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***Unrestricted***

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**Reference**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of this document

This document sets out details in relation to the eligibility requirements for Associate Membership of the GSM Association.

## 2. GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Legal entities which support the functioning, promotion and evolution of GSM Systems, to the satisfaction of the Association may be invited to join as Associate Members.

2.2 The Association reserves the right to refuse to grant and to terminate Associate Membership status to an organization that is or has been engaged in behavior that the Association in its sole opinion deems unlawful, or potentially detrimental to the Association.

2.3 More specifically, four categories of Associate Membership apply: -

### 2.3.1 Carriers

*Operators offering Carrier services for the connection of one operator network to another. Links may support Signalling and/or Bearer plane traffic between pairs of operators. The "Carriers Category" consists of the following subcategories:*

#### **International Transit Carriers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of International Transit Carrier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Carry traffic (Voice, SMS and/or MMS) internationally on behalf of GSMA member network operators.
- Provide a service that meets the required quality standards and Service Level Agreements as requested by GSMA member network operators.

#### **GRX Carriers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of GRX Carrier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide and/or enable data roaming services for technologies within the GSM family, interconnecting mobile network operators.
- Support an international network, with access to connectivity at GRX peering points.
- Support Qos requirements for roaming as per GSMA PRD IR.34.
- Support GRX DNS interfaces and protocols, and connectivity to the GRX DNS.

#### **Signaling Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of signalling provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Carry signalling traffic (e.g. SS7) on behalf of GSMA member network operators.
- Provide a service that meets the required quality standards and Service Level Agreements as requested by GSMA member network operators.

### 2.3.2 Suppliers

*Suppliers of equipment, software or content for the implementation of GSM and GSM-based network implementations and services. The “Suppliers Category” consists of the following subcategories:*

#### **Billing System Suppliers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Billing System Supplier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide billing, rating or accounting software systems to GSMA member network operators. The software can be network (pre-paid rating) or back office based.

#### **Infrastructure and Enablement Suppliers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Infrastructure Supplier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide infrastructure equipment, specific to a GSM or GSM-based technology network, or other functional and/or physical elements required for the operation of a GSM-family technology network.
- Provide enabling technologies designed to support the rollout, operation and maintenance of infrastructure e.g. providers of radio planning software tools, etc.

#### **Mobile Terminal and Component Suppliers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Mobile Terminal Supplier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Produce devices that are designed to 3GPP or 3GPP2 standard to work on GSMA member networks.
- Produce devices that have IMEIs that have been obtained via the GSMA or one of its “Reporting Bodies” (RB) BAPT, CTIA, TAF, MSAI).
- Produce chipsets or other components required to build mobile devices.

#### **Security Systems Suppliers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Security Systems Supplier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide infrastructure elements such as authentication centres and equipment identity registers.
- Provide fraud detection and/or security monitoring tools.
- Provide cryptographic solutions to protect against eavesdropping and/or to authenticate users to mobile networks and mobile services.
- Provide digital signature, public key infrastructure and/or mobile application certification authority services.
- Provide lawful interception solutions and/or emergency messaging and communication applications.

#### **SIM/UICC Suppliers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of SIM/UICC Supplier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Produce SIM/UICC compliant with ETSI, 3GPP, 3GPP2, SIM Alliance 2006 or Java recommendations.
- Produce SIM/UICC for 3GPP-defined Radio Access-based devices.
- Produce R.UIM and C.SIM for CDMA devices.

### **Simulator and Test Platform Suppliers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Simulator Supplier, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Produce simulators and/or test platforms for the testing of GSM platforms including GPRS and EDGE (2G and 2.5G), UMTS/WCDMA or any other 3GPP defined radio access technology, and mobile devices.
- Produce simulators and/or test platforms for the testing of CDMA platforms and mobile devices.

### **Application Developers and Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Application Developer and Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide software and/or hardware services and/or applications intended to enhance GSMA member network operator services and application portfolios.
- Develop systems/applications that are able to inter-operate with GSM network elements as required.
- Produce systems/applications capable of producing event and billing records to allow operators to bill individual users for utilising the system/application.
- Support the GSMA's policy on open standards and be willing to work within the framework of the appropriate SDO to develop their systems/applications with open interfaces and using open standards.

