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Title: **LS from T to SA on resource situation and the general strategy & status of the elaboration of test cases**

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1. Background

T1 signalling experts elaborate the conformance test specifications for the core protocol specifications. They work as much as possible in parallel with the groups elaborating the core specifications.

However, the test specifications (**prose descriptions**) will normally **NOT** be ready for release until some time after the release of the core specifications.
The **TTCN** test descriptions will normally be released **even later**.

2. Current status

At the moment, both the lack of resources and the unstable core specifications hamper the elaboration of the test cases.

3. Consequences

Release '99 will contain **NO** test case descriptions. Later Releases will contain test case descriptions **NOT** covering all the core specifications available at that specific point in time (and thereby those test case descriptions will only be of **limited value!).**

4. Proposal

The general release of test specifications should happen at a later time than the release of the core specifications. Each test case release should **directly be coupled** with a core release.
E.g. the Release2000 of the *test specifications* tests Release 2000 of the *core specifications*.

5. Resource requirements

3GPP should assure from the start (i.e. Release2000) enough resources allowing the timely release of test cases.
Member companies should be made aware of the resource situation/ shortage.
If 3GPP members cannot find resources, then external resources should be recruited to carry out the work.