

Source: Chairman TSG SA
Title: Report to PCG#11 on work in TSG-SA
Agenda: 4.1

Document for:

Decision	
Discussion	
Information	X

1 Main events since last meeting

In the period May 2003 (PCG#10) to October 2003 (PCG#11) TSG-SA have held two TSG-SA plenary meeting, TSG-SA#20 (Hämeenlinna, Finland 9-12 June 2003) and TSG-SA#21 (Frankfurt, Germany, 22 – 25 March 2003). Further to TSG-SA plenaries, a number of meetings of the TSG-SA working groups have taken place. Further TSG SA has in cooperation with OMA organised a workshop for 3GPP and OMA members in order to provide a better understanding of the organisations, their goals and work plans etc., this to improve cooperation between the two organisations.

2 Technical work in TSG-SA

The work of TSG-SA consists of three main parts: technical work within TSG-SA, technical co-ordination between the TSGs and project management. In the period TSG-SA have been working in all three areas. The technical work within TSG-SA is organised in 5 working groups dealing with the service aspects, architecture, security, codec aspects and telecom management.

In addition to the plenary meetings and the working group meetings TSG-SA has held one ad-hoc meeting in conjunction with each plenary on the subject of “3GPP Future Evolution”. The purpose of organising the ad-hoc was to collect inspiration for the future evolution of the 3GPP based systems.

2.1 Work related to Service Aspects

The service requirements and associated stage 1 documentation for release '99 and release 4 and release 5 are considered complete and the necessary adjustments and clarification caused by the stage 2 and stage 3 work done. TSG-SA WG1 (S1) has now nearly completed the requirements for functionality for Release 6 and TSG SA has decided to “freeze” Release 6 in terms of requirements except for items already identified. Items potentially arriving from cooperation partners will be evaluated on a case per case basis. One of the key items is the further evolution of the IP Multimedia Subsystem beyond its first phase completed in Release 5. Even though the overall process put in place by TSG-SA allow for medium to long term work and planning, the main focus has been on issues in the time frame of the release. As reported to the previous PCG meeting at TSG-SA #15 it was agreed to plan for a “long term vision” creation kick-off meeting in conjunction with TSG-SA #17. This kick-off meeting took place during TSG_SA#17 and drafted a set of terms of references for the further work to establish a vision of the 3GPP Future Evolution. Also proposals for outline and type of deliverables were elaborated. Meetings to further progress the issue were held in conjunction with

TSG SA #18, TSG SA#19, TSG SA#20 and TSG #21. The resulting deliverable from the work a Technical Report is provide for information in Tdoc PCG#11(03)15.

The PCG is invited to note the Technical Report TR 21.902 "Evolution of 3GPP System"

2.2 Architecture related work

The architectural work related to the IP based network has been stable in the period and the key decisions for the IM subsystem kept unchanged, i.e., the selection of SIP as Call Control model. Generally, releases 99, 4 and 5 are considered stable and the focus of the architecture related work is related to release 6 on items. Some concern were raised during TSG SA#21 with the fact the workload of TSG SA WG2 do not allow TGS SA WG2 to reduce the number of meetings to one per plenary period and thus with the rules agreed for MCC support might need to hold meetings without MCC support.

2.3 Security related work

Has reported earlier to PCG the introduction of IP Multimedia Subsystem introduces significant changes to the network architecture. Consequently there has naturally been a number of correction necessary in order to ensure that all security aspects are considered and handled correct, however the releases 99, 4 and 5 are all considered stable. Work on Release 6 is well underway and no major problems are identified for the time being.

2.4 Codec related work

The codec work in TSG-SA WG4 (S4) for release 99, 4 and 5 is found stable and no significant changes expected. Only remaining open issue for Release 5 is TR 26.937 "RTP Usage model" has now been finalized. This non-critical TR brings additional information to characterize the PS Streaming Service.

