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Technical Specification

**Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+);  
Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS);  
Basic call handling;  
Technical realization  
(3GPP TS 23.018 version 8.2.0 Release 8)**



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## Reference

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## Foreword

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## Foreword

This Technical Specification has been produced by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

The present document specifies the technical realization of the handling of calls originated by a 3G mobile subscriber and calls directed to a 3G mobile subscriber, up to the point where the call is established within the 3GPP system.

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the TSG and may change following formal TSG approval. Should the TSG modify the contents of the present document, it will be re-released by the TSG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

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# 1 Scope

The present document specifies the technical realization of the handling of calls originated by a UMTS or GSM mobile subscriber and calls directed to a UMTS or GSM mobile subscriber, up to the point where the call is established. Normal release of the call after establishment is also specified. Trunk Originated call is also modelled.

In the present document, the term MS is used to denote a UMTS UE or GSM MS, as appropriate.

The handling of DTMF signalling and Off-Air Call set-up (OACSU) are not described in the present document.

The details of the effects of UMTS or GSM supplementary services on the handling of a call are described in the relevant 3GPP TS 23.07x, 3GPP TS 23.08x and 3GPP TS 23.09x series of specifications.

The specification of the handling of a request from the HLR for subscriber information is not part of basic call handling, but is required for both CAMEL (3GPP TS 23.078 [12]) and optimal routing (3GPP TS 23.079 [13]). The use of the Provide Subscriber Information message flow is shown in 3GPP TS 23.078 [12] and 3GPP TS 23.079 [13].

The logical separation of the MSC and VLR (shown in clauses 4, 5 and 7), and the messages transferred between them (described in clause 8) are the basis of a model used to define the externally visible behaviour of the MSC/VLR, which is a single physical entity. They do not impose any requirement except the definition of the externally visible behaviour.

If there is any conflict between the present document and the corresponding stage 3 specifications (3GPP TS 24.008 [26], 3GPP TS 25.413 [27], 3GPP TS 48.008 [2] and 3GPP TS 29.002 [29]), the stage 3 specification shall prevail.

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# 2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

- [1] 3GPP TS 43.020: "Security related Network Functions".
- [2] 3GPP TS 48.008: "Mobile Switching Centre - Base Station System (MSC - BSS) interface Layer 3 specification".
- [3] 3GPP TS 52.008: "Telecommunication management; GSM subscriber and equipment trace".
- [4] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [5] 3GPP TS 23.003: "Numbering, addressing and identification".
- [6] 3GPP TS 23.012: "Location management procedures".
- [7] 3GPP TS 23.032: "Universal Geographical Area Description (GAD)".
- [8] Void
- [9] 3GPP TS 23.060: "General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Service description; Stage 2".
- [10] 3GPP TS 23.066: "Support of GSM Mobile Number Portability (MNP); Stage 2".
- [11] 3GPP TS 23.072: "Call deflection Supplementary Service; Stage2".

