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TETRA

Standard to be enhanced

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) has approved further enhancements of the TETRA standard to position TETRA in the 3G market place. TETRA Release 2 will offer new features such as new multi-media services, high-speed data rates, 3G compatibility and roaming.

TETRA (TErrestrial TRunked Radio) is the ETSI standard designed for a new generation of digital land mobile radio communications. It combines the unique aspects of Private Mobile Radio (PMR) and Public Access Mobile Radio (PAMR) with those of public wireless telephony (cellular) and public packet-data services, which allows one terminal device to meet all the communication needs of mobile workers like public safety, military and other professional users.

Karl Heinz Rosenbrock, ETSI Director-General, states: "The enhancement of the TETRA standard demonstrates the ongoing commitment of ETSI to this technology. This decision will ensure that the investments made by manufacturers, network operators and users will be protected for many years to come, and that the TETRA standard will have its place alongside future 3G technologies." Phil Godfrey, Chairman of the TETRA MoU Association, said: "The membership of the MoU will be delighted that ETSI has taken this decision. Users and industry alike will have the confidence of knowing that TETRA will continue to satisfy user needs well into the next decade."

Requirements

TETRA Release 2 will incorporate additional features in accordance with the following requirements:

- Evolution of TETRA to provide higher speed packet data in support of multi-media and other high speed data applications required by existing and future TETRA users.
- Selection and standardization (as appropriate) of an additional speech codec (or set of codecs) for TETRA, to enable intercommunication between TETRA and other 3G networks without transcoding, and to provide enhanced voice quality for TETRA by using the latest low bit rate voice codec technology.
- Further enhancements of the TETRA air interface standard in order to provide increased benefits and optimization in terms of spectrum efficiency, network subscriber capacity, system performance, quality of service, size and cost of terminals, battery life etc.
- Production and/or adoption of standards to provide improved interworking and roaming between TETRA and public mobile networks such as GSM,

GPRS and UMTS, and other 3G/IP networks.

- Evolution of the TETRA SIM, with the aim of convergence with the Universal SIM (USIM), to meet the needs for TETRA specific services whilst gaining the benefits of interworking and roaming with public mobile networks such as GSM, GPRS and UMTS.
- Extension of the range of TETRA up to 120-200 km, to provide increased coverage range and low cost deployment for applications such as airborne public safety, maritime, rural telephony and "linear utilities" (eg railways and pipelines).
- Provision of new ETSI deliverables in order to support further user/market driven requirements that may be identified during study work in the early stages of the ETSI Project TETRA Release 2 work programme.
- Ensure full backward compatibility and integration of the new services with the existing TETRA suite of standards, in order to safeguard existing and future investments by TETRA users.

TETRA is receiving global acceptance, with contracts and/or commitments already in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the Far East, Australasia, South America, Africa, the Middle East, Russia and China, and with strong interest also being shown in North America.

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Korrigenda

In der comtec-Ausgabe vom Oktober 2000 ist leider im Beitrag von Alex Jalian: «Telecommunication Investment Assessment Framework» auf Seite 15 das Bild 7 nicht vollständig abgebildet worden. Das korrekte Bild sieht folgendermassen aus:

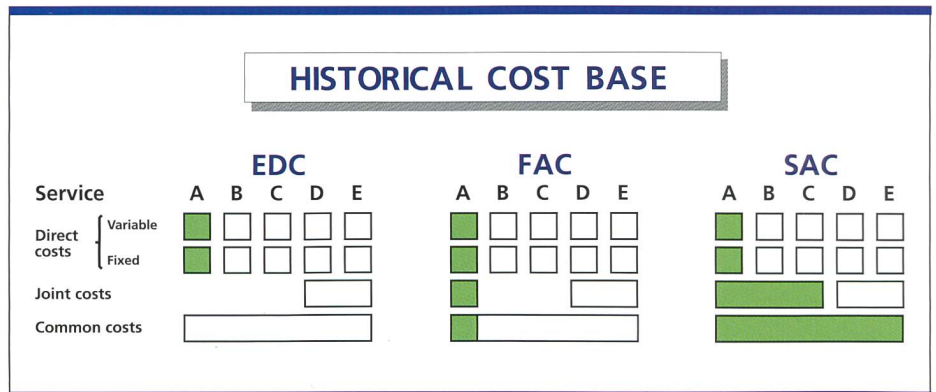


Fig. 7. Comparison between historical cost based methodologies.