



**Railway Telecommunications (RT);  
Global System for Mobile communications (GSM);  
Usage of Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)  
on the Network Switching Subsystem (NSS)  
to Fixed Terminal Subsystem (FTS)  
interface for GSM Operation on Railways**

https://standards.etsi.org/standards/2015-06/v3.0.0-  
8d7a-457e-b72dec05522d/etsi-ts-103-389-v3.0.0-  
TELECOM-RT-GSM-SIP-NSS-FTS-GSM-Railways.pdf

Reference
RTS/RT-0035

Keywords
GSM-R, railways

***ETSI***

650 Route des Lucioles  
F-06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex - FRANCE

Tel.: +33 4 92 94 42 00 Fax: +33 4 93 65 47 16

Siret N° 348 623 562 00017 - NAF 742 C  
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## Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Railway Telecommunications (RT).

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## Modal verbs terminology

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## Introduction

While a number of interoperability specifications for various interfaces at various layers of GSM-R systems exist, the interface between the Network Switching Subsystem (NSS) and the Fixed Terminal Subsystem (FTS) has not yet been addressed by any interoperability specification activity.

In most of the GSM-R system deployments available at the time of the creation of the present document, the Network Switching Subsystem and the Fixed Terminal Subsystem are interconnected using TDM based interfaces such as DSS1 [i.2].

ETSI TS 102 610 [9] specifies the usage and format of UUIE for call-related end-to-end functionality in GSM-R systems but no other interworking topics.

The present document addresses the interoperability specification gap between the Network Switching Subsystem and the Fixed Terminal Subsystem with an interface based on the Internet Protocol (IP) [2], the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) [3], the Session Description Protocol (SDP) [6] and the Real-Time Transport Protocol (RTP) [7].

In addition to the table of contents, the following explanation will help you navigate through and understand the contents of the present document:

- Clauses 1 to 3 are predefined by ETSI.
- Clause 4 shows and explains the reference system architecture and identifies the interface(s) for the present document.
- Clause 5 holds the functional requirements for the interface subject to the present document.
- Clause 6 specifies in detail the signalling interface for all supported functions and services.
- Clause 7 specifies in detail the media interface.
- Clause 8 specifies the additions and changes for a voice recorder interface.
- Annex A explains the mechanism to locate SIP entities at the present interface.

- Annex B contains recommendations on the use and implementation of standardized Quality of Service mechanisms at the present interface.
- Annex C contains recommendations about the security mechanisms.
- Annex D contains a mapping table of EIRENE [1] to interface features.
- Annex E contains a description of group call control scenarios.

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# 1 Scope

The present document defines the signalling and media interface between the Network Switching Subsystem and the Fixed Terminal Subsystem in order to provide a clear set of services needed for GSM-R operations. This includes voice call service and available call-related supplementary services. In addition, requirements for specific implementation of the signalling and media interface within either the Network Switching Subsystem or the Fixed Terminal Subsystem are stated where applicable. The present document addresses the Internet Layer and upwards of the Internet Protocol Suite IETF RFC 1122 [i.18] on the signalling and media interface.

Any service other than voice call service and call-related supplementary services (such as data services, Short Message Service, etc.) is out of scope of the present document; additional features may be addressed in future releases.

The present document does not specify any other interface between the Network Switching Subsystem and the Fixed Terminal Subsystem nor does it cover any internal interfaces of either NSS or FTS. Such interfaces may be addressed in a future release of the present document.

The present document does not address any specific 3GPP Release or Architecture.

# 2 References

## 2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the reference document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at <http://docbox.etsi.org/Reference>.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] UIC P001D010 (Version 15.1): "UIC Project EIRENE System Requirements Specification".  
NOTE: Available at [http://www.uic.org/IMG/pdf/eirene\\_srs\\_15.1.pdf](http://www.uic.org/IMG/pdf/eirene_srs_15.1.pdf).
- [2] IETF RFC 791 (1981): "Internet Protocol".
- [3] IETF RFC 3261 (2002): "SIP: Session Initiation Protocol".
- [4] IETF RFC 3264 (2002): "An Offer/Answer Model Session Description Protocol (SDP)".
- [5] IETF RFC 4733 (2006): "RTP Payload for DTMF Digits, Telephony Tones, and Telephony Signals".
- [6] IETF RFC 4566 (2006): "SDP: Session Description Protocol".
- [7] IETF RFC 3550 (2003): "RTP: A Transport Protocol for Real-Time Applications".
- [8] IETF RFC 3326 (2002): "The Reason Header Field for the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [9] ETSI TS 102 610 (V1.1.0): "Railways Telecommunications (RT); Global System for Mobile communications (GSM); Usage of the User-to-User Information Element for GSM Operation on Railways".
- [10] IETF RFC 5234 (2008): "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF".
- [11] IETF RFC 3262 (2002): "Reliability of Provisional Responses in Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".

