

Project
ManagementTechnical
BodiesDelegates
CornerProject
SupportContact
3GPP

Quick Access

About 3GPP

Specifications

Membership

Meetings

Email Lists

FAQ

3GPP Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Membership** | **2. Mailing Lists** | **3. Legal Matters** | **4. Specifications** | **5. Technical Specification Group/Working Group** |
6. Documents and Meetings | **7. Miscellaneous** | **8. Technical topics**

1. Membership

1.1 Who can become an Individual Member of 3GPP and how much does it cost? [Answer>>>](#)

1.1.1 How do I become a member of 3GPP? [Answer>>>](#)

1.2 Who may participate in 3GPP meetings? [Answer>>>](#)

1.3 Who should fill in the 3GPP membership application form? [Answer>>>](#)

1.4 What should I do if the details of a 3GPP member company or official contact change? [Answer>>>](#)

1.5 What are the different membership categories? [Answer>>>](#)

1.6 Who may become a 3GPP Observer? [Answer>>>](#)

1.7 Who may become a Guest Member and do guests have to pay any fees? [Answer>>>](#)

1.8 Who can apply for Market Representative Partnership? [Answer>>>](#)

1.9 Can an ETSI Observer become an Individual Member of 3GPP? [Answer>>>](#)

1.10 Can ETSI Applicant apply for 3GPP Membership? [Answer>>>](#)

1.11 My company is already an ETSI Member, what do I have to do to join 3GPP and do I have to pay any fees? [Answer>>>](#)

[back to top](#)

2. 3GPP email exploder lists

2.1 Are there discussion archives for the 3GPP exploder lists? [Answer>>>](#)

2.2 How do I subscribe to the 3GPP exploder lists? [Answer>>>](#)

[back to top](#)

3. Legal matters

3.1 What is the 3GPP IPR Policy? [Answer>>>](#)

3.2 What is the 3GPP policy on licensing? [Answer>>>](#)

3.3 What is the 3G Patent Platform? [Answer>>>](#)

3.4 Is it true that a number 3GPP members are looking at setting up a patents cooperative, with the aim of reducing the royalties they pay each other for the use of patented technology in third-generation mobile systems? [Answer>>>](#)

3.5 Who owns the Technical Specifications and the Technical Reports approved by 3GPP? [Answer>>>](#)

3.6 Does a company implementing a product based on the 3GPP specifications have to pay any royalties to the 3GPP organization? [Answer>>>](#)

3.7 Is permission needed to use the 3GPP logo in marketing collaterals or on a web site ? [Answer>>>](#)

3.8 Can I use computer code included with a 3GPP TS to implement a produc: ? [Answer>>>](#)

[back to top](#)

4. Specifications

- 4.1 Where can the rules, protocols or software needed to develop applications for UMTS be found? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.2 What is the correlation between Stage 1, Stage 2 (GSM 3.90 and GSM 02.90) and Phase 1, Phase 2? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.3 Is there any simple guide to the different CAMEL specifications? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.4 Where are the specifications which identify the Vcc voltages for the SIM interface? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.5 Are the 3GPP specifications produced only in word? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.6 Which group works with specifications covering the use of the GSM codec (either in C or Java based)? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.7 Does the ETSI GSM standard document collection also include GSM standard documents produced by the GSM Association and exactly what kind of GSM standards does ETSI produce? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.8 Where would I find a document (e.g. UMTS 30.03 version 3.1.0) which does not appear on the 3GPP Status list? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.9 Where are all the Change Requests (CRs) located? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.10 Where are all the current ETSI SMG specs located? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.11 Which group works on the W-CDMA and the Physical Layer of W-CDMA? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.12 Where can I find the list of Abstract syntax notation (ASN.1) object identifiers? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.13 Where can I find the 3GPP Confidentiality and Integrity algorithms? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.14 What is a Release - how does specification version numbering work? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.15 Where can I find information on the current status of 3GPP specifications? [Answer>>>](#)
- 4.16 What is the system for numbering specifications? Which specifications contain information on specific topics? [Answer>>>](#)

[back to top](#)

5. Technical Specification Group/Working Group

- 5.1 Who are the TSG/WG Officials and Support team and Where can I find their contact details? [Answer>>>](#)
- 5.2 Where can I find the Terms of Reference for my TSG/WG? [Answer>>>](#)
- 5.3 When did the Officials begin their Term of Office? [Answer>>>](#)
- 5.4 May I become an Official? [Answer>>>](#)
- 5.5 Where are my TSG/WGs documents stored? [Answer>>>](#)
- 5.6 Is the ETSI Secretariat responsible for the management of the Application Provider Codes for 3GPP ? [Answer>>>](#)

[back to top](#)

6. Documents and Meetings

- 6.1 How do I register for a meeting? [Answer>>>](#)
- 6.2 How do I submit a contribution for a meeting? [Answer>>>](#)
- 6.3 How do I obtain a document number for my contribution? [Answer>>>](#)
- 6.4 Where can I download documents for an upcoming meeting? [Answer>>>](#)
- 6.5 Where can I find a temporary document template? [Answer>>>](#)
- 6.6 What happens if I am unable to attend a meeting? [Answer>>>](#)