### **Mobile Media and Entertainment Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Mobile Media and Entertainment Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Create and/or compile content and material for download to/use on mobile devices
- Provide mobile media and entertainment products/services to GSMA member network operators and their customers

### **Mobile Money Application and Service Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Mobile Money Application and Service Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide financial service applications intended for use on mobile devices
- Provide financial transaction services for mobile device use

### **Green Power Solutions Suppliers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Green Power Solutions Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide products/equipment/technologies to allow operators to reduce emissions or energy consumption
- Provide content or applications to allow subscribers to reduce emissions or energy consumption

### **GSM Standards Supporter**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of GSM Standards Supporter, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Develop software or supply tools and system enablers that support GSM Standards.

### **Transport Device and Service Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Transport Device and Service Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide in-built or after-fit devices and/or services that provides (embedded) wireless connectivity to end-users and consumers to allow access to a mobile operator network for, amongst others
- Car safety and passenger security based on systems like OnStar (USA) and the European eCall initiative – as well as V2V (vehicle to vehicle) and V2I (vehicle to infrastructure) systems
- Infotainment – delivery of route planning and alert information, entertainment content and Internet access
- Remote vehicle management - intelligent monitoring of vehicle parameters for applications such as predictive maintenance, theft recovery and usage-related insurance

#### **Utilities Device and Service Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Utilities Device and Service Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide devices and/or services that provides (embedded) wireless connectivity to users and consumers to allow access to a mobile operator network for, amongst others
- Smart metering, providing one or two way communications for automated meter readings to ensure effective energy management
- Smart grid, providing ‘intelligent monitoring’ to track electricity flowing in, and / or traversing into and out of an energy network
- Smart Gateways, providing wireless connectivity to a mobile operator network whilst integrating several other forms of wireless communications to in-house devices (domotics or home automation)

#### **mHealth Device and Service Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of mHealth Device and Service Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Provide devices and/or services that provide (embedded) wireless connectivity to end-users and consumers to allow access to a mobile operator network for, amongst others,:
- collecting community and clinical health data,
- delivery of healthcare information to practitioners, researchers, and patients,
- real-time monitoring of patient vital signs, and direct provision of care
- direct feedback to users on wellness and fitness

### **2.3.3 Clearing Houses**

*Providers of services for the aggregation and conveyance of service from one operator to another, acting as a point of trust and validation of the information received and conveyed. . The “Clearing Houses Category” consists of the following subcategories:*

#### **Data Clearing Houses**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Data Clearing Houses, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Offer Transferred Account Procedure or Near Real-Time Roaming Data Exchange based data clearing services to GSMA member network operators.

#### **Financial Clearing Houses**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category of Financial Clearing Houses, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Support GSMA member network operator requirements in relation to invoicing and settlement of roaming & interworking invoices.

#### 2.3.4 Open Connectivity Solution Providers

*Providers of services intended to provide OC hub-based roaming or SMS interworking connectivity between multiple operators based on a single contract between the operator and the hub solution provider. The category also includes providers of GRQ-compliant solutions to monitor roaming service quality. . The Open Connectivity Solution Providers Category” consists of the following subcategories:*

##### **SMS Hub Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category SMS Hub Provider, the applicants SMS Hubbing Solution must be willing to offer and support:

- Interoperability
- Both Opt in & Opt out on behalf of clients
- Transparency
- Quality
- Fraud & Security
- Testing
- End to end contractual responsibility based on Standard Agreement templates
- Cascade billing
- Traffic transportation (delivery) from the Client Operator’s Network to the Terminating Operator’s Network

##### **Roaming Hub Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category Roaming Hub Provider, the applicant’s Roaming Hubbing solution must offer the following associated services:

- Agreement Management
- Operations & Maintenance
- Centralized Signalling
- IREG and TADIG Testing

##### **Global Roaming Quality (GRQ) Monitoring Providers**

To qualify as an Associate Member in the category GRQ Monitoring Provider, companies shall meet one of the following criteria:

- Offer tools or services that allow GSMA member network operators to monitor the quality of service offered to their roaming customers.