- [12] IETF RFC 4412 (2006): "Communications Resource Priority for the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [13] IETF RFC 3325 (2002): "Private Extensions to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) for Asserted Identity within Trusted Networks".
- [14] IETF RFC 5876 (2010): "Updates to Asserted Identity in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [15] IETF RFC 3323 (2002): "A Privacy Mechanism for the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [16] IETF RFC 4028 (2005): "Session Timers in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [17] IETF RFC 3311 (2002): "The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) UPDATE Method".
- [18] Void.
- [19] Void.
- [20] Void.
- [21] Void.
- [22] Recommendation ITU-T Q.850 (1998): "Usage of cause and location in the Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. 1 and the Signalling System No. 7 ISDN user part".
- [23] Recommendation ITU-T E.164 (2010): "The international public telecommunication numbering plan".
- [24] Recommendation ITU-T Q.955.3 (1993): "Stage 3 description for community of interest supplementary services using DSS 1; Multi-level precedence and pre-emption (MLPP)".
- [25] IETF RFC 3986 (2005): "Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax".
- [26] IETF RFC 768 (1980): "User Datagram Protocol".
- [27] Recommendation ITU-T G.711 (1988): "Pulse code modulation (PCM) of voice frequencies".
- [28] IETF RFC 2833 (2000): "RTP Payload for DTMF Digits, Telephony Tones and Telephony Signals".
- [29] Void.
- [30] IETF RFC 3840 (2004): "Indicating User Agent Capabilities in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [31] IETF RFC 4574 (2006): "The Session Description Protocol (SDP) Label Attribute".
- [32] Recommendation ITU-T I.255.3 (1990): "Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption service".
- [33] IETF RFC 4579 (2006): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Call Control - Conferencing for User Agents".
- [34] IETF RFC 3891 (2004): "The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) "Replaces" Header".
- [35] IETF RFC 7462 (2015): "URNs for the Alert-Info Header Field of the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [36] IETF RFC 4244 (2005): "An Extension to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) for Request History Information".
- [37] IETF RFC 4458 (2006): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) URIs for Applications such as Voicemail and Interactive Voice Response (IVR)".
- [38] ETSI TS 129 163: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS); LTE; Interworking between the IP Multimedia (IM) Core Network (CN) subsystem and Circuit Switched (CS) networks (3GPP TS 29.163 Release 12)".

## 2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the reference document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

- [i.1] IETF RFC 7433 (2015): "A Mechanism for Transporting User to User Call Control Information in SIP".
- [i.2] ETSI ETS 300 403-1 (V1.3.2): "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. one (DSS1) protocol; Signalling network layer for circuit-mode basic call control; Part 1: Protocol specification (ITU-T Recommendation Q.931 (1993), modified)".
- [i.3] IETF RFC 6086 (2011): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INFO Method and Package Framework".
- [i.4] IETF RFC 3428 (2002): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Extension for Instant Messaging".
- [i.5] IETF RFC 3515 (2001): "The Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Refer Method".
- [i.6] IETF RFC 3265 (2002): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)-Specific Event Notification".
- [i.7] IETF RFC 3903 (2004): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Extension for Event State Publication".
- [i.8] IETF RFC 1594 (1994): "FYI on Questions and Answers to Commonly asked "New Internet User" Questions".
- [i.9] IETF RFC 3665 (2003): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Basic Call Flow Examples".
- [i.10] IETF RFC 3960 (2004): "Early Media and Ringing Tone Generation in the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)".
- [i.11] ETSI EN 300 925 (V7.0.2): "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM); Voice Group Call Service (VGCS) - Stage 1 (GSM 02.68 version 7.0.2 Release 1998)".
- [i.12] ETSI EN 300 926 (V8.0.1): "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM); Voice Broadcast Service (VBS) - Stage 1 (GSM 02.69 version 8.0.1 Release 1999)".
- [i.13] IETF RFC 3263 (2002): "Session Initiation Protocol (SIP): Locating SIP Servers".
- [i.14] IETF RFC 1035 (1987): "Domain names - implementation and specification".
- [i.15] IETF RFC 2181 (1997): "Clarifications to the DNS Specification".
- [i.16] IETF RFC 2663 (1999): "IP Network Address Translator (NAT) Terminology and Considerations".
- [i.17] Void.
- [i.18] IETF RFC 1122 (1989): "Requirements for Internet Hosts -- Communication Layers".
- [i.19] IETF RFC 3551: "RTP Profile for Audio and Video Conferences with Minimal Control".
- [i.20] IETF draft RFC draft-siprec-protocol-16: "Session Recording Protocol".
- [i.21] IETF RFC 5009 (2007): "Private Header (P-Header) Extension to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) for Authorization of Early Media".
- [i.22] IETF RFC 2474 (1998): "Definitions of the Differentiated Services Field (DS Field) in the IPv4 and IPv6 Headers".