During the discussions of selection criteria for an audio codec for PSS/MMS the question of how to document the chosen codec was debated. Traditionally the voice codecs for cellular systems have been specified through a reference C-source code for both encoder and decoder. This C-code is the same as being used in the selection process and the characterization phase. However, all groups in the industry dealing with codecs do not follow this principle. Especially in relation to multimedia codecs it is found that different methods apply. This raises the question of how to deal with different levels of openness for specifications for codecs, which might be adopted by 3GPP either for reference or inclusion in the specifications. A similar issue has been raised in relation to the cooperation with OMA where access to some specifications might be restricted to OMA members or the IPR rules for their utilisation different from that of 3GPP.

The PCG is invited to consider if there is a need for clarification of the rules for referencing external documentation and specification.

2.5 Work related to telecom management

TSG-SA has in the past reported to PCG that TSG-SA wished TSG-SA WG5 (S5) to complete the specifications at the same time as other parts of the release. However, parts of the telecom management specifications build on the core specifications and can therefore not be fully completed before the core specifications are completed. On this background TSG-SA have found it acceptable that a delay of 3 month compared to close of the release could occur for some telecom management specifications. This goal was not completely fulfilled in the case of Release 99 and Release 4, however the majority the specifications were completed at the requested point in time and remaining specifications within the time of one additional meeting cycle (3 month). The telecom management specifications for release 99 and release 4 are considered stable. A similar situation occurred for Release 5 where the telecom management related specifications first were fully ready in September 2002. However, this represent a clear improvement compared to the previous releases and already now the telecom management work for Release 6 is well progressed and it is the expectation that most of the telecom management specifications will be completed at the same time as the core specifications. TSG SA is currently looking into if it would be beneficial to reorganise the charging work, e.g., by transferring this to one of the TSG CN groups having experts in similar subjects. It is not

expected that any reorganisation will happen before the main part of the Release 6 work is completed.

Also in the area of telecom management specifications some cooperation with the corresponding 3GPP2 groups has been established. According to information available to TSG-SA, 3GPP2 plans to build some of their telecom management specifications on basis of the 3GPP specifications as delta specifications. TSG-SA welcomes this harmonisation of telecom management specifications across standards. TSG-SA does not foresee any negative impact on the 3GPP timescales and workload due to this.

3 Technical co-ordination

3.1 Issues related TSG-CN

The cooperation with TSG CN has been running smoothly and there are no major issues to report.

3.2 Issues related to TSG-RAN

TSG-SA has taken note of the fact that TSG-RAN still needs to perform work on error corrections for the Release 99 set of specifications, even though the number of Release 99 Change Requests is rapidly decreasing. Further TSG-SA has taken note of the completion of major work items such as HSDPA as part of Release 5. TSG SA has noted that the maintenance of major work completed work items reduces the time available for work on the next releases TSG-SA. TSG-SA has taken this into account in the review of the overall project plan..

3.3 Co-ordination with TSG-T

TSG-T has informed TSG-SA about the progress in elaboration of test specifications and the associated abstract test suites. TSG-SA further has noted the elaboration of priorities for the completion of the remaining work based on input from the industry. In general no major issues has raised between TSG SA and TSG-T, only the usual coordination of the requirement and architectural work with the technical work of TGS T.

3.4 Co-ordination with TSG-GERAN

TSG-GERAN continues in a manner equal to that of the other TSGs to provide an overview of its activities and work plan. The work plan for TSG GERAN is now been integrated in the overall work plan for 3GPP. In the period the main areas of contact between TSG SA and TSG GERAN have been in the area of Architecture and security issues related to enhancements to A and Gb interfaces. These activities have mainly involved TSG SA WG2 and WG3.

