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WCDMA FOR UMTS

Radio Access For Third Generation
Mobile Communications

Revised Edition



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and Antti Toskala

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4.5.3 cdma2000

The cdma2000 air interface proposal to ITU is the result of work in TR45.5 on the evolution of IS-95 towards the third generation. The cdma2000 proposal is based partly on IS-95 principles with respect to synchronous network operation, common pilot channels, and so on, but it is a wideband version with three times the bandwidth of IS-95. The ITU proposal contains further bandwidth options as well as the multi-carrier option for downlink. The cdma2000 proposal has a high degree of commonality with the Global CDMA 1 ITU proposal from TTA, Korea.

The cdma2000 multi-carrier option is covered in more detail in Chapter 13, as being currently standardised by 3GPP2.

4.5.4 TR46.1

The WIMS W-CDMA was not based on work derived from an existing second generation technology but was a new third generation technology proposal with no direct link to any second generation standardisation. It was based on the constant processing gain principle with a high number of multicodes in use, thus showing some fundamental differences but also a level of commonality with WCDMA technology in other forums.

4.5.5 WP-CDMA

WP-CDMA (Wideband Packet CDMA) resulted from the convergence between W-CDMA N/A of TTP1 and WIMS W-CDMA of TR46.1 in the US. The main features of the WIMS W-CDMA proposal were merged with the principles of W-CDMA N/A. The merged proposal was submitted to the ITU-R IMT-2000 process towards the end of 1998, and to the 3GPP process at the beginning of 1999. Its most characteristic feature, compared with the other WCDMA-based proposals, was a common packet mode channel operation for the uplink direction, but there were also a few smaller differences.

4.6 Creation of 3GPP

As similar technologies were being standardised in several regions around the world, it became evident that achieving identical specifications to ensure equipment compatibility globally would be very difficult with work going on in parallel. Also, having to discuss similar issues in several places was naturally a waste of resources for the participating companies. Therefore initiatives were made to create a single forum for WCDMA standardisation for a common WCDMA specification.

The standardisation organisations involved in the creation of the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) [9] were ARIB (Japan), ETSI (Europe), TTA (Korea), TTC (Japan) and TTP1 (USA) as shown in Figure 4.2. The partners agreed on joint efforts for the standardisation of UTRA, now standing for Universal Terrestrial Radio Access, as distinct from UTRA (UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access) from ETSI, also submitted to 3GPP. Companies such as manufacturers and operators are members of 3GPP through the respective standardisation organisation to which they belong.

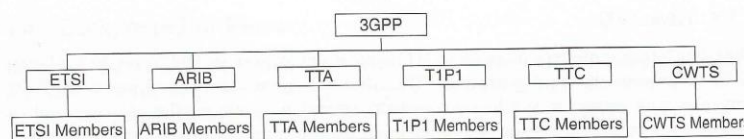


Figure 4.2. 3GPP organisational partners

Later during 1999, CWTS (the China Wireless Telecommunication Standard Group) also joined 3GPP and contributed technology from TD/SCDMA, a TDD-based CDMA third generation technology already submitted to ITU-R earlier.

3GPP also includes market representation partners: GSM Association, UMTS Forum, Global Mobile Suppliers Association, IPv6 Forum and Universal Wireless Communications Consortium (UWCC). In [9] there are up-to-date links to all participating organisations.

The work was initiated formally at the end of 1998 and the detailed technical work was started in early 1999, with the aim of having the first version of the common specification, called Release-99, ready by the end of 1999.

Within 3GPP, four different technical specification groups (TSG) were set up as follows:

- Radio Access Network TSG
- Core Network TSG
- Service and System Aspects TSG
- Terminals TSG

Within these groups the one most relevant to the WCDMA technology is the Radio Access Network TSG (RAN TSG), which has been divided into four different working groups as illustrated in Figure 4.3.

The RAN TSG will produce Release-99 of the UTRA air interface specification. The work done within the 3GPP RAN TSG working groups has been the basis of the technical description of the UTRA air interface covered in this book. Without such a global initiative, this book would have been forced to focus on a single regional specification, though with many similarities to those of other regions. Thus the references throughout this book are to the specification volumes from 3GPP.