Work Items and Deliverables

- 6.7 What is my role when my TSG/WGs has to approve a deliverable? [Answer>>>](#)

6.8 What are the different types of deliverables? [Answer>>>](#)

6.9 Can I write a 3GPP Document myself? [Answer>>>](#)

6.10 Do I and my company have to support my TSG/WGs Work Items? [Answer>>>](#)

[back to top](#)

7. Miscellaneous

7.1 How do I resolve the problem with the corrupt file warning in MSWord. Note that this only applies to MSWord2000? [Answer>>>](#)

7.2 Do I need a password and user name to access the 3GPP Web site ? [Answer>>>](#)

7.3 Can you give me information about which companies manufacture particular types of equipment. Or about what services are available on particular networks? [Answer>>>](#)

7.4 Can you give me information about which companies manufacture particular types of equipment. Or about what services are available on particular networks?

[back to top](#)

8 Technical topics

8.1 Where can I find a list of technical terms and abbreviations used in 3GPP documents? [Answer>>>](#)

8.2 What is the difference between a SIM and a USIM? What is a UICC? [Answer>>>](#)

8.3 What is an R-UIM? [Answer>>>](#)

8.4 I have transferred a movie file from my phone to my PC. Where can I find a player for 3gp files? [Answer>>>](#)

[back to top](#)

ANSWERS

1. Membership

1.1 Who can become an Individual Member of 3GPP and how much does it cost ?

Individual Members are by definition members of the [Organizational Partners of 3GPP](#). This means that members of standardization bodies such as ETSI, ARIB, TTA, TTC, T1 and CCSA have a right to take part in 3GPP. There are no fees payable directly to 3GPP. However, the funds required for the running of 3GPP are collected from the Organizational Partners and you may be required to contribute in some way through that route.

If you are not a member of one of the above Standardization bodies then you can find links to these bodies from the [3GPP home page](#).

If you require further guidance on how to participate in 3GPP activities you should contact the [Mobile Competence Centre](#).

[back to top](#)

1.2 Who may participate in 3GPP meetings ?

To attend a 3GPP meeting, you must be a 3GPP Individual Member (i.e. you must be a Member of one of the Organizational Partners involved in the project; ARIB, CCSA, ETSI, T1, TTA or TTC. A non-member company should seek membership with one of the above partners to be eligible to contribute and participate at 3GPP Meetings.

1.3 Who shall fill in the 3GPP Individual Member Application form ?

The person legally responsible for the requesting company shall fill in the form.

1.4 What shall I do if a 3GPP company or official contact details change?

All changes of correspondence should be notified to 3GPPContact@etsi.org

1.5 Different membership categories ?

The different membership categories of 3GPP are described in Section B of the 3GPP Working Procedures.

1.6 Who may become an observer ?

1.7 Who may become a Guest Member and do guests have to pay any fees ?

The Guest Status is for potential Individual Members who may be granted permission to participate in 3GPP for a maximum period of 6 months. Guest status is granted on a case-by-case basis by the Organizational Partners (see also Working Procedures Article 10). If you like to apply for a Guest status, please send an email to 3GPPContact@etsi.org

No membership fees are requested for Guest applications.

[back to top](#)

1.8 Who can apply for market representative Partnership?

1.9 Can an ETSI Observer become an Individual Member of 3GPP ?

NO, an ETSI Observer may "observe" all activities, but their participation is limited to the ETSI General Assembly only. Therefore, ETSI Observers have no participation rights in 3GPP. ETSI Observers have access to ETSI documentation and of course to 3GPP documentation since that is openly published on the web.

3GPP does have it's own category called "Observer" but that is entirely different and is used for potential Partners.

1.10 Can an ETSI Applicant apply for 3GPP Membership ?

YES, an Applicant means that your request to become an ETSI Member will be approved at the next General Assembly. You can participate in 3GPP as soon as the ETSI application has been processed and you are flagged as a Candidate Member (i.e. there is no need to wait until the next GA).

1.11 My company is already an ETSI Member, what do I have to do to join 3PP and do I have to pay any fees ?

As an ETSI member your company is eligible for a 3GPP Individual Membership and you will be able to attend any of the 3GPP Meetings. Please fill in the on-line 3GPP Application form and your company will be then listed on the 3GPP Website (add link to the form)

There are currently no additional costs involved for participation in 3GPP (the membership fees for ETSI covers the cost of 3GPP participation).

[back to top](#)

2. 3GPP email exploder lists

2.1 Are there discussion archives for the 3GPP exploder lists ?

The home page of listserv is at: <http://list.3gpp.org/scripts/wa.exe>

Then, just follow the links to the archives. For example, the archives for the main RAN email list can be found at:

http://list.3gpp.org/archives/3gpp_tsg_ran.html

2.2 How do I subscribe to the 3GPP exploder lists ?

follow the instructions found on this page: http://www.3gpp.org/Discussion_Lists/mailling.htm

[back to top](#)

3. Legal Matters

3.1 What is the 3GPP IPR Policy ?

The 3GPP Organizational Partners have agreed that their IPR policies should be respected and that their respective members should be encouraged to declare "their willingness to grant licenses on fair reasonable terms and conditions and on non discriminatory basis" (Article 3.1 of the Third Generation Partnership Project). For more information [Look Here >>>](#)

The above-mentioned principles are further reflected in [Article 55 of the 3GPP Technical Working Procedures](#) which request that each Individual Members should declare "at the earliest opportunity, any IPR which they believe to be essential, or potentially essential, to any work ongoing within 3GPP".

