chair)**

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**Send any reply LS to: 3GPP Liaisons Coordinator,** **mailto:3GPPLiaison@etsi.org**

**Attachments:** **TMF LS S5-215480**

# 1 Overall description

Background: SA5 has been working on standards to support management of automation already since 4G/LTE with Self Organizing Networks (SON), and since last year several studies and work items for 5G related to Autonomous Networks (AN) have been started (e.g., Closed loop automation, Autonomous Network Levels, Management Data Analytics and SON). Autonomous Networks standardisation has also lately become a very “popular” topic in practically all SDOs/organisations defining management standards within their respective areas: 3GPP, ETSI, GSMA, ONAP, NGMN, CCSA, IEEE, IETF, ITU-T and TM Forum. Therefore, TM Forum last year launched a global joint effort by all these SDOs to try to harmonise all our AN-related standards as much as possible, to enable increased interoperability between products implementing the different standards. This cooperation project started with a series of conference calls and email exchanges as well as a project website where meeting minutes and other documents such as technical contributions could be stored.

SA5 also joined these discussions from the start, as we believe it would be a great advantage if we could share all the experience and definitions that we have in the automation/AN area with the other SDOs, thus increasing the possibility that they would reuse SA5’s definitions to a large extent. However, so far there is no formally signed cooperation agreement (including IPR policy for this project and how to publish any jointly produced documents like a White Paper); therefore, until now we have not submitted any technical contributions from SA5 to this project.

In order to resolve this issue, TM Forum has recently prepared a first draft proposal on how such a cooperation agreement could look like and sent it with an LS to all participating SDOs for comments and agreement if possible, or update proposals if necessary, to be able to sign the cooperation agreement. This is the attached LS S5-215480, and therein, the cooperation agreement is the embedded document entitled “DRAFT Multi SDO Participant Agreement”. The proposed IPR policy and Antitrust Policy & Guidelines (based on TM Forum’s policies) are found in the link “[By-laws of TM Forum](https://www.tmforum.org/resources/tm-forum-operating-docs-tm-forum-operating-docs-chinese/by-laws-of-tm-forum/)” in the body text of the LS (note: not in the embedded document).

This cooperation agreement and related IPR policy / Antitrust Policy comprise legally formal text that neither SA5’s delegates nor leadership are able to judge and decide whether it would be legally correct to sign. We therefore kindly ask the OPs, on recommendation from the SA leadership, to analyse this and take a decision on whether it can be signed for 3GPP or if some changes of the participation agreement description would be needed before signing.

# 2 Actions

**To 3GPP OPs**

**ACTION:** SA5 kindly asks the OPs to analyse and decide whether the proposed “Participant agreement” and IPR / Antitrust Policy in the attached LS from TM Forum (S5-215480) can be signed on behalf of 3GPP, as 3GPP is not a legal entity, or if some changes of the participation agreement description would be needed before signing.

# 3 Dates of next TSG SA WG 5 meetings

SA5#140e 15 - 24 November 2021 Electronic meeting

SA5#141e 24 - 28 January 2022 Electronic meeting