3GPP/PCG#8 Meeting
New Orleans, United States
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Source: **MCC (Adrian Scrase)**

Title: **Report of MCC Activities for period PCG#7 to PCG#8**

Agenda item: 7.1

Document for:

Decision	
Discussion	
Information	**X**

1   Introduction

This report covers the period between PCG#7 and PCG#8, and contains detailed information concerning the allocation of tasks within MCC and the implementation of TSG results.

2   The Support Team

2.1   MCC Departures

One expert has left MCC since PCG#7. Michael Sanders, who supported many different groups throughout his long career in the ETSI/SMG environment, worked more recently in support of Working Group T3. He has now returned to Australia to continue his career there.

The experts currently supporting RAN (Hans Van der Veen, Ericsson), RAN1 (Shinobu Ikeda, ARIB), RAN2 (Hans Van der Veen, Ericsson), and RAN3 (Carolyn Taylor, Motorola) are all scheduled to leave before the next PCG meeting. The expert provided by TTA Korea (Ho Cheol Kim) is also scheduled to return to Korea before the next PCG.

2.2   Filling the MCC vacancies

Due to the departure of Michael Sanders, the vacant position was openly advertised and was successfully filled by Claus Dietze (Giesecke & Devrient). Claus has now started work in MCC supporting Working Group T3.