- [12] 3GPP TS 23.078: "Customized Applications for Mobile network Enhanced Logic (CAMEL); Stage 2".
- [13] 3GPP TS 23.079: "Support of Optimal Routeing (SOR); Technical realization; Stage 2".
- [14] 3GPP TS 23.081: "Line identification Supplementary Services; Stage 2".
- [15] 3GPP TS 23.082: "Call Forwarding (CF) Supplementary Services; Stage 2".
- [16] 3GPP TS 23.083: "Call Waiting (CW) and Call Hold (HOLD) Supplementary Service; Stage 2".
- [17] 3GPP TS 23.084: "Multi Party (MPTY) Supplementary Service; Stage 2".
- [18] 3GPP TS 23.085: "Closed User Group (CUG) Supplementary Service; Stage 2".
- [19] 3GPP TS 23.086: "Advice of Charge (AoC) Supplementary Service; Stage 2".
- [20] 3GPP TS 23.087: "User-to-User Signalling (UUS) Supplementary Service; Stage 2".
- [21] 3GPP TS 23.088: "Call Barring (CB) Supplementary Service; Stage 2".
- [22] 3GPP TS 23.091: "Explicit Call Transfer (ECT) supplementary service; Stage 2".
- [23] 3GPP TS 23.093: "Technical realization of Completion of Calls to Busy Subscriber (CCBS); Stage 2".
- [24] 3GPP TS 23.116: "Super-charger technical realization; Stage 2".
- [25] 3GPP TS 23.135: "Multicall supplementary service; Stage 2".
- [25a] 3GPP TS 23.195: "Provision of UE Specific Behaviour Information to Network Entities".
- [26] 3GPP TS 24.008: "Mobile radio interface Layer 3 specification; Core network protocols; Stage 3".
- [27] 3GPP TS 25.413: "UTRAN Iu interface RANAP signalling".
- [28] 3GPP TS 27.001: "General on Terminal Adaptation Functions (TAF) for Mobile Stations (MS)".
- [29] 3GPP TS 29.002: "Mobile Application Part (MAP) specification".
- [30] 3GPP TS 29.007: "General requirements on interworking between the Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) and the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)".
- [31] 3GPP TS 29.010: "Information Element Mapping between Mobile Station - Base Station System (MS - BSS) and Base Station System - Mobile-services Switching Centre (BSS - MSC) Signalling Procedures and the Mobile Application Part (MAP)".
- [32] 3GPP TS 33.102: "3G Security; Security architecture".
- [33] ITU-T Recommendation Q.761 (1999): "Signalling System No. 7 - ISDN User Part functional description".
- [34] ITU-T Recommendation Q.762 (1999): "Signalling System No. 7 - ISDN User Part general functions of messages and signals".
- [35] ITU-T Recommendation Q.763 (1999): "Signalling System No. 7 - ISDN User Part formats and codes".
- [36] ITU-T Recommendation Q.764 (1999): "Signalling System No. 7 - ISDN user part signalling procedures".
- [37] ITU-T Recommendation Q.850 (1996): "Usage of cause and location in the Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. 1 and the Signalling System No. 7 ISDN User Part".
- [38] 3GPP TS 23.172: "Technical realization of Circuit Switched (CS) multimedia service; UDI/RDI fallback and service modification; Stage 2".
- [39] 3GPP TS 23.067: "enhanced Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption service (eMLPP) - Stage 2".

## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions apply:

**A subscriber:** the calling mobile subscriber

**B subscriber:** the mobile subscriber originally called by the A subscriber

**C subscriber:** the subscriber to whom the B subscriber has requested that calls be forwarded  
The C subscriber may be fixed or mobile.

**Location Information:** information to define the whereabouts of the MS, and the age of the information defining the whereabouts

**PLMN Bearer Capability:** information transferred over the UMTS or GSM access interface to define the information transfer capabilities to be used between the MS and the network for a circuit-switched connection

### 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

A&O	Active & Operative
ACM	Address Complete Message
ANM	ANswer Message
AoC	Advice of Charge
BC	Bearer Capability
BOIC-exHC&BOIZC	Barring of Outgoing International Calls except those directed to the HPLMN Country & Barring of Outgoing InterZonal Calls
BOIZC	Barring of Outgoing InterZonal Calls
BOIZC-exHC	Barring of Outgoing InterZonal Calls except those directed to the HPLMN Country
CCBS	Completion of Calls to Busy Subscriber
CFB	Call Forwarding on Busy
CFNRc	Call Forwarding on mobile subscriber Not Reachable
CFNRy	Call Forwarding on No Reply
CFU	Call Forwarding Unconditional
CLIP	Calling Line Identity Presentation
CLIR	Calling Line Identity Restriction
COLP	COnnected Line identity Presentation
COLR	COnnected Line identity Restriction
CUG	Closed User Group
CW	Call Waiting
FTN	Forwarded-To Number
FTNW	Forwarded-To NetWork
GMSCB	Gateway MSC of the B subscriber
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service
HLC	Higher Layer Compatibility
HLRB	The HLR of the B subscriber
HPLMNB	The HPLMN of the B subscriber
IAM	Initial Address Message
IPLMN	Interrogating PLMN - the PLMN containing GMSCB
IWU	Inter Working Unit
LLC	Lower Layer Compatibility
MO	Mobile Originated
MPTY	MultiParTY
MT	Mobile Terminated
NDUB	Network Determined User Busy
NRCT	No Reply Call Timer
PgA	Paging Area

