



## The Mobile Broadband Standard

UMTS

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## 3GPP FAQs

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### Search

3GPP Website: 

Search and download specs, docs, CRs and more from the 3GPP FTP Server:

[ADVANCED FTP SEARCH](#)

### More news...

Recent stories:

- Control and User Plane Separation of EPC nodes (CUPS)
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- 5G Phase 1 underway in CT Groups
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- Riding the NB-IoT bicycle
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 Where can I find a temporary document template?

## Questions about Work Items and Deliverables

What is my role when my TSG/WGs has to approve a deliverable?  
 What are the different types of deliverables?  
 Can I write an 3GPP Document myself?  
 Do I and my company have to support my TSG/WGs Work Items?

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Do I need a password and user name to access the 3GPP Web site ?  
 Can you give me information about which companies manufacture particular types of equipment. (...)  
 How can I determine when a meeting contribution document (TDoc) became publicly available?  
 Is it possible to determine the date and time of publication of a particular version of a 3GPP specification?

## Technical topics

What formalities do I have to go through to get type approval for terminal equipment in Europe? Is there a single point of contact? What standards does my equipment need to conform to in order that I can place it on the market?  
 Where can I find a list of technical terms and abbreviations used in 3GPP documents?  
 What is the difference between a SIM and a USIM? What is a UICC?  
 I have transferred a video file from my phone to my PC. Where can I find a player for 3gp files?  
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## 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, ATIS and CCSA have a right to take part in 3GPP. If your company becomes an ETSI member, please be informed that for participation in 3GPP you need to pay 3 units of contribution as a minimum except SMEs, Users, Universities, Public Research Bodies who should pay 2 units (instead of 1).

ETSI Members' and associate members' fees are calculated by class. The class is derived from the member company's annual ECRT band (Electronics Communications Related Turnover) – see ECRT definition.  
 Each class corresponds to a number of units. This number determines the contribution payable.

Example: If your organization declares an annual ECRT of up to 135€ million, you would need to pay 2 Units of Contribution (corresponding to 9380€ per year) plus an additional UoC for participation in 3GPP of 3380€ (see fees table). Members joining ETSI during the 2nd half of the year benefit from a 50% rebate on the membership fee of the current year. In this case, you would pay 12760€ minus 50% = 6380€ for yyyy.

## 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, ATIS, TTA, TTC or TSDSI). A non-member company should seek membership with one of the above partners to be eligible to contribute and participate at 3GPP Meetings.

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

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

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

All changes of correspondence should be notified to ETSI Membership and 3GPPMembership.  
 In case of change of official contact an ETSI Online (EOL) account will be created for the new contact.  
 Please note that as official contact person you can view and modify your personal and organization's contact details via the "Manage my membership" web interface.

## What are the different membership categories?

The different membership categories of 3GPP are described in Article 4 of the 3GPP Working Procedures.

## Who may become an observer?

The status of Observer may be granted by the Organizational Partners to an entity which has the qualifications to become a future Partner (see also 3GPP Working Procedures Article 10)

## Who may become a 3GPP Guest Member and do guests have to pay any fees?

The 3GPP 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 3GPP Working Procedures Article 10). If you like to apply for a Guest status, please complete the on-line 3GPP Application form.

No membership fees are requested for Guest applications. The Guest status is a one time only membership which is used to enable a company to decide whether or not they wish to become a full member (by joining one of the Partners).

## Who can apply for market representative Partnership?

Organisation who have the ability to offer market advice to 3GPP and to bring into 3GPP a consensus view of market requirements (e.g., services, features and functionality) falling within the 3GPP scope (see also 3GPP Working Procedures, Article 7).

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

An ETSI Observer cannot become an Individual Member of 3GPP. 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.

## Can an ETSI Applicant apply for 3GPP Membership?

YES, an ETSI Applicant means that your request to become an ETSI Member will be addressed (and normally approved) at the next General Assembly and that the company has specified they want to participate in 3GPP activities. See also above regarding 3GPP fees.

