



**Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM);  
Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS);  
Multimedia Broadcast/Multicast Service (MBMS);  
UTRAN/GERAN requirements  
(3GPP TR 25.992 version 15.0.0 Release 15)**

---

**Reference**RTR/TSGR-0025992vf00

---

**Keywords**GSM,UMTS

---

**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  
Association à but non lucratif enregistrée à la  
Sous-Préfecture de Grasse (06) N° 7803/88

---

**Important notice**

---

The present document can be downloaded from:

<http://www.etsi.org/standards-search>

The present document may be made available in electronic versions and/or in print. The content of any electronic and/or print versions of the present document shall not be modified without the prior written authorization of ETSI. In case of any existing or perceived difference in contents between such versions and/or in print, the only prevailing document is the print of the Portable Document Format (PDF) version kept on a specific network drive within ETSI Secretariat.

Users of the present document should be aware that the document may be subject to revision or change of status. Information on the current status of this and other ETSI documents is available at

<https://portal.etsi.org/TB/ETSIDeliverableStatus.aspx>

If you find errors in the present document, please send your comment to one of the following services:

<https://portal.etsi.org/People/CommiteeSupportStaff.aspx>

---

**Copyright Notification**

---

No part may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm except as authorized by written permission of ETSI.

The content of the PDF version shall not be modified without the written authorization of ETSI.

The copyright and the foregoing restriction extend to reproduction in all media.

© ETSI 2018.

All rights reserved.

**DECT™**, **PLUGTESTS™**, **UMTS™** and the ETSI logo are trademarks of ETSI registered for the benefit of its Members. **3GPP™** and **LTE™** are trademarks of ETSI registered for the benefit of its Members and of the 3GPP Organizational Partners.

**oneM2M** logo is protected for the benefit of its Members.

**GSM®** and the GSM logo are trademarks registered and owned by the GSM Association.

---

# Intellectual Property Rights

## Essential patents

IPRs essential or potentially essential to normative deliverables may have been declared to ETSI. The information pertaining to these essential IPRs, if any, is publicly available for **ETSI members and non-members**, and can be found in ETSI SR 000 314: *"Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs); Essential, or potentially Essential, IPRs notified to ETSI in respect of ETSI standards"*, which is available from the ETSI Secretariat. Latest updates are available on the ETSI Web server (<https://ipr.etsi.org/>).

Pursuant to the ETSI IPR Policy, no investigation, including IPR searches, has been carried out by ETSI. No guarantee can be given as to the existence of other IPRs not referenced in ETSI SR 000 314 (or the updates on the ETSI Web server) which are, or may be, or may become, essential to the present document.

## Trademarks

The present document may include trademarks and/or tradenames which are asserted and/or registered by their owners. ETSI claims no ownership of these except for any which are indicated as being the property of ETSI, and conveys no right to use or reproduce any trademark and/or tradename. Mention of those trademarks in the present document does not constitute an endorsement by ETSI of products, services or organizations associated with those trademarks.

---

# Foreword

This Technical Report (TR) has been produced by ETSI 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

The present document may refer to technical specifications or reports using their 3GPP identities, UMTS identities or GSM identities. These should be interpreted as being references to the corresponding ETSI deliverables.

The cross reference between GSM, UMTS, 3GPP and ETSI identities can be found under <http://webapp.etsi.org/key/queryform.asp>.

---

# Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

"**must**" and "**must not**" are **NOT** allowed in ETSI deliverables except when used in direct citation.

# Contents

Intellectual Property Rights .....	2
Foreword.....	2
Modal verbs terminology.....	2
Foreword.....	4
1 Scope .....	5
2 References .....	5
3 Definitions, symbols and abbreviations .....	5
3.1 Definitions .....	5
3.2 Symbols.....	6
3.1 Abbreviations .....	6
4 Background and introduction .....	6
5 RAN MBMS requirements.....	6
5.1 MBMS Notification Requirements.....	7
6 RAN MBMS functions.....	7
6.1 Functions list .....	7
6.2 Function descriptions .....	8
6.2.1 Admission control.....	8
6.2.2 Identification of the number of UEs with activated MBMS service(s) in a cell .....	8
6.2.3 Selection, assignment and establishment and release of radio bearers .....	8
6.2.4 Identification of MBMS parameters to UEs .....	8
6.2.5 Alerting UEs that MBMS data is to be transmitted .....	8
6.2.6 Power control.....	9
6.2.7 Support of cell change and minimization of data loss .....	9
6.2.8 Maintenance of MBMS context.....	9
6.2.9 Replication of MBMS data streams .....	9
6.2.10 Transfer of MBMS data .....	9
6.3 Functional separation .....	9
<b>Annex A: Change History .....</b>	<b>10</b>
History .....	11

---

# Foreword

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

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:

Version x.y.z

where:

- x the first digit:
  - 1 presented to TSG for information;
  - 2 presented to TSG for approval;
  - 3 or greater indicates TSG approved document under change control.
- y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.
- z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the document.

