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Document History

Revision	Date	Brief Description

Summary

This contribution highlights the importance of stability in 3GPP specifications, and eventually proposes that the 3GPP standards releases be renamed to change from a time dependent to content based scheme.

GSMA Liaison to TSG SA Plenary

The members of the GSM Association require a stable set of specifications upon which to base their buying decisions. In the recent past, specifications have been grouped into “Releases” that roughly corresponded to calendar years. The Association believes that a stable release that is based on major content is more valuable than one that is created as the result of an artificial time element.

A proposal could be that Release 99 could be considered as Release 1.0 and in effect constitutes the introduction of a new air interface. Evolutions of this release could be subsets (1.1, 1.2, etc.) of the release. The next *major* release (2.0) could be the introduction of new architectural concepts such as All-IP. Since the goal is to have a stable set of specifications in each release, these releases *may* not coincide with year-end dates. Nevertheless, fixed release delivery dates are a desirable objective to meet for future Releases, to enable the GSMA to deal internally with Releases in a proper integrated and logical way, and work in harmony with 3GPP.

The GSM Association believes that the specification process, in the initial phase of the introduction of a new standard, should give high priority to stability, backward compatibility and interoperability between different releases for terminals and infrastructure.

The GSM Association also believes that there will be wide spread support for this approach, which is aimed at a quality product, as has been the tradition both for SMG and 3GPP. This proposal is not intended to delay the production of specifications, but may indeed speed up the availability of usable standards.