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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](#).

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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.

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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).

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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

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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".

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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.)

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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/>

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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.

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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](#)

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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.

Finally, you are reminded that 3GPP TSs and TRs have no legal status, and you should not design products directly to them. See the advice notice on the cover page of every 3GPP TS and TR. Instead, use [the technically identical publication of one of the OPs](#).

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

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