An open advertisement was also made to fill the RAN vacancies, and by 31 March (the closing date) 32 applications had been received. Following a shortlisting process, 5 candidates were called for interview and successful candidates were selected. Joern Krause (Siemens AG) and Claude Arzelier (Vodafone UK) will shortly join MCC.

ARIB has seen fit to provide a successor to their present expert, Shinobu Ikeda. Tsukase Sasaki will join MCC shortly.

It is hoped that with these changes there should be a seamless handover of support with the future support arrangements for RAN looking as follows:

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TSG RAN      Cesar Gutierrez
RAN1         Tsukase Sasaki
RAN2         Claude Arzelier
RAN3         Joern Krause
RAN4         Cesar Gutierrez
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It was expected that the expert currently supporting CN1 (Per Johan Jorgensen, Ericsson) would also leave the team. He has, however, decided to stay for a further contract term.

2.3 Organization of MCC

The figure given below shows the allocation of resources to each entity within 3GPP and is a snapshot taken on 1 Feb 2002. It is still valid at 23 April. This chart is regularly maintained and the latest version may always be obtained from the 3GPP website at http://www.3gpp.org/
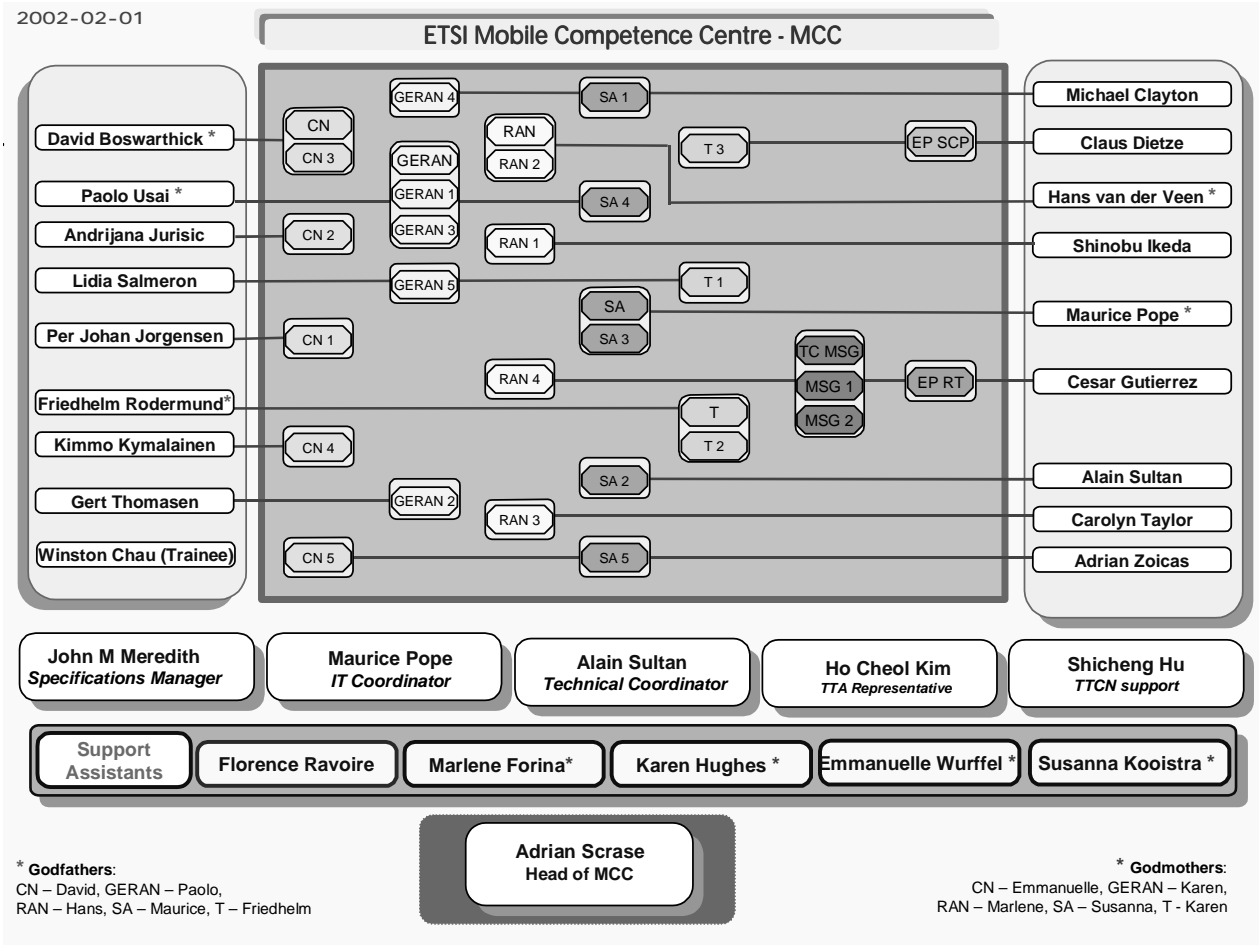