## Can an ETSI Member apply for 3GPP Guest status?

Yes, any ETSI Member can apply for a 3GPP Guest status by filling in the on-line 3GPP Application form.

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

Yes! To see the complete list please have a look here: [Home page of listserv](#) and scroll down until you find the list you are interested in. For example, the archives for the main RAN email list.

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

All 3GPP email exploder lists can be found at [list.3gpp.org](http://list.3gpp.org). In order to subscribe to any of the lists, scroll down until you find the list you are interested in, then click on the link and on the right side of the page you will find Subscribe or Unsubscribe. Click on the link and follow the simple instructions. Delegates who already have an ETSI username and password should use the list management application on the ETSI site.

## 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 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".

## 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 also "What is the 3GPP IPR Policy", 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 licenses from the individual IPR holders. For more information, and a guide to the IPRs declared to each 3GPP OP, look [here>>>](#)

## 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.

## Are meeting contributions to ETSI TC SMG publically available?

ETSI TC SMG meeting documents can be found on the ETSI docbox file server. Access is limited to bona fide representatives of ETSI member organizations. These, together with early versions of the GSM specifications, have been gathered together into a set of DVDs "A Technical History of GSM" available to ETSI members via the [ETSI WEB store](#).

The GSM standardization work was transferred from CEPT to ETSI in 1991. TC SMG was closed at meeting #32 and TC MSG created to continue the work. Like almost all ETSI Technical Committees, participation in TC SMG and its working groups was open to all ETSI member organizations. That is, any bona fide representative of an ETSI member was free to participate. Exceptionally, other individuals could participate by express invitation of the chairman. Each meeting report contains a list of participants with their corporate affiliations.

Until the late 1990s, all meeting documents were circulated in paper form. Electronic files started to take over from paper in around 1997. Meeting documents ("TDocs") were distributed by post (later, by fax) in batches prior to the meeting, to those persons registered as regular participants in SMG or the appropriate working group, and many more documents were produced during the course of the meeting itself. Although a provision existed (and still exists) in the context of the IPR Policy for contributors to place restrictions on the distribution of TDocs via a formal notification at the time the document was provided, this was seldom if ever invoked. In the absence of such a condition, all TDocs were free of any restriction on subsequent distribution. Thus no restriction has ever been placed on how meeting participants dispose of the documents subsequent to their distribution before, during, or after the meeting. There were no non-disclosure agreements.

ETSI maintains a paper archive of the SMG TDocs, and bona fide representatives of current ETSI members can, by appointment, make an accompanied search of the archives. This facility extends to members which may not have been members at the time the document was originally produced.

TC-approved versions of ETSI "deliverables" (see ETSI Directives for formal definition of this term) would have been transferred by the support officer of the committee to the secretariat team responsible for publishing ETSI deliverables. That team would have made cosmetic (non-technical) modifications to the draft deliverables before issuing them. Depending on the type of "deliverable", those documents would have been issued via National Standards Organizations (NSOs) either for immediate publication, or first via either a one-step or two-step national public enquiry and vote process prior to final publication by ETSI. In ETSI parlance, "publication" of a deliverable is the final step in the development cycle of a technical standard, and has a precise meaning. That meaning is not "making publically available", since draft deliverables released for public enquiry or for vote are "publically available" but not yet "published".

If the confidentiality conditions described above had been imposed on a TDoc by its authors, if the text of that TDoc was in due course incorporated into an ETSI "deliverable", then those conditions are regarded as annulled from the date on which the deliverable is published.

Collections of TDocs / meeting reports have from time to time been made available to ETSI members in CD or DVD form, look [here >>>](#)

## 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, 3GPP and LTE logos. ETSI Members are authorized to use these Trade Marks in accordance with Collective Letter 1943. Authorization is needed to use the above mentioned acronyms and logos.

For further information contact the ETSI Legal Team or see <http://www.3gpp.org/about-3gpp/legal-matters/logo-use>.