4 Requirements for support in 2003/2004

As earlier reported TSG-SA does not see any major changes in its requirement for support in 2004 compared to 2002 and 2003, and sees no reason to change the requirement that the same number of man month as for 2003 are budgeted for 2004 except for the consequence of the decision of PCG#10 to only guarantee MCC support for one working group meeting per plenary period. As reported earlier in this report TSG SA WG2 has so far not be able to limit its number of meetings and would therefore if possible desire increased support. TSG SA discussed the issue at TSG SA#21 and concluded that it of course would be desirable if the working groups could have the full support they request, however in the light of the budget restriction it was felt important that any additional support was allocated based on an evaluation of the groups work load and not only at a first come first serve basis.

The PCG is invited to consider how to deal with request from working groups for additional support.

5 Release 99, 4 and 5

As indicated earlier in this report TSG-SA have reviewed the status of the project in co-operation with the other TSGs. Based on the status report provided, TSG-SA concludes that all release 99, release 4

and release 5 items have been completed and the releases can be considered stable. However, TSG-SA foresees there still for a while will be a need for corrective changes to Release 99 especially in the area of the radio access network. These corrective changes might reach a second peak when larger scale of network deployment based on the specification starts.

6 Release 6 and beyond

TSG SA has decided to “freeze” Release 6 in terms of requirements except for items already identified. Items potentially arriving from cooperation partners will be evaluated on a case per case basis to assess if they can be completed within the timescales for Release 6. As the stage 3 specification work for Release 6 is only in the start-up phase, it is too early to set a final date for Release 6 completion, but not expected to be earlier than June 2004. TSG SA will assess the Release 6 completion further at its next meetings following Releases. Tdoc PCG#11(03)13 provides an indication of the potential content of Release 6.

It is perhaps worth reiterating that the work on defining a content of a release is based on the principles for a release agreed at TSG-SA#09 and confirmed by PCG#05. These principles are:

- A release shall consist of a well-defined, stable and internally consistent set of functions;
- A release shall be documented in a maintained, consistent stream of specifications;
- Essential corrections to a stable or frozen release shall be included in the applicable release;
- New or changed functionality shall be included in new (rather than retrospectively in old) releases.

As a part of these principles it was also agreed that the overall road map should be controlled by the 3GPP Project plan (i.e. a “3GPP Road Map”) and not as in the past by the Releases. The content of the Release should be based upon the work plan with a well-defined closing time for the content of a Release (6 – 9 months before completion of a particular Release).

7 General Management issues

At TSG SA plenary meetings some discussion of the relation between TSG SA and 3GPP in general and the Open Mobile Alliance known as OMA tend to take place. As one of the key reasons for some of the discussions in the past has been the uncertainty amongst 3GPP delegates about OMA and its work. A workshop for 3GPP and OMA members has been held in order to provide a better understanding of the organisations, their goals and work plans etc., this with the overall goal to improve cooperation between the two organisations. The workshop conclusions (see Tdoc PCG#11(03)16) was reviewed by TSG SA. TSG SA concluded that all of the recommended actions to improve the cooperation can be pursued without conflicting with the existing 3GPP Working Procedures. So it is still found that the original conclusion still is valid. OMA should be considered as a clear co-operation partner for 3GPP. The terms of reference for 3GPP is not and should not be affected by this new body and the work of OMA from a 3GPP point of view is to be seen as complementary to 3GPP's work. Finally, there is for the time being no need for a specific cooperation agreement or similar, as Liaisons with OMA in the usual way seems to fulfil the current needs.

The PCG is invited to confirm this assumption.

During the TSG SA meeting information was received indicating that OMA already are considering the recommendations of the workshop (see Tdoc PCG#11(03)19).

As reported earlier, when establishing the overall status for the release 1999 it was realised that it was been difficult to link together the work items of the different TSGs in order to understand whether or not all part of a service or functionality is being completed according to the target. To help overcoming this problem for future releases a working model was elaborated and agreed. This working model has now been in place for a while and allows the work items of the different TSGs to be linked into a hierarchical structure, based on three levels feature, building block and work task. This process has now enter a phase where it is a routine within the work of 3GPP and is very useful in the discussions around the content and target dates for releases. The complete Work Plan can be found at <http://www.3gpp.org/Management/WorkPlan.htm>.