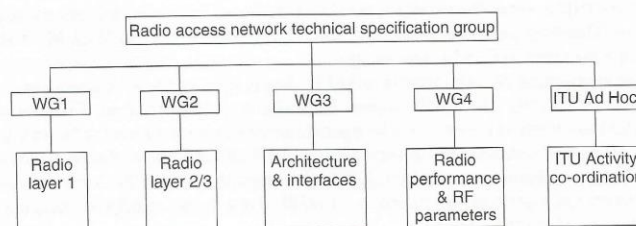


Figure 4.3. 3GPP RAN TSG working groups

During the first half of 1999 the inputs from the various participating organisations were merged in a single standard, leaving the rest of the year to finalise the detailed parameters for the first full release, Release-99, of UTRA from 3GPP. The member organisations have undertaken individually to produce standard publications based on the 3GPP specification. Thus, for example, the Release-99 UMTS specifications from ETSI are identical to the Release-99 specifications produced by 3GPP. The latest specifications can be obtained from 3GPP [9].

During 2000, further work on GSM evolution was moved from ETSI and other forums to 3GPP, including work on GPRS and EDGE. A new TSG, TSG GERAN was set up for this purpose.

4.7 Creation of 3GPP2

Work done in TR45.5 and TTA was merged to form 3GPP2, focused on the development of cdma2000 Direct-Sequence (DS) and Multi-Carrier (MC) mode for the cdma2000 third generation component. This activity has been running in parallel with the 3GPP project, with participation from ARIB, TTC and CWTS as member organisations. Recently the main concentration has been on the MC mode work, due to decisions resulting from the global harmonisation efforts.

4.8 Harmonisation Phase

During the spring of 1999 several operators and manufacturers held series of meetings to seek further harmonisation and convergence between the CDMA-based third generation solutions, WCDMA and cdma2000. For the 3GPP framework the ETSI, ARIB, TTA and T1P1 concepts had already been merged to a single specification, while cdma2000 was still on its own in TR45.5. As a result of several meetings and telephone conferences, the manufacturers and operators agreed to adopt a harmonised global third generation CDMA standard consisting of three modes: Multi-Carrier (MC), Direct Spread (DS) and Time Division Duplex (TDD). The MC mode was based on the cdma2000 multi-carrier option, the DS mode on WCDMA (UTRA FDD), and the TDD mode on UTRA TDD. The agreement was to phase in a modular approach in which both core networks could be used with all air interface alternatives, as described in Figure 1.4 in Chapter 1.

The main technical impacts of these harmonisation activities were the change of UTRA FDD and TDD mode chip rate from 4.096 Mcps to 3.84 Mcps and the inclusion of a common pilot for UTRA FDD. The work in 3GPP2 focused on the MC mode, and the DS mode from cdma2000 was abandoned. The result is that globally there is only one Direct Spread (DS) wideband CDMA standard, WCDMA.

4.9 IMT2000 Process in ITU

In the ITU, recommendations have been developed for third generation mobile communications systems, the ITU terminology being called IMT-2000 [10], formerly FPLMTS. In the ITU-R, ITU-R TG8/1 has worked on the radio-dependent aspects, while the radio-independent aspects have been covered in ITU-T SG11.

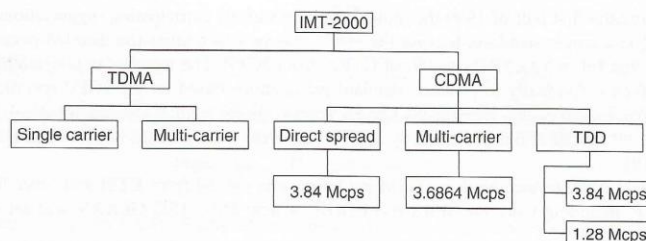


Figure 4.4. ITU-R IMT-2000 grouping

In the radio aspects, ITU-R TG8/1 received a number of different proposals during the IMT-2000 candidate submission process. In the second phase of the process, evaluation results were received from the proponent organisations as well as from the other evaluation groups that studied the technologies. During the first half of 1999 recommendation IMT-RKEY was created which describes the IMT-2000 multimode concept.

