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N2B000133

To: S2  
From: N2  
Cc: S4, R1, R3 and N1

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**Title: Response to LS on location and control of speech codec**

N2 thanks S2 for their LS on location and control of speech codec 'S2-99 A02'. This LS answers the questions that raised in their LS 'S2-99 A02'.

1. In order to reduce the capacity required within the UMTS network any mechanism – in-band or out-band – has to fulfil the requirement to locate the speech codec anywhere between the serving switches of a call, this means at the edge of the UMTS-network. By that, transmission capacity can be saved within an UMTS-network, even if the transit or terminating network does not provide all necessary capabilities. SA2 likes to have clarification on this issue within the study of N2.

**Answer:**

N2 has a working assumption that the speech codec is always located in MSC at least for UMTS release 99. Therefore, N2 has not started the study for the requirement to locate the speech codec anywhere between the serving switches of a call. If further service requirement of the location of speech codec will be under consideration in S2, N2 is willing to work for that requirement accordingly as the UMTS release 00 requirement.

2. An important point is the interworking between GSM and UMTS. SA2 likes to have this considered within the study of N2, too.

**Answer:**

N2 has considered the interworking between GSM and UMTS. In case that an MS is handed over to GSM that configures the transcoder free connection, the speech codec is inserted to a call in the UMTS MSC and treated as a normal speech call in the hand over process.

3. The study performed within N2 is highly dependent on the schedule of ITU where the basis of this work item will be provided. Some members within SA2 raise the concern on the finalization of the work item within ITU in order to have a stable basis for UMTS release 99.

**Answer:**

It is reported in the CN-Plenary #6 that the BICC related specification has been approved as the determination in the ITU-T in December 1999 and will be most likely published in June 2000. Therefore, N2 believes that the BICC related specifications are stable enough as the basis for UMTS release 99.

4. The choice of an in-band or out-of-band protocol solution has some impacts on the work of other WGs (e.g. SA4). SA2 asks N2 to clarify possible impacts and to notify the relevant groups.

**Answer:**

N2 has identified other three WGs: R3, N1 and S4. We have started necessary dialogues with each group in order to cover all impact that needed to be considered.