Terms of Reference of the Roadmap Group

Please express your interest by the 7th of December 2018

Objective

The objective of the roadmap group is to decide the RCS Implementation Release and the feature roadmap for RCS messaging while maintaining RCS competitiveness, balancing vendor development capacity and MNO desire to drive innovation. The roadmap group will focus on 3 areas -

1. UP 2.2 features prioritization to develop the Implementation Release
2. Future features prioritization
3. Specification clean-up decisions

Roadmap Group Deliverables

The scope of the RCS Implementation Release will include :

- A list of features of the current version of RCC.71 that define an Implementation Release; and the timeline when the features should be supported as a minimum mandatory requirement by the whole industry.
- Priorities and timelines for further development that would need to be developed by the working groups (GSG, GFRG).

Roadmap Group Processes

The Roadmap Group will report its activities to the IP Communications Executive Team (IPCET). Governance will be according to GSMA Articles of Association (AA.16) and Regulations (AA.41) and the GSMA Antitrust and IPR policies will apply to all activities.

The Roadmap Group will manage the selection and prioritisation of features from the RCS specification which should be implemented in a given timeline by the industry to support a minimum viable product.

The first Implementation Release will use the RCC.71 UP v2.0 specification as a basis with the following clarifications:

- Applying modularization from annex D of RCC.71 v2.1
- Applying latest version of RCC.72 (Urgent clarifications)

Subsequent Implementation Releases will reference the latest specifications and versions.

The Roadmap group will meet on a quarterly basis.

Participation

The Roadmap Group will consist of

- GSMA Full Members who are also IPCET members and have launched RCS commercially (or are about to launch in next 3 months) under their own Terms and Conditions ("Operator")
- Major players ("Providers") in the RCS ecosystem, regardless of GSMA membership, who have a UP2.0 solution deployed in multiple markets delivered either as a client, as MaaP server infrastructure, or as an RCS hosted service

A Roadmap Group meeting will only be deemed official in the presence of at least 2 Providers and 5 Operators.

Each Roadmap Group member company should nominate a named lead and deputy person. At least one of these would be expected to attend each meeting, both should be sufficiently knowledgeable on RCS standardisation, and ready to actively contribute to the discussion.

Activity / Mode of Operation

Each Provider will provide their feature roadmap (currently supported and planned to be supported) to the GSMA Future Network Program.

Each Operator will provide their implementation priorities and roadmap to the GSMA Future Network Program.

The GSMA Future Network Program would input the list of features reported as "needed" or "supported" by companies external to the Roadmap Group.

Based on input of the Providers, the Operators and GSMA, a Global roadmap will be built which will list all the features identified by the contributors and will highlight the number of supporting companies for each feature. The Global roadmap will be used to help drive convergence on future feature selection.

Implementation Release Development - any Roadmap Group member can propose a feature from the global roadmap as a "Candidate Feature" for selection by the Roadmap Group for an Implementation Release.

The Roadmap Group will decide what will be included in the next Implementation Release by assessing each of the Candidate Features for selection:

- A feature which is fully compliant to the standards and accepted unanimously by the Operator participants of the meeting would become a "Selected Feature in the Implementation Release".

- A feature which is fully compliant to the standards, but NOT accepted unanimously by the Operator participants of the meeting would NOT become a "Selected Feature in the Implementation Release". However, this feature could be presented again for consideration as a Candidate Feature in a subsequent Roadmap Group meeting.

- A feature that is not part of the specification or not compliant to the standard would only be considered for selection if the proposal is supported by market research and/or proof of concept, together with an assessment of the impact on interoperability (P2P and A2P/P2A).
    - If this feature is accepted unanimously by the Operator participants of the meeting, it would become a "Selected Feature for standardization development work".
    - If this feature is not accepted unanimously by the Operator participants of the meeting, it would not become a "Selected Feature for standardization development work" however it could be developed between operators and vendors under bilateral agreement.

Specification clean-up and health check - the actual deployment of specific features in RCS launched networks and clients should be reviewed regularly (every 6 months) and any necessary changes considered to maintain a solid common specification.

- Any Roadmap Group member can propose to remove a feature from the standard
- The GSMA Futuure Networks Team will assemble a list of feature removal requests together with the level of deployment of this specific feature in terms of launched networks and clients.
- Removal of a specific feature from the standard must be accepted unanimously by the Operator participants of the meeting

The Roadmap Group would then produce; the scope of the Implementation Release, the timeline at which its features should be supported by the whole industry, and the prioritization of the standard development work (new features to develop and existing features to be removed).

Note : All new topics and topic ideas will go through the Roadmap Group prioritization. GFRG has responsibility for features and details within these topics, as directed by the Roadmap Group.