**PREVIEW**  
iTech STANDARD  
(standards.itih.ai)  
Full standard:  
<https://standards.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6a6ebale-4175-44f8-9d4a-167a1d5d2866/etsi-tr-125-992-v15.0.0-2018-07>

# 1 Scope

This document is part of the RAN WI "**Introduction of the Multimedia Broadcast Multicast Service (MBMS) in RAN**" and it is linked to 3GPP TS 22.146 "Multimedia Broadcast Multicast Service; Stage-1" [2] and the SA2 WI "Multimedia Broadcast/Multicast Service Architecture", the work of which is reflected in 3GPP TS 23.246 [3].

The purpose of the present document is to address the UTRAN and GERAN MBMS requirements in order to help the TSG RAN and TSG GERAN working groups address the changes needed to existing specifications and also identify new specifications, that are required for the introduction of the WI "**Introduction of the Multimedia Broadcast Multicast Service (MBMS) in RAN**".

## 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 TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [2] 3GPP TS 22.146: "Multimedia Broadcast/Multicast Service; Stage-1".
- [3] 3GPP TS 23.246: "Multimedia Broadcast Multicast Service; Architecture and Functional Description".

## 3 Definitions, symbols and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions given in [1] and the following apply..

**Broadcast mode:** The part of MBMS that supports broadcast services.

**Counting:** This is the function that UTRAN performs when it wishes to identify the number of multicast subscribers (all joined subscribers, or just above a "threshold") in a particular cell, that wish to receive a multicast session for a particular service.

**MBMS (Broadcast/Multicast) Session:** A continuous and time-bounded reception of a broadcast/multicast service by the UE. A single broadcast/multicast service can only have one broadcast/multicast session at any time. A broadcast/multicast service may consist of multiple successive broadcast/multicast sessions.

**Multicast mode:** The part of MBMS that supports multicast services.

**MBMS broadcast activation:** The process which enables the data reception from a specific broadcast mode MBMS on a UE. Thereby the user enables the reception locally on the UE.

**MBMS multicast activation (Joining):** The explicit point-to-point UE to network signalling, which enables a UE to become a member of a multicast group and thus start receiving data from a specific MBMS multicast service (when data become available).

**MBMS Notification:** The mechanism, which informs the UEs about the availability or coming availability of a specific MBMS RAB data in one given cell.

**Service Announcements/Discovery:** The mechanisms should allow users to request or be informed about the range of MBMS services available. Operators/service providers may consider several service discovery mechanisms. This could

include standard mechanisms such as SMS, or depending on the capability of the terminal, applications that encourage user interrogation. Users who have not already subscribed to a MBMS service should also be able to discover MBMS services.

NOTE: Some of the above definitions have been taken from TS 22.146 [2].

**Tracking:** This is a function that allows UTRAN to follow the mobility of multicast subscribers. Inherently it can be used as a means of counting multicast subscribers.

**UE:** Unless otherwise stated, 'UE' is used to refer to both the UE and the MS.

## 3.2 Symbols

(void)

## 3.1 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in 3GPP TS 21.905 [1] and the following apply:

MBMS	Multimedia Broadcast Multicast Service
p-t-p	Point-to-point
p-t-m	Point-to-multipoint

---

# 4 Background and introduction

Following TSG RAN/SA#15, it was concluded that the service requirements [2] of MBMS are considered stable enough and the work on the architectural aspects have progressed to the extent that the work in the RAN groups could be initiated.

---

# 5 RAN MBMS requirements

Following the clarifications provided during the 3GPP MBMS workshop on stage 1 [2] and stage 2 [3], the following RAN requirements have been identified and are currently agreed within RAN WG2:

1. MBMS data transfer shall be downlink only.
2. QoS attributes shall be the same for MBMS Multicast and Broadcast modes.
3. During MBMS data transmission it shall be possible to receive paging messages, which also should contain some additional information, such as CLI.
4. Simultaneous reception of MBMS and non-MBMS services shall depend upon UE capabilities.
5. Simultaneous reception of more than one MBMS services shall depend upon UE capabilities.
6. A notification procedure shall be used to indicate the start of MBMS data transmission. This procedure shall contain MBMS RB information. The MBMS notification requirements are listed in subclause 5.1.
7. A mechanism to enable the Network to move MBMS subscribers between cells is required.
8. MBMS UE multicast activation (Joining) shall be transparent to UTRAN.
9. A mechanism is required that enables the non-transmission of MBMS multicast mode in a cell which does not contain any MBMS UEs joined to the multicast group.
10. Reception of MBMS shall not be guaranteed at RAN level. MBMS does not support individual retransmissions at the radio link layer, nor does it support retransmissions based on feedback from individual subscribers at the radio level. This does not preclude the periodic repetitions of the MBMS content based on operator or content provider scheduling or retransmissions based on feedback at the application level.
11. MBMS shall not prevent the capability for SRNS/SBSS relocation.