The ITU-R IMT-2000 process was finalised at the end of 1999, when the detailed specification (IMT-RSCP) was created and the radio interface specifications were approved by ITU-R [11]. The detailed implementation of IMT-2000 will continue in the regional standards bodies. The ITU-R process has been an important external motivation and timing source for IMT-2000 activities in regional standards bodies. The requirements set by ITU for an IMT-2000 technology have been reflected in the requirements in the regional standards bodies, for example in ETSI UMTS 21.01 [5], in order for the ETSI submission to fulfil the IMT-2000 requirements. The ITU-R interaction between regional standardisation bodies in the IMT-2000 process is reflected in Figure 4.5.

The ITU-R IMT-2000 grouping, with TDMA- and CDMA-based groups, is illustrated in Figure 4.4. The UTRA FDD (WCDMA) and cdma2000 are part of the CDMA interface, as CDMA Direct Spread and CDMA Multi-Carrier respectively. UWC-136 and DECT are part of the TDMA-based interface in the concept, as TDMA Single Carrier and TDMA Multi-Carrier respectively. The TDD part in CDMA consists of UTRA TDD from 3GPP and TD-SCDMA from CWTS. For the FDD part in the CDMA interface, harmonisation has been completed, and the harmonisation process is expected to continue for the CDMA TDD mode within 3GPP during 2000 and 2001.

4.10 Beyond 3GPP Release-99

Upon completion of the Release-99 specifications, work will concentrate on specifying new features as well as making the necessary corrections to Release-99. Typically such corrections arise as implementation proceeds and test systems are updated to include the latest changes in the specifications. As experience in various forums has shown, a major step forward in system capabilities with many new features requires a phasing-in period for the specifications. Fortunately, the main functions have been verified in the various test systems in operation since 1995, but only the actual implementation will reveal any errors and inconsistencies in the fine detail of the specifications.

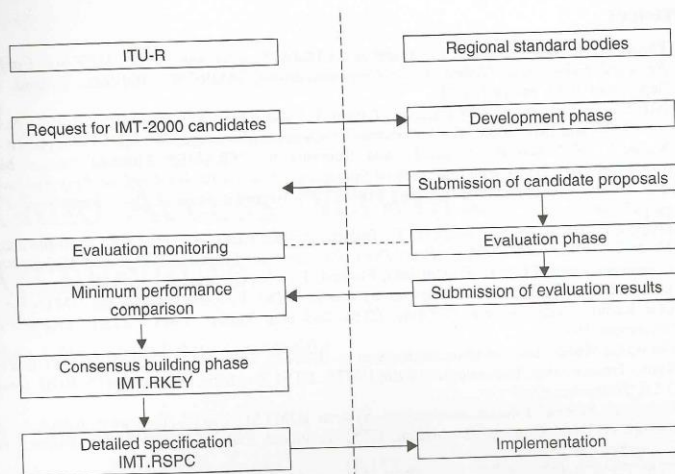


Figure 4.5. Relationship of ITU-R to the regional standards bodies

In 3GPP the next version of the specifications was originally considered as Release 2000, but since that the Release naming was adjusted so that next release is called Release 4 due to the 03/2001. Release 4 will contain only minor adjustment with respect to the Release'99. Bigger items are foreseen for inclusions in Release 5, including reaching for the data rates even up to the 10 Mbps in the downlink direction. Release 5 is due for the end of 2001. Release'99 specifications have a version number starting with 3 while Release 4 and 5 specifications have version number starting logically with 4 and 5 respectively.

During coming years, part of the process is to specify the extensions for connecting UTRA FDD to IS-41 based core networks. Work will be carried out on cdma2000 to allow connection to GSM-based core networks. This development will offer operators some degree of flexibility in selecting their third generation technology, assuming they are not aiming to launch such a service immediately, since Release-99 does not yet contain these options.

On the TDD side, further alignment is expected between the TDD mode in UTRA and the TDD mode from CWTS (China). This process is expected to continue after Release-99 is completed in 3GPP. 3GPP Release-4 is also planned to cover the lower chip rate (1.28 Mcps) TDD.

Other interesting developments are expected in the area of using IP based technology in UTRA. First step is going to be the IP based transport option in Release 4 and further releases are likely to see IP technology shaping the internal architecture of the UTRA Network (UTRAN). Also some of the protocols developed by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) [12], such as robust IP header compression suitable for cellular transmission, are foreseen to be adopted as part the UTRA Rel'4 specifications.

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