Figure 1:   MCC Organizational Chart

3 Statistics and targets

3.1 Interesting statistics

At the start of TSG#15 (March 2002), MCC were managing 2290 active specifications. The distribution of those specifications looks as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER
3G Specifications	648
GSM Specifications	1306
Common Specifications	336
TOTAL SPECIFICATIONS	**2290**

When considering how those active specifications map per release the following figures are obtained:

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF ACTIVE SPECS
Phase 2	182
Release 96	201
Release 97	215
Release 98	278
Release 99	438
Release 4	517
Release 5	571 (tbc)
Release 6	9 (tbc)
TOTAL SPECIFICATIONS	**2290**

The number of approved change requests for these specifications continues to be high. When looking at the trend of approved change requests across the different 3GPP Releases the following picture emerges (including the provisional results of TSG#15):

CLASSIFICATION	CRs in 1999	CRs in 2000	CRs in 2001	CRs in 2002	TOTAL
Rel 99 Specifications	1345	4662	2263	287 (tbc)	**8557**
Rel-4 Specifications		455	2804	496 (tbc)	**3755**
Rel-5 Specifications		36	628	446 (tbc)	**1101**
TOTAL	**1345**	**5153**	**5695**	**1229**	**13 422**

3.2 MCC performance

The MCC task still having the highest priority is the implementation of Change Requests and the delivery of the revised specifications within the shortest possible time. Previous reports have shown an improving trend for the implementation of CRs and Figure 2 below shows that the improved performance is currently being sustained. It can be seen that following TSG#15, 369 specifications were delivered by deadline 1 (84%) and that a further 66 specifications were delivered by deadline 2 (99%). Only 4 specifications (approx 1%) were not delivered within the prescribed deadlines. (You will remember that the default targets are for 90% of the change requests to have been implemented by deadline 1 and 100% by deadline 2. [Note: deadlines 1 and 2 following TSG#15 were increased by one week in order for MCC experts to take Christmas vacation.]
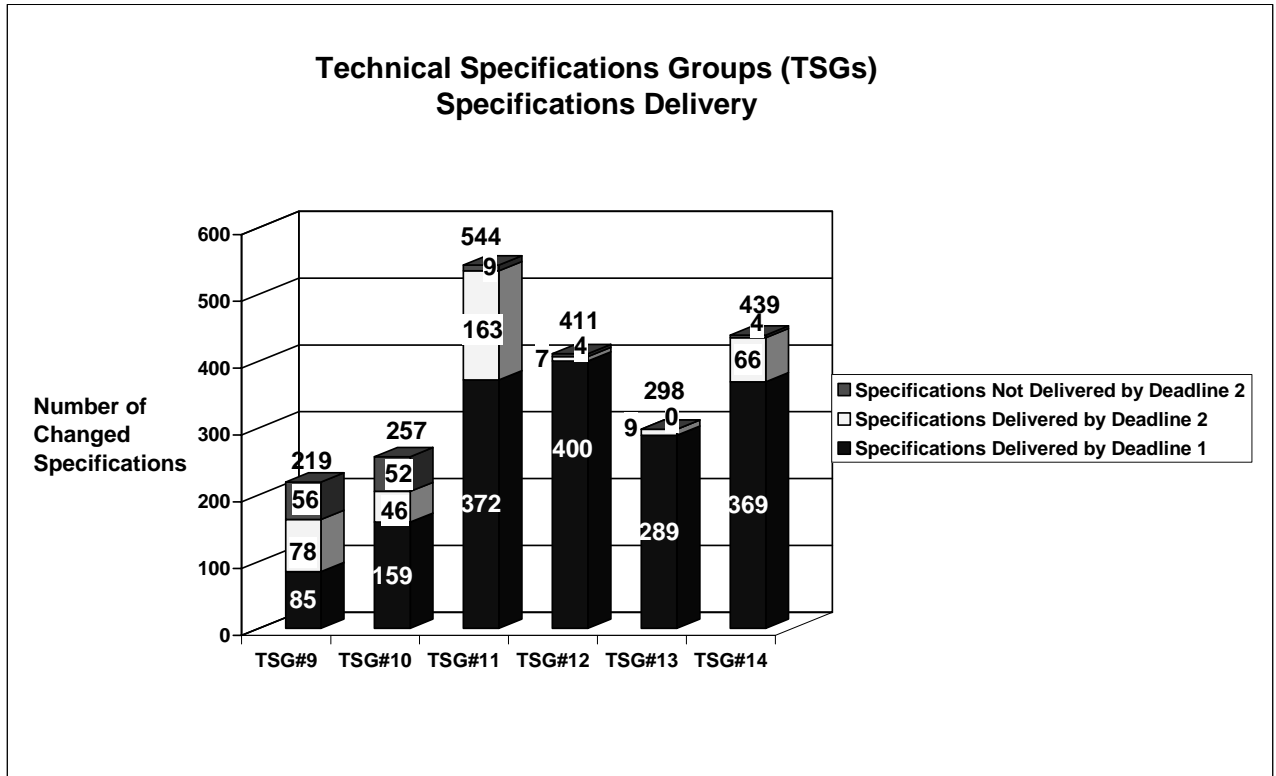
Figure 2:   MCC Performance

TSG#14 expressed a clear wish for a quality indicator to be included within the MCC performance measurements. This has now been implemented, and the number of errors are now being measured in addition to the time taken for implementation. Since the close of TSG#14, 1803 CRs have been implemented by MCC (including 430 GERAN CRs). Two implementation errors have been detected representing an approximate error rate of 0,01%, or 1 error in 1000 implementations.

Of course, the detection of errors may take some time and it is possible that this figures rises. Nevertheless, these early results indicate that the quality of CR implementation is not being unreasonably compromised by the push for rapid implementation.

4   MCC Workload

4.1   Specifications Maintenance

Figure 3 below shows the number of new versions of specifications produced by MCC over time and shows how these are related to the Release mechanism.

It can easily be seen that the functional freeze of each Release gives rise to a peak of specifications production, but what is more alarming is that these peaks themselves show an increasing trend (cf the green arrows on the chart). At the time of writing it was not clear precisely how many new versions of specifications would result from TSG#15 but it is estimated that this number would exceed 500.