12. A mechanism to provide UTRAN the received QoS per UE is not required as part of MBMS.
  13. UE controlled "service based" cell selection/reselection shall not be permitted.
  14. Handover and SGSN relocation shall not be affected by an active MBMS session.
  15. In the case of UTRAN only, guaranteed 'QoS' linked to a certain initial downlink power setting is not required; however, the purpose and possibility of some reporting mechanism could be identified to measure the delivered QoS.
- NOTE: The above requirement is not applicable in GERAN, as a p-t-m type connection will use a similar power control mechanism to a broadcast channel.
16. MBMS Multicast mode transmissions should use dedicated resources (p-t-p) or common resources (p-t-m). The selection of the connection type (p-t-p or p-t-m) is operator dependent, typically based on downlink radio resource environment such as radio resource efficiency. A "threshold" related to the number of users may be utilised, resulting in the need for a mechanism to identify the number of subscribers in a given "area".
  17. MBMS solutions to be adopted should minimise the impact on the RAN physical layer and maximise reuse of existing physical layer and other RAN functionality.
  18. MBMS charging should be transparent to the RAN.
  19. MBMS should allow for low UE power consumption.
  20. Header compression should be used.
  21. MBMS should not prevent support for SGSN in pool.
  22. Data loss during cell change should be minimal.

## 5.1 MBMS Notification Requirements

The following requirements for MBMS notification mechanism(s) have been identified and currently agreed:

1. MBMS notification shall be transmitted within the MBMS service area.

NOTE: If MBMS notification is transmitted in all cells of a corresponding MBMS service area or only in those cells where MBMS subscribers are actually located, is FFS.

2. MBMS notification shall be sent so it could be received by all UEs with an activated MBMS service, regardless of their RRC state or the lack of an RRC connection.
3. MBMS notification should maximise the reuse of existing channels.
4. MBMS notification should allow terminals to minimise their power consumption, meaning that UEs with an activated MBMS service should not listen permanently, but at regular intervals to MBMS notification.
5. Reception of MBMS notification cannot be guaranteed.
6. UEs may receive MBMS notification and simultaneously monitor other occasions, e.g. UE dedicated paging and CBS messages. The avoidance of collisions cannot be guaranteed. If collisions occur, the UE dedicated Paging has higher priority (UE requirement).

---

## 6 RAN MBMS functions

### 6.1 Functions list

The RAN functions identified for MBMS are:

1. Functions relating to service establishment and radio resource management and control for MBMS services:
  - 1.1 Admission control for MBMS services (see subclause 6.2.1).



- 1.2 Identification of the number of UEs (counting) with activated MBMS service(s) within a cell (see subclause 6.2.2).
- 1.3 Selection between the use of p-t-p and p-t-m radio bearers (see subclause 6.2.3).
- 1.4 Assignment of resources and the selection of parameters for MBMS radio bearers (see subclause 6.2.3).
- 1.5 Establishment and release of radio bearers for MBMS services (see subclause 6.2.3).
- 1.6 Identifying to UEs the physical, transport and logical channel parameters with which particular MBMS services are transmitted in each cell (see subclause 6.2.4).
- 1.7 Alerting UEs that MBMS data is to be transmitted (see subclause 6.2.5).
- 1.8 Power Control (see subclause 6.2.6).
- 2 Functions relating to mobility:
  - 2.1 Support of cell change and minimisation of data loss (see subclause 6.2.7).
  - 2.2 Maintenance of the MBMS context (see subclause 6.2.8).
- 3 Functions relating to transmission of MBMS data:
  - 3.1 Replication of MBMS data streams to the cells of a multicast or broadcast area (see subclause 6.2.9).
  - 3.2 Transfer of MBMS data (see subclause 6.2.10).

## 6.2 Function descriptions

This subclause contains a brief description of the RAN MBMS function identified in subclause 6.1.

### 6.2.1 Admission control

The RAN shall contain functionality that enables it to determine how to respond to requests to provide radio bearers for individual MBMS services (data streams) made by the SGSN. This admission procedure may take into account the capacity required, quality of service and priority of the requested service and the resources that are available for MBMS services within the cell.

### 6.2.2 Identification of the number of UEs with activated MBMS service(s) in a cell

Some architectural solutions for MBMS require that the RAN can identify the number of UEs (or at least whether a minimum number of UES) that have activated particular MBMS services are present in a cell. This function may be used, in conjunction with discontinuous MBMS services, to identify whether the service should be established in the cell and whether p-t-p or p-t-m radio access bearers should be used.

### 6.2.3 Selection, assignment and establishment and release of radio bearers

The RAN shall assign radio resources to bearers for MBMS services within the cells of broadcast and multicast areas. RAN decides on the radio bearer configuration, it may be p-t-p or p-t-m.

### 6.2.4 Identification of MBMS parameters to UEs

The RAN shall provide mechanisms whereby the RAN indicates to the UE the physical, transport and logical channel parameters that are associated with radio bearers that carry specific MBMS data streams within specific cells.

### 6.2.5 Alerting UEs that MBMS data is to be transmitted

For discontinuous MBMS services radio bearers may be established only during those periods when there is data to be transferred. The RAN shall be required to alert the UE that the service is about to be re-established.