

**Source:** Nortel Networks  
**Title:** Organisation of Releases  
**Document for:** Decision  
**Agenda Item:** 8.2

### **1. Discussion**

It is important that the UMTS release structure provides a sound basis for implementations and equipment interoperation. Key principles are important to ensure this:

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

#### **1.1 Well Defined Functions**

If the functions in the release are not well defined or internally consistent this will lead to specifications that are cannot be used as the basis for implementing a valid system. Therefore this principle needs to be adhered to.

#### **1.2 Corrections Applied to the Release**

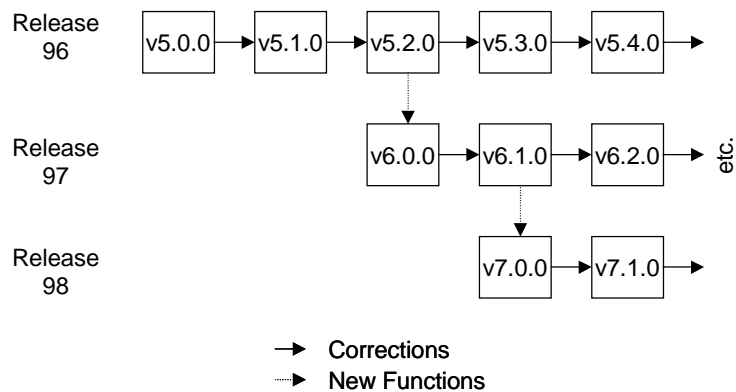
Each release should be consistent and implementable to ensure interworking (as discussed above). This means that essential corrections should become normative parts of the release as soon as possible. If essential changes are put in a new sub-release then this means that the previous sub-releases contain uncorrected mistakes – making them invalid. Therefore each release should be maintained to allow essential corrections – but these should not create sub-releases.

#### **1.3 New Functions**

Including new functions in old releases destabilises them and creates interoperability problems. Therefore new functions should be included in the release(s) currently under development rather than in old releases.

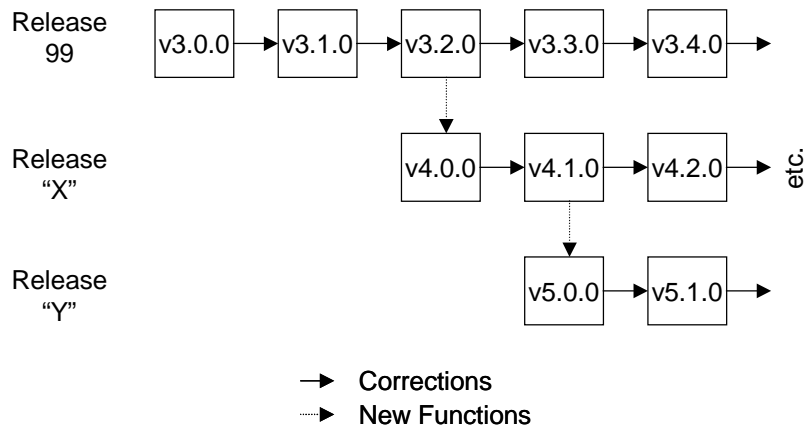
## 2. Application

The figure below shows the current organisation of GSM releases. This adheres to the principles outlined above. Each annual release leads to a maintained specification stream that allows corrections to be included in the release.



**GSM Release Organisation**

As this proven approach meets the principles outlined it is proposed to adopt it at the basis for UMTS, but with the possible modification of the annual release concept to allow more flexibility in release timing. This is illustrated below.



**Proposed UMTS Release Organisation**

### 2.1 Release Numbering

A numbering scheme is required for UMTS releases. Simple integer numbering could be used (1, 2, 3, 4...). "Dot" numbering has also been proposed (1.0, 1.1, 1.2, 2.0, 2.1...). This proposal can be applied to either scheme. However all releases are equivalent in terms of how they are treated. Therefore in the "dot" numbering scheme the difference between a "dot" release and a "full" release is subjective and is not reflected in different document handling. It is therefore proposed that a basic integer numbering scheme is used.

## 3. Proposal

3GPP plenary are asked to endorse the following points:

- The three principles discussed in section 1
- The principle described under "Proposed UMTS release organisation" for handling documents
- The use of a simple integer numbering scheme