PLMN BC	(GSM or UMTS) PLMN Bearer Capability
PRN	Provide Roaming Number
PUESBINE	Provision of User Equipment Specific Behaviour Information to Network Entities
SCUDIF	Service Change and UDI/RDI Fallback
SGSN	Serving GPRS support node
SIFIC	Send Information For Incoming Call
SIFOC	Send Information For Outgoing Call
SRI	Send Routing Information
TO	Trunk Originated
UDUB	User Determined User Busy
UESBI-Iu	User Equipment Specific Behaviour Information over the Iu interface
VLRA	The VLR of the A subscriber
VLRB	The VLR of the B subscriber
VMSCA	The Visited MSC of the A subscriber
VMSCB	The Visited MSC of the B subscriber
VPLMNA	The Visited PLMN of the A subscriber
VPLMNB	The Visited PLMN of the B subscriber

## 4 Architecture

Subclauses 4.1 and 4.2 show the architecture for handling a basic MO call and a basic MT call. A basic mobile-to-mobile call is treated as the concatenation of an MO call and an MT call.

### 4.1 Architecture for an MO call

A basic mobile originated call involves signalling between the MS and its VMSC via the BSS, between the VMSC and the VLR and between the VMSC and the destination exchange, as indicated in figure 1.

In figure 1 and throughout the present document, the term BSS is used to denote a GSM BSS or a UTRAN, as appropriate.

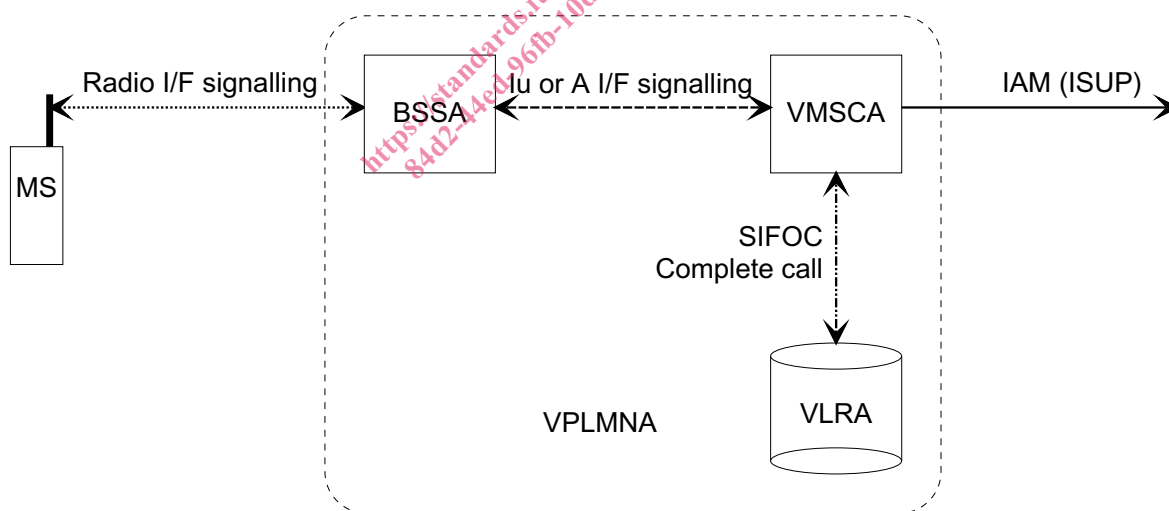


Figure 1: Architecture for a basic mobile originated call

In figure 1 and throughout the present document, the term ISUP is used to denote the telephony signalling system used between exchanges. In a given network, any telephony signalling system may be used.

When the user of an MS wishes to originate a call, the MS establishes communication with the network using radio interface signalling, and sends a message containing the address of the called party. VMSCA requests information to handle the outgoing call (SIFOC) from VLRA, over an internal interface of the MSC/VLR. If VLRA determines that the outgoing call is allowed, it responds with a Complete Call. VMSCA:

- establishes a traffic channel to the MS; and
- constructs an ISUP IAM using the called party address and sends it to the destination exchange.

## 4.2 Architecture for an MT call

A basic mobile terminated call involves signalling as indicated in figure 2. Communication between VMSCB and the MS is via the BSS, as for the mobile originated case. If VPLMNB supports GPRS and the Gs interface between VLRB and the SGSN is implemented (see 3GPP TS 23.060 [9]) and there is an association between VLRB and the SGSN for the MS, the paging signal towards the MS goes from VMSCB via VLRB and the SGSN to the BSS. The IPLMN, containing GMSCB, is in principle distinct from HPLMNB, containing HLRB, but the practice for at least the majority of current UMTS or GSM networks is that a call to an MS will be routed to a GMSC in HPLMNB.

