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« GSM – part of 3rd Generation Partnership Project »

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the five other Organizational Partners (standards development bodies from China, Japan, Korea, and the USA) of the global 3rd Generation Partnership Project, 3GPP, met in Beijing, China, and agreed to extend the scope of the project to include ongoing standardization work on GSM, the Global System for Mobile Communications.

3GPP will continue the work that has previously been performed by the ETSI Special Mobile Group (SMG). As a founding Partner of 3GPP, ETSI has supported the transfer of GSM standardization to 3GPP. ETSI's Director-General, Karl Heinz Rosenbrock, remarked: "Participants in both ETSI and 3GPP judged that the time was now right to import the ongoing GSM standardization work into the Partnership Project. This will ensure that cohesion between GSM and the 3rd Generation specifications may be managed efficiently." A new 3GPP Technical Specification Group (TSG), the fifth such group in the Project, has been created to accommodate this additional work. It has been given the name GERAN (GSM/EDGE Radio Access Network). Its principal responsibilities will be the maintenance and development of GSM Technical Specifications and Technical Reports, including GSM evolved radio access technologies {such as the General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) and Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE)}. Other specification tasks being transferred from SMG to the new TSG include radio-specific operational and maintenance requirements and mobile station testing. SMG work on smart cards specific to mobile systems will move to the 3GPP Terminals TSG.

Friedhelm Hillebrand, Chairman of ETSI SMG since 1996, commented: "The new arrangements concentrate all GSM and 3GPP specification work into one body, which is open on equal terms to interested companies world-wide. It will ensure the integrity of the GSM/3GPP platform, eliminating the risk of incompatibility and inefficiency that might have arisen, had the work remained distributed among independently-acting groups."

The 3GPP Organizational Partners have agreed that some of SMG's work is not appropriate for transfer to 3GPP, and ETSI has established two new groups to continue those activities.

Technical Committee MSG (Mobile Standards Group) has, as its principal task, the production of European Standards as needed for regulatory purposes related to 2nd and 3rd Generation mobile systems.

The second group is an ETSI Project for Smart Cards, which will create a central focus point for the standardization of a generic integrated circuit (IC) card platform. Extensive participation by companies and standards-making groups from throughout the world is expected.

GSM continues to evolve, with over 330 million users in more than 150 countries. Moreover, GSM is the principal stepping-stone towards 3rd Generation mobile systems such as that being specified by 3GPP. Created at the end of 1998, 3GPP has brought together the world's leading standards development organizations and industry groupings committed to developing a global communication system which will build on the GSM success and will offer high-capacity multimedia communication, including the Internet, to users on the move. GERAN is a term used to describe a GSM and EDGE (Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution) based 200 kHz radio access network. The GERAN is based on GSM/EDGE Release 99, and covers all new features for GSM Release 2000 and subsequent releases, with full backward compatibility to previous releases.

The current Market Representation Partners of 3GPP are:

- The GSM Association:
<http://www.gsmworld.com>
- The Global Mobile Suppliers Association (GSA):
<http://www.gsacom.com/>
- The UMTS Forum:
<http://www.umts-forum.org>
- The Universal Wireless Communications Consortium (UWCC):
<http://www.uwcc.org>
- The IPv6 Forum:
<http://www.ipv6forum.com>

For more information on 3GPP, visit the 3GPP web site:
<http://www.3gpp.org>

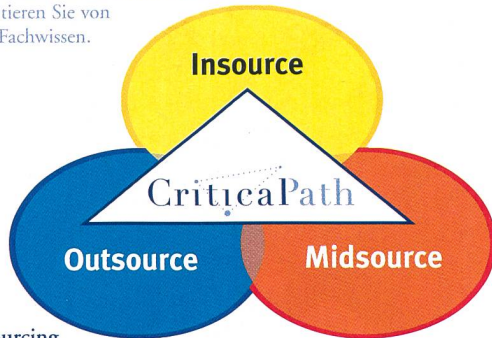
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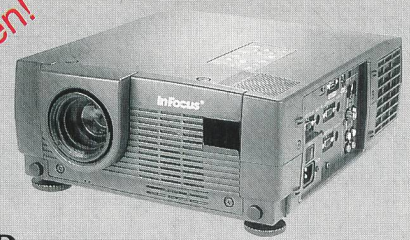
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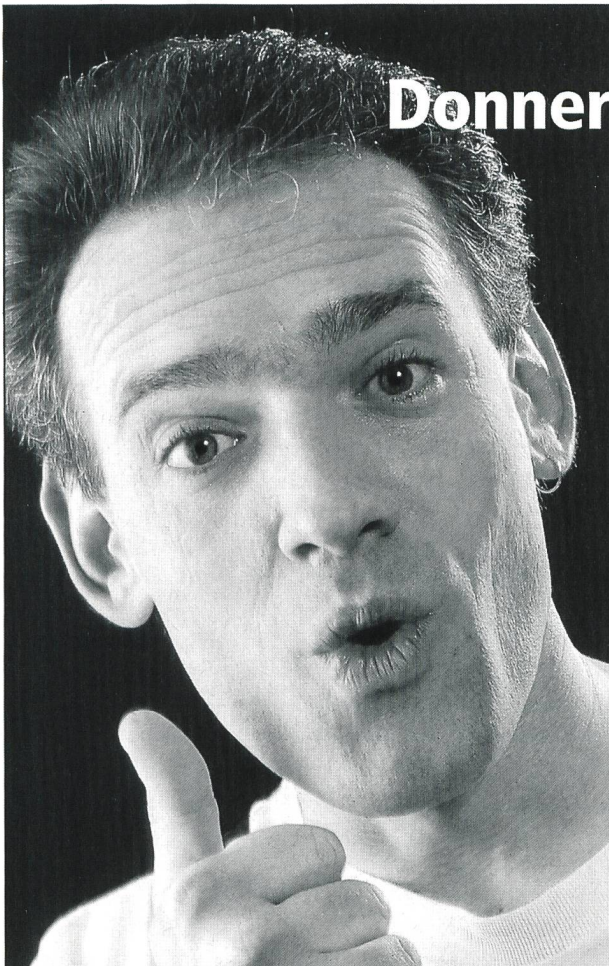
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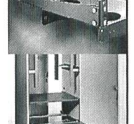
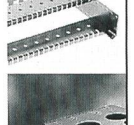
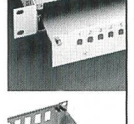
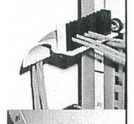
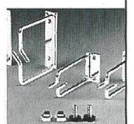
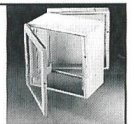
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