

## **Terms of Reference for the Satellite Standardisation Interest Group (SSIG)**

### **August 2022**

#### **Context**

The SSIG was first created as the Standardization Special Interest Group on 8th January 2018 through the ESA ARTES contract “Support to Standardisation of Satellite 5G Component”. The purpose of these revised terms of reference is to reconfirm the name, vision, membership, scope of activities, expected outcomes and governance of this informal group.

#### **Vision**

SSIG envisions global connectivity services integrating towards unification of satellite and terrestrial networks with common technology standards. Satellite networks have specific characteristics with respect to reach, capacity, reliability, availability, resiliency, and broadcast/multicast capabilities. Satellite technologies have also evolved to significantly reduce the cost of satellite systems and increase flexibility in using their resources. Given this evolution, SSIG envisions a global network where terrestrial and satellite networks are integrated (towards unification) and seamlessly managed to deliver smart, affordable and sustainable services anytime, anywhere, and on any device (ATAWAD). Standards play an important role in achieving this integrated network vision (towards unification). As such, there are significant benefits in aligning satellite technologies, communication services and enablers as appropriate with relevant (terrestrial) network standards (including, but not limited to, 3GPP). In such an integrated global network, the eco-system will benefit from an accelerating demand and in turn rapid opening of new opportunities.

#### **Mission**

The SSIG is a platform through which a broad range of stakeholders can exchange information about satellite-related standardization activities for the integration of satellite into the evolving 3GPP ecosystem, with the aim of advancing mutual understanding and collective effectiveness in pursuing the vision. The SSIG may also provide a platform/forum for garnering support by individual participating organizations for specific actions they wish to pursue (in line with the vision).

## **Membership**

All stakeholders sharing an active and common interest in promoting further development, enhancement and seamless integration of satellite technologies, requirements and use cases in the global 3GPP standards, who share the SSIG's vision and are interested in supporting the mission of the SSIG therein in a way that is in the best interests of the satellite ecosystem as a whole, are invited to join as members of the SSIG. The main target perspective members of the SSIG are satellite operators, satellite service providers (including virtual), satellite technology and consultancy providers, research institutions interested in advancing satellite communications, government and inter-governmental organizations that are active in the development of satellite and space communications and navigation, as well as satellite ground, space and user segment hardware and software manufacturers. Other types of companies might be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to approval by the SSIG members. No restriction to SSIG calls based on past attendance is defined.

## **Focus of Activities**

Develop a standardization plan supporting the integration of satellite in the evolving 3GPP ecosystem by setting out relevant groups and their key objectives and milestones, regularly sharing status of those groups and coordinate joint contributions, as and where appropriate. In particular, it will provide strategic guidance to relevant standardization activities in 3GPP and related standardization groups (e.g., ETSI, ATIS, TSDSI etc.).

## **Expected Outcomes**

Standardization planning; Strategic guidance; Improved mutual understanding and collaboration; Joint initiatives supported by several SSIG participants; Sense of unity amongst the SSIG members at the 3GPP arena. All this is captured in the conference call minutes.

## **Governance**

The SSIG is managed by a secretary, (supported by ESA). The secretary is responsible for: Convening conference calls as appropriate (e.g., before and after 3GPP meetings); Establishing and maintaining a list of active members in the group for the mailing list. If “subgroups” are established in the context of SSIG to keep focus on specific items, it may be considered also establishing and maintaining a list of active members in subgroups. The costs

associated with participation in the group are supported by each organization involved. Members acknowledge that they are not eligible for cost reimbursements from any other organization involved in this group.

### **Limitation of liability**

As an informal platform, the SSIG cannot, and therefore does not, assume any liability with respect to the information provided by each of the members. No confidential or proprietary information should be shared by members, as members will not be bound by a confidentiality agreement.

### **Other**

Recording of SSIG sessions is not allowed unless explicitly granted under full consensus.

### **Current Participating Companies and Organisations**

- Satellite network operators: Avanti, Echostar, Eutelsat Globalstar, Hispasat, Inmarsat, Intelsat, Kepler communications, Ligado, Omnispace, Sateliot, SES, JSAT, Lynk Global, Oneweb, Yahsat, Terrestar, Iridium, RSCC, NBN.
- Satellite primes: Airbus, Lockheed Martin, Thales Alenia Space.
- Research centres: Catapult, CTTC, ETRI, Fraunhofer FOKUS, Fraunhofer HHI, Fraunhofer IIS, SnT - University of Luxembourg, ICS (University of Surrey), Unibo (University of Bologna), IRT Saint Exupery, IIT&T, TNO.
- Telecom operators: Dish, Reliance Jio • Space agencies: DLR, ESA • SatCom vendors: Gatehouse, Gilat, HUGHES Network Systems Ltd, STE IDIRECT IRELAND LTD, Viasat.
- Technology vendors: Magister Solutions, Mitsubishi Electric RCE, CEWiT, Cobham.
- Consultants: Novamint, TTP plc, E2egroup, Cell&Sat • Chipset vendor: STMicroelectronics.
- Satellite service providers: Leonardo (Telespazio).