The accumulation of specifications, and the Releases to which they belong, contribute to an increasing workload for MCC, and the projection of these statistics towards Release 6 and beyond show that the current method of working could be unsustainable with the existing resources. Some corrective action is required may be required unless the workload is reduced, or the resources increased.
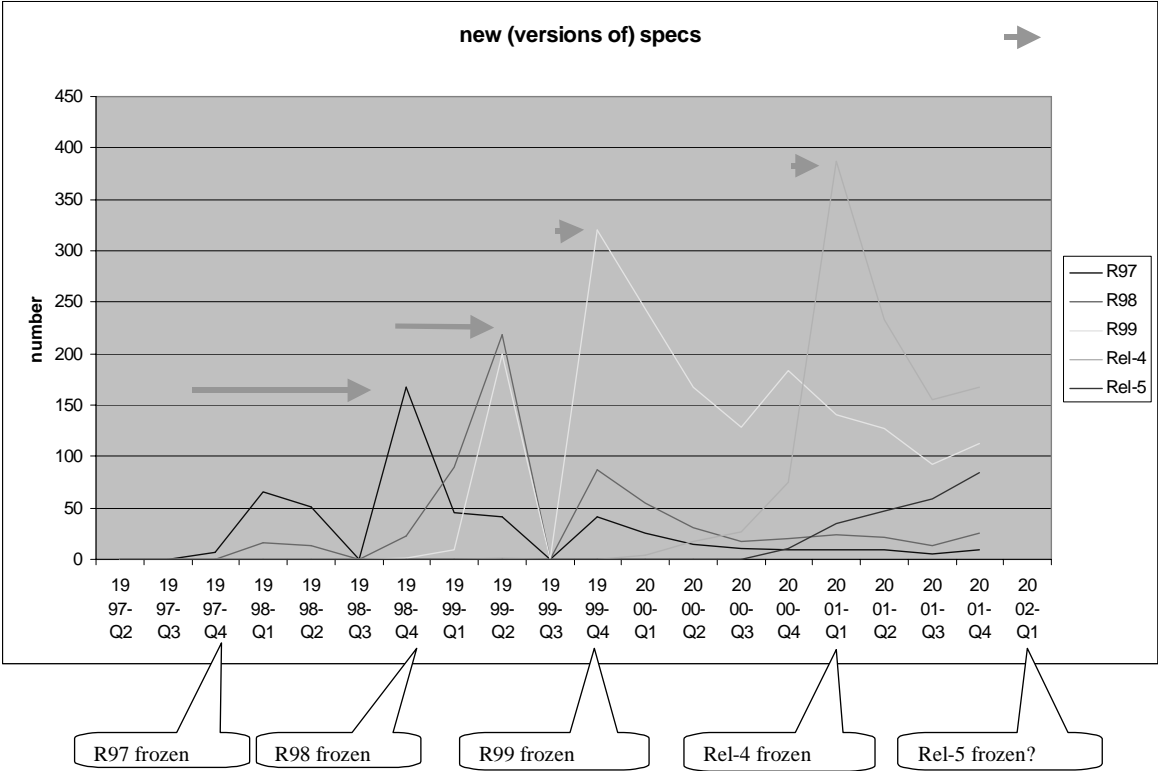

Figure 3: **Chart showing production of new versions of 3GPP specs**

4.2 Workplan maintenance

The maintenance of the 3GPP Workplan is taking an increasing amount of time. We are now in a position of having a very concise, but complete plan of the work being performed across the Project, but the resources required to maintain the current level of detail should not be under-estimated. This level of effort is fully justified *if* the Workplan is actively being used by Industry. SA#15 confirmed that this is in fact the case. More resources may need to be diverted to maintain the completeness and accuracy of the Workplan.

5 Budget issues

The budget allocated for 3GPP support is sufficient to maintain the current level of service in 2002.

However, and early indication of the budget magnitude for 2003 would be welcomed in order that appropriate sizing and allocation of tasks can be performed in a smooth and seamless manner.

6   Working methods

TSG#15 was the first occasion where document distribution has been conducted entirely by wireless means and where the meeting servers and access ports have been provided exclusively by MCC. This will of course result in considerable savings for future meeting hosts. MCC does not have a vast experience in providing meeting networks (and especially not those with exclusive wireless access), and to some extent the provision of this service is experimental. Nevertheless, the TSG#15 experience seems to have been satisfactory.

7   Concluding remarks.

2002 will be a difficult year for MCC. There are a number of personnel changes anticipated, indications show increasing workloads, and the allocated budget provided by the Organizational Partners must be respected. It is nevertheless hoped that the TSGs will continue to receive the level of support that they expect.