Top flow banner (left to right):
- Global Roadmap, list of candidate feature for selection, proposal for
- Treatment of each Feature
- Selected Features
- Meeting Deliverables

Flowchart:

Global Roadmap Feature list, with number of supporting companies for each feature

→ List of « Candidate Features » for selection

First branch:
Standard feature — Yes → Accepted unanimously — Yes → Selected Feature to Standard Implementation Release

Accepted unanimously — No → Not selected, and could be presented again at a next meeting

Standard feature — No → Market assessment

Second branch:
Market assessment — Yes → Accepted unanimously — Yes → Selected Feature to Standard development Work

Accepted unanimously — No → Not selected, and could be developed bilaterally between interested parties

Market assessment — No → Proposal Discarded

Third branch:
Proposal for removal of feature from the standard → assessment of level of deployment by GSMA → Accepted unanimously — Yes → Selected Feature for removal from standard

Accepted unanimously — No → Proposal Discarded

Deliverables (right side):
- Scope of the Implementation Release
- Timeline when feature should be supported by all
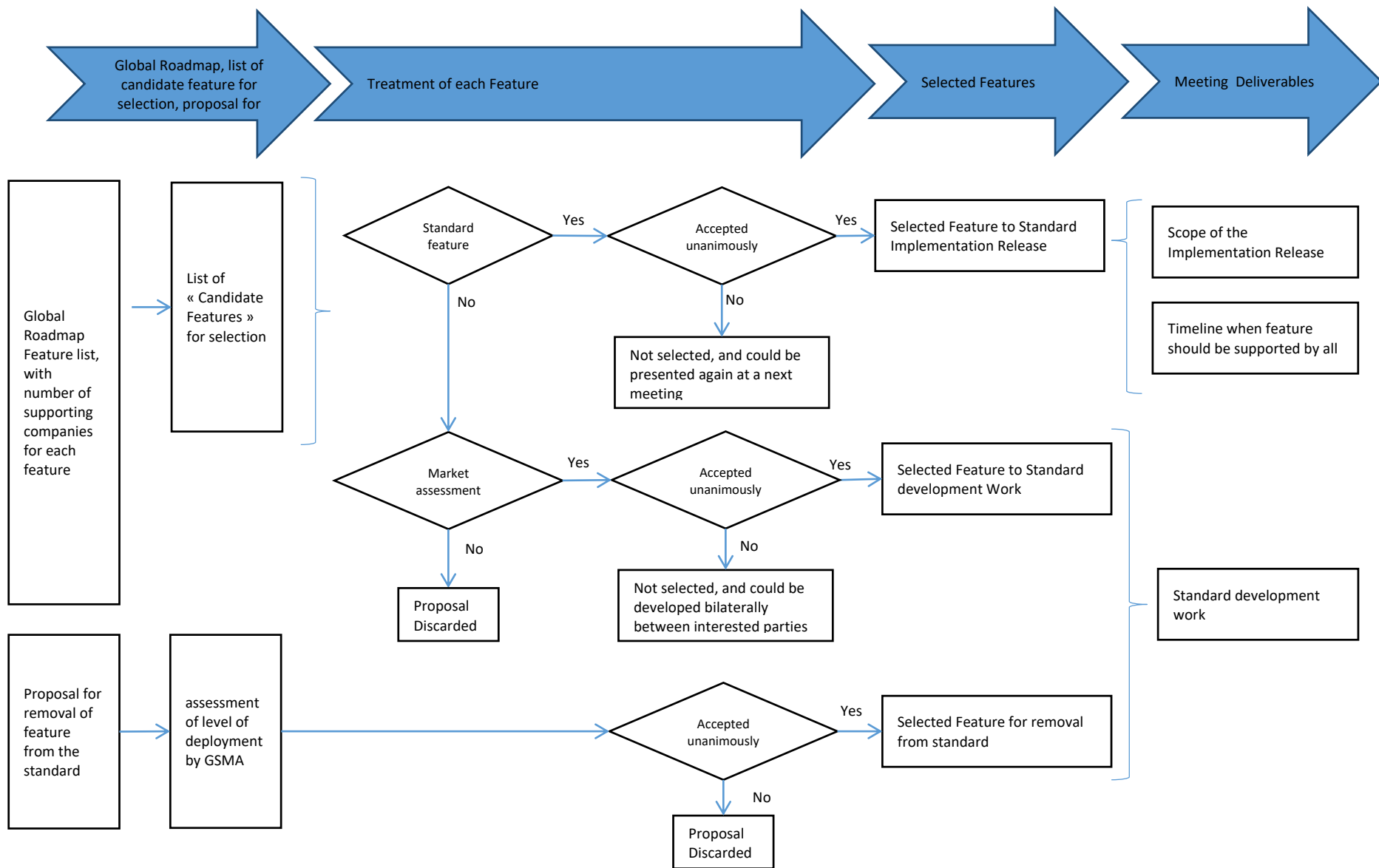- Standard development work

Figure 1 : Mode of operation

Decision making

The Roadmap Group will always try to reach decisions across all its members through consensus.

Operator unaminous decisions are required to accept a feature into the Implementation Release and to remove a feature from Specification. Provider views will be taken as input but not as decision makers.

Voting is not recommended, however if required only Operators have voting rights and decisions are taken by the majority of the vote, governed by GSMA Articles of Association.

Roadmap input from non members

Any external company, i.e. a company not part of the Roadmap Group, ("Requester") may work with a Roadmap Group member or GSMA ("Sponsor") to provide an input to the Roadmap Group. The Sponsor decides if and when they will promote the input on behalf of the Requester. The Sponsor may then present on behalf of the Requester, and provide feedback to the Requester on any Roadmap Group decision on behalf of the Roadmap Group. The Roadmap Group may also invite the Requester to present proposals themselves.

Miscellaneous

 Document Storage and Dissemination
o   The Roadmap Group will have a presence on GSMA InfoCentre for the Plenary Group
o   GSMA InfoCentre will be used for document management by any Roadmap Group work streams providing a secure repository with minimal risk of discovery by non participating members
o   To the extent that non-GSMA members participate in the Roadmap or Plenary Groups, documents will also be disseminated by appropriate other channels, including the GSMA website
o   Roadmap Group participants may use other appropriate tools for their working documents