- [i.23] IETF RFC 2475 (1998): "An Architecture for Differentiated Services".
- [i.24] IETF RFC 4594 (2006): "Configuration Guidelines for DiffServ Service Classes".
- [i.25] IETF RFC 5865 (2010): "A Differentiated Services Code Point (DSCP) for Capacity-Admitted Traffic".

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## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

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

**call:** SIP Dialog between two Signalling Endpoints

NOTE 1: As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

NOTE 2: Established for the purpose of a voice communication and related data exchange.

**client:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**Communication Session (CS):** session that is the subject of recording

**dialog:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**final response:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**Fixed Terminal Subsystem (FTS):** part of the EIRENE [1] system that provides access to this network (and services) via controller equipment (in general referred to as Fixed Terminals)

**Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN):** As defined in IETF RFC 1594 [i.8].

**header:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**header field:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**initiator, calling party, caller:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**invitee, invited user, called party, callee:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**Media Endpoint, RTP Endpoint:** entity that terminates RTP stream(s) under the control of a single SIP Endpoint in the same subsystem

NOTE: This entity may be physically separated from the SIP Endpoint.

**method:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**Network Switching Subsystem (NSS):** part of the PLMN infrastructure that performs all necessary functions in order to handle the call services to and from the mobile stations as well as to and from fixed terminals

**operational priority:** different call types have call priorities during railway communications.

NOTE 1: As defined in EIRENE SRS [1].

NOTE 2: This behaviour is mentioned as operational priority of a call.

**option tag:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**provisional response:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**proxy, proxy server:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**Recording Session (RS):** SIP session created between SRC and SRS for the purpose of recording a Communication Session

**request:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**response:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**server:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**session:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**Signalling Endpoint, SIP Endpoint:** entity that acts as a SIP User Agent

NOTE: Within the scope of the present document this term refers to NSS and FTS.

**Signalling Proxy, SIP Proxy:** Proxy Server as defined by IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**(SIP) transaction:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**tag:** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**User Agent (UA):** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**User Agent Client (UAC):** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

**User Agent Server (UAS):** As defined in IETF RFC 3261 [3].

## 3.2 Abbreviations

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

ACK	ACKnowledgement
AF	Assured Forwarding
AoCC	Advice of Charge (Charging)
AOCI	Advice of Charge (Information)
B2BUA	Back to Back User Agent
BAIC	Barring of All Incoming Calls
BAOC	Barring of All Outgoing Calls
BIC-Roam	Barring of Incoming Calls when Roaming Outside the Home PLMN Country
BNF	Backus Naur Form
BOIC	Barring of Outgoing International Calls
BOIC-exHC	BOIC except those to Home PLMN Country
CCBS	Completion of Calls to Busy Subscribers
CFB	Call Forwarding on Mobile Subscriber Busy
CFNRC	Call forwarding on Mobile Subscriber Not Reachable
CFNRy	Call Forwarding on No Reply
CFU	Call Forwarding Unconditional
CLIP	Calling Line Identification Presentation
CLIR	Calling Line Identification Restriction
CN	Core Node
CoLP	Connected Line Identification Presentation
CoLR	Connected Line Identification Restriction
CS	Communication Session
CSRC	Contributing SouRCe
CUG	Closed User Group
CW	Call Waiting
DL	Down Link
DNS	Domain Name Service
DSCP	Differentiated Service Code Point
DTMF	Dual Tone Multi Frequency
ECT	Explicit Call Transfer
EF	Expedited Forwarding
EIRENE	European Integrated Railway Radio Enhanced Network
eMLPP	enhanced Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption
FQDN	Fully Qualified Domain Name
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
FTS	Fixed Terminal Subsystem
GSM-R	Global System Mobile-Railways
HOLD	Call hold

HTTP	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IN	Intelligent Network
INF	INForm
INV	INVite
IP	Internet Protocol
ITU-T	International Telecommunication Union – Telecommunication standardisation sector
MLPP	Multi-Level Precedence and Pre-emption
MO/PP	Mobile Originated/Point-to-Point
MPTY	Multi Party Service
MT/PP	Mobile Terminated/Point-to-Point
NAPT	Network Address Port Translation
NAT	Network Address Translation
NSS	Network Switching Subsystem
OK	OKay
OPT	OPTION
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection
PABX	Private Access Branch eXchange
PCM	Pulse Code Modulation
PCMA	Pulse Code Modulation – A law
PCM-A	Pulse Code Modulation – A law
PCMU	Pulse Code Modulation – u-law
PHB	Per Hop Behaviour
PLMN	Public Land Mobile Network
PRA	PRovisional Acknowledgment
PRACK	Provisional Response Acknowledgement
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
QoS	Quality of Service
RFC	Request For Comments
RS	Recording Session
RTP	Real-Time Transport Protocol
SDP	Session Description Protocol
SE	Session Expires
SIP	Session Initiation Protocol
SRC	Session Recording Client
SRS	Session Recording Server
SRTP	Secured Real-time Protocol
SSRC	Synchronization SouRCe
TDM	Time Division Multiplexing
ToS	Type of Service
UA	User Agent
UAC	User Agent Client
UAS	User Agent Server
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
UIC	Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer, International Union of Railways
UPD	UPDate
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
URN	Uniform Resource Name
USSD	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
UII	User-to-User Information
UUIE	User to User Information Element
UUS1	User-to-User Signalling 1
VBS	Voice Broadcast Service
VGCS	Voice Group Call Service