[back to top](#)

3.2 What is the 3GPP policy on licensing ?

Some aspects of 3GPP systems are covered by essential Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) - that is, patented technologies without which equipment cannot be implemented. The IPR vests in - i.e. the patents are held by - individual companies, and not by 3GPP itself or any of its [Organizational Partners](#) (OPs). All Individual Members of 3GPP abide by the IPR policies of the OP to which they belong; all such policies are broadly similar (see [FAQ 3.1](#)), and require IPR holders to make licences available to all third parties, whether or not they are 3GPP Individual Members, under fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms.

Neither 3GPP nor its component OPs offer an IPR search service. It is the responsibility of each manufacturer / system implementor to seek and obtain its own licences from the individual IPR holders.

For more information, and a guide to the IPRs declared to each 3GPP OP, [look here >>>](#)

(Answer drafted 2005-09-12 by JMM.)

[back to top](#)

3.3 What is the 3G Patent Platform ?

On the fringe of standardization activities some telecom companies have set up a voluntary arrangement for the licensing of essential patents required to meet the standards published for 3G systems has emerged.

Please find a historical recap of the creation of the 3G Patent Platform. Thank you to note that Phase 3 has not started yet.

1. Discussions started in the UMTS IPR working Group (1998).
2. The UMTS IPR working group operated within the UIAP (UMTS Intellectual Property Association) to define the functions of the 3G Patent Platform.

The 3G Patent Platform will provide services for:

- - Evaluating,
- - Certifying and,
- - Licensing

essential patents for 3G Mobile communications.

3. Implementation of the 3G Patent Platform scheme.

The 3G Patent Platform will operate within a new profit service company governed by the members (essential patent holders and licensees). As of today this NEW CO is not operational since it is waiting for the approval of the US/EC/Japanese competition law authorities in order to launch the above-described activities.

More information is to be found at <http://www.3gpatents.com/>

[back to top](#)

3.4 Is it true that a number 3GPP members are looking at setting up a patents cooperative, with the aim of reducing the royalties they pay each other for the use of patented technology in third-generation mobile systems ?

- Discussion started in the UMTS IPR working Group (1998),
- Creation of the UIAP (UMTS Intellectual Property Association) which has performed the function of the definition the 3G Patent Platform scheme (Evaluation of a patent, certification of essentiality, licensing arrangements, etc.) and which is the legal owner of the 3G Patent Platform Specification.
- Implementation of the scheme:

As of today NEW CO (implementing the 3G Patent Platform) has not be incorporated and the Patent Platform scheme is not operational as it is awaiting for the approval of the US/EC competition law authorities.

ETSI follows the development of the 3G Patent Platform but, as a neutral standard body, cannot take an active participation in this market initiative.

3.5 Who owns the Technical Specifications and the Technical Reports approved by 3GPP ?

According to the Article 3.2.2 of the Third Generation Partnership Project Agreement, the 3GPP Organizational Partners jointly own copyright on the Technical Specifications and the Technical Reports approved by 3GPP.

3.6 Does a company implementing a product based on the 3GPP specifications have to pay any royalties to the 3GPP organization ?

The Third Generation Partnership Project is not a legal entity but a Partnership Project between different standardization organizations in the field of telecommunications.

[back to top](#)

3.7 Is permission needed to use the 3GPP logo in marketing collaterals or on a web site ?

ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) is the sole owner of the following acronyms:

- ETSI,
- DECT,
- UMTS,
- 3GPP and
- TIPHON,

as well as the ETSI, TIPHON and 3GPP logos. ETSI Members shall use these Trade Marks in accordance with Collective Letter 1943. Authorization is needed to use the above mentioned acronyms and logos.

For further information please contact : [3GPP Legal](#)

[back to top](#)

3.8 Can I use computer code included with a 3GPP TS to implement a product ?

Yes. Some 3GPP Technical Specifications include computer code such as ASN.1 or XML (protocols), C language (codecs), ...; and some include test patterns (codecs) for verifying implementations. These are published to allow users of these TSs to implement real-world products. No permission is required from 3GPP or its [Organizational Partners](#) (OPs) to use this code in the design of products - e.g. to compile the C to implement a codec in machine code.

Nevertheless, there may be essential IPR involved with such a design, and implementors are obliged to seek licences to use that technology. See [FAQ 3.2](#).

Moreover, the copyright of all 3GPP TSs and TRs vests jointly by all the 3GPP OPs. Other than for in-house copies for the purpose of further development of the 3GPP standard or for product design purposes, etc. you may not reproduce any part of a 3GPP TS or TR without seeking permission; use the form available [here](#). This means that you must not provide verbatim copies of *source* code (or lightly modified copies) without seeking permission from 3GPP.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.