- 2.4 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Finance Committee shall have the discretion to invite entities which do not fall within the above categories but who support the strategic objectives of the Association to join as Associate Members.

### **3. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS FROM CORPORATE GROUPS**

#### 3.1 Individual Associate Membership

- 3.1.1 Subject to Clause 3.1.4 and the any other requirements set out or referred to in this document, individual legal entities may be asked to join the Association as individual Associate Members.

- 3.1.2 Departments, sections or branches of a company without separate legal entities do not qualify for separate Associate Membership.
- 3.1.3 Subject to (*insert document reference*), the Associate Member fee for an individual legal entity is calculated on the total annual turn-over of such individual legal entity.
- 3.1.4 Subject to Clause 3.2.3, individual legal entities will not be able to join as individual Associate Members in accordance with Clause 3.1.1 and may therefore be asked to seek Corporate Group Associate Membership in accordance with Clause 3.2 below, if:
- (a) a substantial part of other companies within its corporate group of the applicant wishing to obtain Associate Membership, falls within any of the categories set out in Clause 2.3 of this document; or
  - (b) it is evident from the nature of its business or standing within its corporate structure of the particular applicant wishing to obtain Associate Membership that the applicant is acting on behalf of one or more of its larger affiliates or its corporate group as a whole, in order to obtain Associate Membership benefits on behalf of such affiliates or the corporate group, without payment of the appropriate membership fees due from the larger affiliate(s) or corporate group wishing obtain such benefits.
- 3.1.5. Existing Associate Members in possession of a GSM licence will not be able to continue their Associate Membership and must apply for Full Membership of the GSMA no later than the annual renewal date for their Associate Membership.

### 3.2 Corporate Group Associate Membership

- 3.2.1 Subject to any other requirements set out or referred to in this document, "Corporate Groups" may be asked to join the Association as one Associate Member. For the purpose of this document a "Corporate Group" shall only include a parent company and any of its 100% owned subsidiaries, as long as all of them are operating under one corporate identity (e.g. one e-mail address).
- 3.2.2 Subject to (*Associate Member Fee structure document*), the Associate Member fee for Corporate Groups is calculated on the total annual turn-over of the whole Corporate Group.
- 3.2.3 Subsidiaries of parent companies of a "Corporate Groups" which:
- (a) are not wholly owned by such parent company (i.e. less than 100% owned); or
  - (b) have been operating under a separate corporate identity or company profile (e.g. separate email address);
- will only be able to join the Association as individual entities in accordance with Clause 3.1.
- 3.2.4 The GSMA reserves the right to amend the application of clause 3.2.3 if the practical application of that clause limits the working ability of a subsidiary which is, for practical purposes, owned and controlled by one parent company but that the parent company may not own 100% of the shares or interest in that subsidiary.

### 3.3 Joint Venture Associate Membership

- 3.3.1 Applicants that constitute legally a joint venture, i.e. are co-owned between two or more entities, may either be offered Associate Membership in accordance with:
- (a) Clause 3.1, i.e. as individual members; or
  - (b) pursuant to Clause 3.2, where the joint venture is the parent company of 100% owned subsidiaries and all are operating under one corporate identity, Corporate Group Associate Member (together with its wholly owned subsidiaries).
- 3.3.2 In accordance with Clause 4.2 the benefit of such Associate Membership will not extend to the holding companies of such a joint venture.



- 3.4 Associate Members that qualify for “Full Membership” in accordance with the Documentation will not be able to join the GSMA as Associate Members and are requested to apply for “Full Membership” instead.
- 3.5 Existing Associate Members having received a GSM license will not be able to continue Associate Members and must convert to Full Membership no later than their annual renewal date of GSMA membership.

#### **4. BENEFITS**

- 4.1 The Benefits of Associate Membership in the Association are set out in the Association’s relevant GSMA Associate Membership documents regarding features and benefits (as in force from time to time).
- 4.2 The benefits of Associate Membership in the Association are personal to the Associate Members and may not be transferred to or shared with any other third party (e.g. affiliates of the Associate member), unless:
  - (a) the third party is another Associate member of the Association in its own right; or
  - (b) the entities are all part of the same Corporate Group Associate Membership in accordance with Clause 3.2.