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## 4 Reference System Architecture

The system architecture used to identify the interface that is the subject of the present document is a simplification of a GSM-R system down to a minimum of logical entities relevant to the present document.

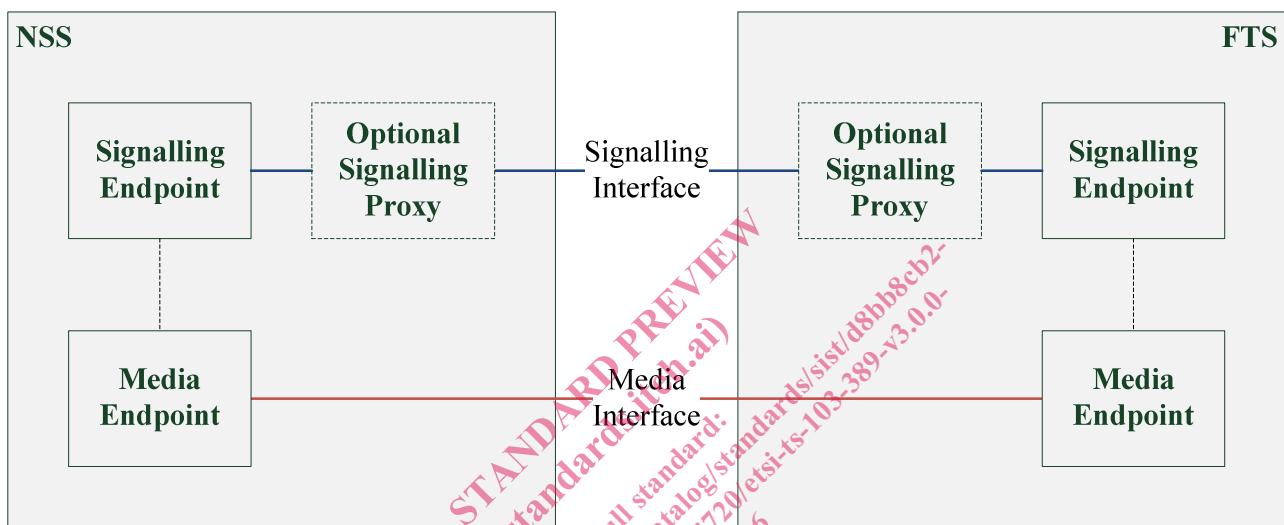
Within the context of the present document a GSM-R system is logically divided into a GSM-R Network and a Fixed Terminal Subsystem. The interface between the Mobile Terminals and the NSS as well as the interface between the Fixed Terminals and the FTS are explicitly not addressed in the present document. The focus of the present document is solely:

- the Signalling Interface; and
- the Media Interface;

between the logical subsystem NSS and the logical subsystem FTS.

It is important to note that this architecture does not necessarily reflect any physical entities in a GSM-R system.

Figure 4.1 illustrates the reference system architecture.



**Figure 4.1: Reference System Architecture**

Depending on the deployment scenario and the NSS/FTS design there may be one or more Signalling Endpoints, one or more Media Endpoints and zero or more Signalling Proxies on either side of the interface.

The Media Endpoint(s) are controlled by (a) Signalling Endpoint(s) in the same subsystem. This control mechanism is out of scope of the present document.

One Signalling Endpoint may establish more than one call. Also one Signalling Proxy and one Media Endpoint may be involved in one or more calls.

The maximum number of Signalling Endpoints allowed to be involved in a single call on the present interface is two-one on each side.

Optionally deployed Signalling Proxies may be involved in the signalling flow for either incoming traffic or outgoing traffic or both incoming and outgoing traffic at either side of the interface. This depends on the FTS/NSS design and the deployment scenario. The entities involved might differ depending on the call direction, but have to be the same for all calls in the same direction in a single deployment scenario.

Annex A includes several deployment scenario examples that illustrate some of the Signalling Proxy deployment options.

## 5 Interface Functionality

### 5.0 General Description

This clause specifies functional requirements of the interface. The technical details are specified in clauses 6 and 7 of the present document.