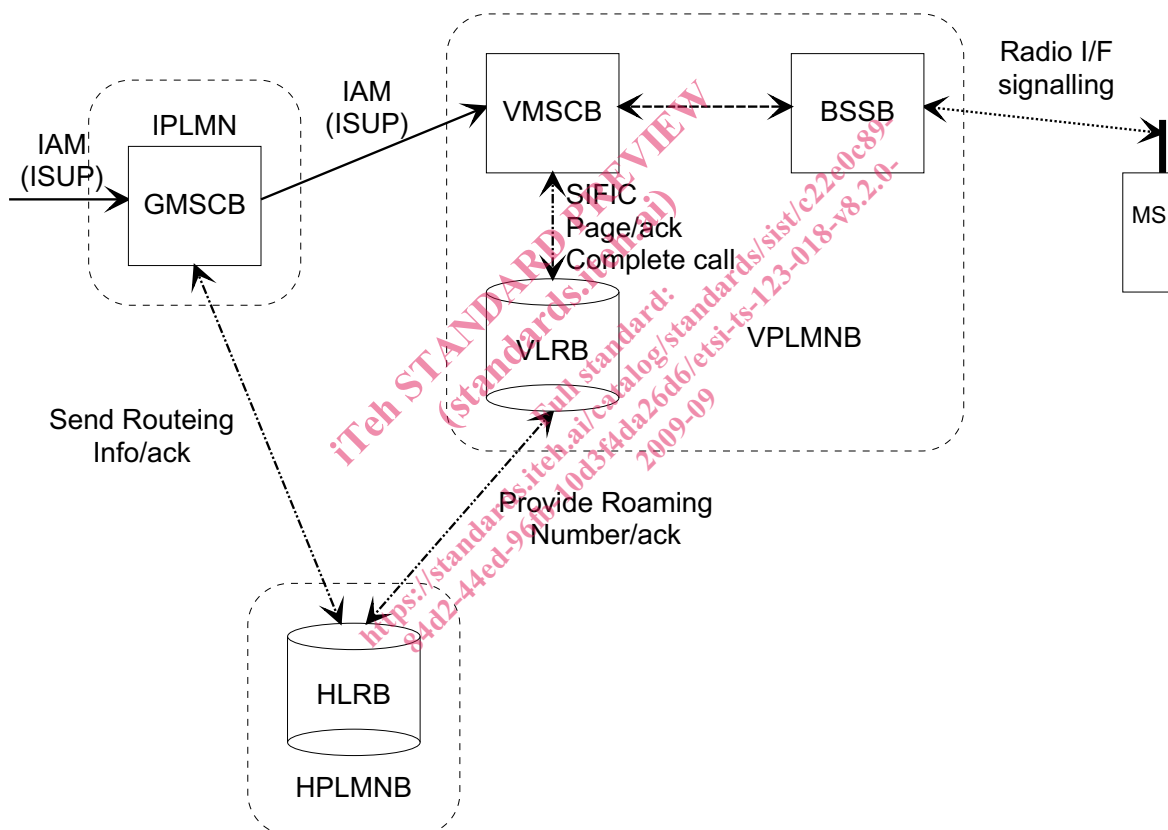


Figure 2: Architecture for a basic mobile terminated call

When GMSCB receives an ISUP IAM, it requests routing information from HLRB using the MAP protocol. HLRB requests a roaming number from VLRB, also using the MAP protocol, and VLRB returns a roaming number in the Provide Roaming Number Ack. HLRB returns the roaming number to GMSCB in the Send Routing Info ack. GMSCB uses the roaming number to construct an ISUP IAM, which it sends to VMSCB. When VMSCB receives the IAM, it requests information to handle the incoming call (SIFIC) from VLRB, over an internal interface of the MSC/VLR. If VLRB determines that the incoming call is allowed, it requests VMSCB to page the MS. VMSCB pages the MS using radio interface signalling. When the MS responds, VMSCB informs VLRB in the Page ack message. VLRB instructs VMSCB to connect the call in the Complete call, and VMSCB establishes a traffic channel to the MS.

## 4.3 Architecture for a TO call

A basic trunk originated call involves signalling between the PSTN and the PLMN's MSC, as indicated in figure x. The originating exchange may also be another MSC of the same or different PLMN.