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There have been varying views expressed on how to handle Network Management specification in 3GPP, notably whether to concentrate all the work in one group, or else, in order to benefit from a wider range of necessary expertise, split into service and generic responsibilities. It is essential that 3GPP agreed a consistent and practical policy on this matter. Delay in doing so will impact on the standardisation process and compromise output quality.

Traditionally, ITU has studied the IT side of NM and has generated standards that are important and equally applicable to fixed and mobile telecoms networks. This needs to be extended to cover not just ISDN, but also IP, X.25, PABX and similar standards. This **generic standards work** should be done in TSG SA WG5 who should work closely with ETSI/TMN and equivalent groups in the other SDOs. It is these groups that will form the liaison into ITU, rather than 3GPP itself.

However, experience has shown that experts who understand radio base stations should be setting at least the **service requirements** for Network Management that relate to Base Stations and also the **architecture within the Radio Access Network**. It is clear that the partitioning of logical entities within the RAN and thus across the Iubis interface is impacted by a number of considerations, including the requirements of Network Management. Similarly, within 3GPP, this should be tackled by TSG RAN, not SA WG5, although close co-operation between the two groups is essential. A further consideration is that even though Network Management is rated very highly, the highest priority for this interface is the efficient handling of the traffic, which is clearly the responsibility of RAN.

A further example would be in the area of Billing, where specialist expertise is required, by people who are unlikely to be interested in Base Stations or generic network management. Work on this topic would be the responsibility of another group.

This approach is considered to be the most practical way of achieving early standardisation of Network Management in 3GPP, which is vital to the interests of all operators and manufacturers. It is extremely important to avoid repeating the situation where the Abis interface of GSM is not a practical open interface due to disagreement, and thus excessive flexibility, in the functional partition within the BSS. This would result in an inability to mix'n'match suppliers' equipment, which will be vital in UMTS, and to support fixed mobile convergence.

TSG SA is invited to ensure that there is a clear agreement on the scope and Terms of Reference of each group working on aspects of Network Management in 3GPP to ensure pragmatic partition of the work to relevant areas of expertise and responsibility. Overlap should be avoided but close co-ordination and co-operation are also essential.