

**Source:** BT\*  
**Title:** High-level Objectives for Releases 6 and 7  
**Document for:** Discussion  
**Agenda Item:** 8.9

## 1 Introduction

A companion contribution has introduced the concept of categorising future 3GPP specification Enhancements as either Major or Minor and using this as a basis for release planning. . This contribution makes some specific proposals for the content and timing of releases beyond Release 5 - Releases 6 and 7.

## 2 Release 6

In view of the complexity and the introduction of fundamentally new capabilities within Release 5, it is anticipated that the following release - Release 6 - will need to focus upon consolidating and refining Release 5 capabilities, rather than introducing major system enhancements. Release 6 can therefore be considered as focusing upon Minor Enhancements, where the principal objectives could include:

- ⇒ the inclusion of IMS capabilities planned, but insufficiently mature, for inclusion in Release 5. These will be identified as a result of review at this and subsequent 3GPP meetings;
- ⇒ the specification of additional capabilities enabling greater exploitation of the IMS (e.g. additional naming and addressing scenarios);
- ⇒ capabilities leading to greater operational flexibility (e.g. multi-GGSN);
- ⇒ exploitation of TDD;
- ⇒ exploiting HSDPA and its use in conjunction with the IM sub-system;
- ⇒ the incorporation of Wireless LAN access technology (this may be considered to be a Major Enhancement and more appropriate for Release 7);
- ⇒ cost reduction

## 3 Release 7

Release 7 will represent the next opportunity for introducing major system enhancements beyond those introduced in Release 5 and consolidated within Release 6; Release 7 can therefore be planned as focusing upon Major Enhancements where the principal objectives could include:

- ⇒ the use of alternative access technologies in addition to those already specified;
- ⇒ greater convergence with IP technology (e.g. Security, IPv6 developments etc);
- ⇒ more efficient IMS support (e.g. solutions that avoid the need for the GPRS tunnel);
- ⇒ further Radio Technology improvements (e.g. HSDPA development);
- ⇒ new and enhanced APIs – both network and terminal;
- ⇒ new and enhanced codecs.

Note that some of the above developments may require the 3GPP to establish new working relationships with other standards bodies/fora. These relationships will need to be initiated at an early stage to ensure a coherent result.

#### **4 Release 6 and 7 Time-scales**

The time-scales for the completion of the next 3GPP Releases are clearly dependent upon the completion of Release 5. Release 6 is expected to focus upon completing and refining capabilities currently seen to be within the scope of Release 5 and which can be progressed according to a relatively stable work plan. On this basis Release 6 could be expected to be complete within 9 to 12 months of Release 5.

Release 7 is expected to represent a Major Enhancement and its time-scales are therefore less predictable. It could be anticipated that Release 7 would be completed within 18 to 24 months of Release 5.

It is important that the work on both releases is planned and progressed to best effect; wherever possible work on both releases should be done in parallel.

#### **5 Conclusion**

This contribution has identified made some proposals for the high-level objectives for 3GPP Release 6 and 7 specifications. It is proposed that these form the basis for further discussion during this TSG meeting.