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

Yes, but read this clause carefully. Some 3GPP Technical Specifications include computer code such as ASN.1 or XML (protocols), ANSI-C language (codecs), ...; and some include test vectors (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 implementers are obliged to seek licences from IPR owners to use that technology. See also [What is the 3GPP policy on licensing?](#)

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 from 3GPP (e.g. from the ETSI Legal Team): use the procedure described on the legal area of this site. 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.

## How do I create the next Release version of a TS or TR?

There are three ways of upgrading a Release X spec to Release X+1:

1. Write a CR to the latest Release X version to incorporate technical changes to satisfy a Release X+1 work item, and on the cover sheet showing the WI code for that work item and the Release code for Release X+1. If the CR is approved at TSG level, this will automatically create the first instance of the next Release of the spec.
2. Make a specific request to the TSG to upgrade the latest version of the spec from Release X to Release X+1. This might be needed if the functionalities of the two Releases diverge, though backwards-incompatibility is to be avoided if possible.
3. Do nothing. If a spec has survived unchanged throughout the period during which Release X+1 was developed, when Release X+1 is frozen, all such specs will automatically be upgraded from Release X to Release X+1 without technical change.

## Where can the rules, protocols or software needed to develop applications for UMTS be found?

A good place to start is on the 3GPP website, and particularly the specifications list.

## What is the correlation between Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3?

A three-stage methodology as defined in ITU T Recommendation I.130 is applied in 3GPP according TR 21.900 clause 4.1:

Stage 1 is an overall service description from the user's standpoint.

Stage 2 is an overall description of the organization of the network functions to map service requirements into network capabilities.

Stage 3 is the definition of switching and signalling capabilities needed to support services defined in stage 1.

## Are the 3GPP specifications produced only in word?

The 3GPP specs are published as ETSI deliverables, and these are available in PDF form <http://www.etsi.org/standards-search>. But you can download a free Word viewer (i.e. read only) from the Microsoft web site. PDF is inherently secure (more so than html, in fact), and because WordViewer is very simple (it can not handle macros, for example), it is pretty safe too. ETSI has no plans at present to publish specifications in plain text or in html.

## Which group works with specifications covering the use of the GSM codec (either in C or Java based)?

The SMG STC SMG11 and 3GPP SA4 specifications, available from <http://www.3gpp.org>, respectively deal with this. It gives you a list of specifications via the status list (look for the GSM specs in the MS-Access database at : [http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Information/Databases/Spec\\_Status/](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Information/Databases/Spec_Status/))

and you can then download the specs you need. If you do not have an ETSI EOL account, you can download the ETSI equivalent standards from <http://www.etsi.org/standards-search>.

## Where can I find documents produced by the GSM MoU Group / GSM Association?

These documents are not available via 3GPP or its Organizational Partners. You must address this question to the GSM Association.

## Where would I find a document (e.g. UMTS 30.03 version 3.1.0) which does not appear on the 3GPP Status List?

Look at <http://www.3gpp.org/DynaReport/3003U.htm>. It is a document stemming from the initial TC-SMG studies on UMTS, not a product of 3GPP. It was, in fact, published as an ETSI deliverable, TR 101 112, and this may be downloaded via <http://www.etsi.org/standards-search>.

## Where are all the Change Requests (CRs) located?

The CR database can be downloaded under: [http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Information/Databases/Change\\_Request/](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Information/Databases/Change_Request/)

Or you select the specification under:

<http://www.3gpp.org/specifications/79-specification-numbering>

The information is classed by series so it is very easy to locate the particular specification which interests you. After selecting a series and a specification you will find a line "Change Requests for this spec: click here." which provides a web list of the CRs for this specification.

If, for example, you are looking for CRs on GSM 08.18 then you would use this link:

<http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/0818-CRs.htm>

<http://www.3gpp.org/DynaReport/0818http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/0818-CRs.htm>  
-CRs.htm

## Where are all the current ETSI SMG specs located?

All the ETSI SMG specs are located here archives for the GSM documentation. An ETSI On-Line account is needed to access these documents. You can apply for an ETSI online account.

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