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Technical Report

Telecommunications and Internet Protocol Harmonization Over Networks (TIPHON); Project method definition

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Foreword

This Technical Report (TR) has been produced by ETSI Project Telecommunications and Internet Protocol Harmonization Over Networks (TIPHON).

Introduction

The ETSI Project TIPHON considers a broad range of complex networking technologies and the inter-working of those technologies to provide capabilities that may be used to provide public services. Given the complexity of these issues and the pace of technological development, the project requires a clear internal management process by which it can identify, quantify, schedule and deliver its work in a timely and organized manner. The present document draws upon and modifies related procedures developed for the production of ISDN [1] and UMTS [2] specifications and declares a process to be used within the TIPHON project.

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1 Scope

The present document defines the specification development process to be used to ensure the TIPHON project develops coherent specifications in a timely manner.

The present document is applicable to members of the TIPHON project, working group chairs, work item rapporteurs and the TIPHON Project Management Committee. It should be referenced when planning work to be undertaken by the project.

2 References

The following documents contain provisions that, 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, subsequent revisions do apply.
- A non-specific reference to an ETS shall also be taken to refer to later versions published as an EN with the same number.

- [1] ITU-T Recommendation T.130 (1988): "Method for the characterization of telecommunication services supported by an ISDN and network capabilities of an ISDN".
- [2] ETSI TS 122 105 (V3.7.0): "Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS); Services and Service Capabilities (3G TS 22.105 version 3.7.0 Release 1999)".

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3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

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

Step: discrete phase of major activity within the process.

RDS: focussed piece of work that is undertaken to explore requirements that are not sufficiently clear.

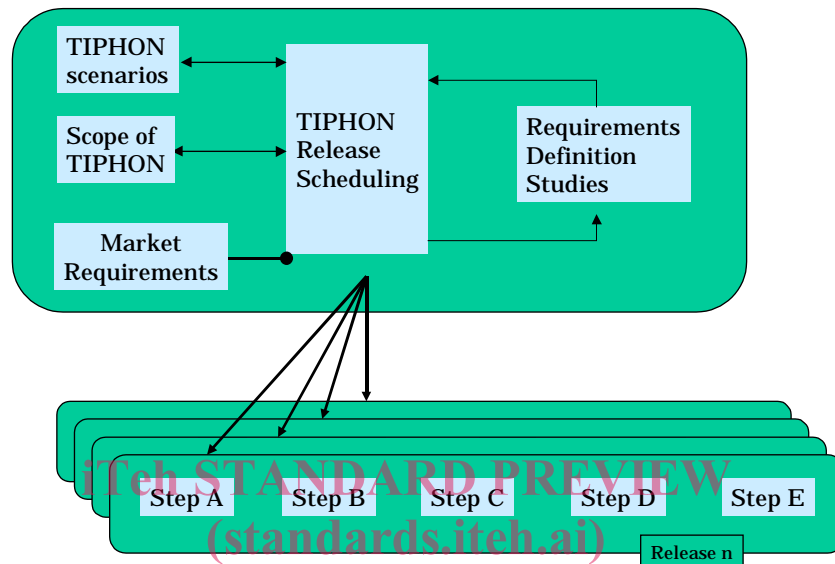
3.2 Abbreviations

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

ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
RDS	Requirements Definition Study
TIPHON	Telecommunications and Internet Protocol Harmonization Over Networks
TR	ETSI Technical Report
TS	ETSI Technical Specification

4 Overview of the TIPHON process

The TIPHON project considers a wide range of complex technology issues arising from the inter-working of differing and independently evolving network technologies. The TIPHON process therefore comprises two distinct stages. The first stage is concerned with establishing a fixed set of requirements to be worked on and in doing so defines the scope of a TIPHON Release. Whilst the second stage is concerned with developing a coherent set of specifications from a fixed set of requirements for a specific TIPHON Release, as shown in Figure 1.



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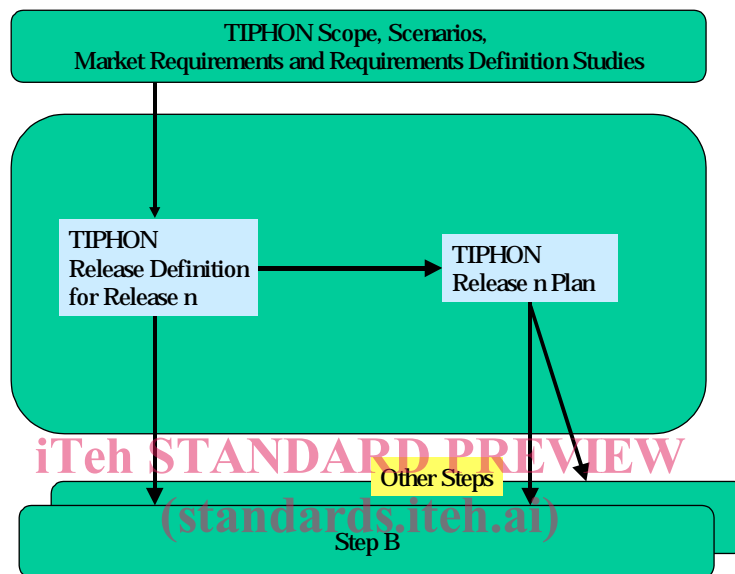
Figure 1: Overview of the TIPHON process

4.1 TIPHON Release Schedule

The TIPHON project shall work towards its goals from clearly stated and expressed requirements derived from three sources; the TIPHON project scope, the TIPHON scenarios and specific market requirements. Where an aspect relevant to the TIPHON project cannot be clearly stated or is insufficiently understood from these three sources, a TIPHON Requirements Definition Study (RDS) will be required before these aspects can be considered for incorporation within a Release. A Requirements Definition Study considers various aspects of a given topic as is appropriate and produces a qualified set of requirements relating to the topic as a result. The project will therefore be constrained to working on a clearly understood, scoped and qualified set of requirements within each Release whilst having the ability through Requirements Definition Studies to adapt to a continually changing environment.

4.2 Step A - Release Definition

As shown in Figure 2, a TIPHON Release shall be constructed from a set of qualified requirements that can be progressed through to a coherent and focussed set of specifications of the necessary quality within an acceptable period of time. The Release definition shall comprise a statement of the top-level topics to be addressed within a specific release and the declaration of a plan with the identification of the associated work items.



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Figure 2: Step A - Release Definition in TIPHON

4.3 Step B – Capabilities and Requirements

Based upon the information contained and referenced by a TIPHON Release Definition, Step B will develop appropriate Service Capability Definitions and associated Statements of Service Independent Requirements. These aspects of the process draw upon but are not constrained by the stage 1 elements of the ISDN three stage process. A complete application of that process has not been adopted by the TIPHON project for two reasons – firstly it would simply lead to a recreation of an ISDN on an IP core network and second it does not align with the approaches being adopted for third generation mobile networks. Full adoption of the ISDN three-stage process would prejudice future network and service development which is acknowledged to be following a more IP-centric approach.

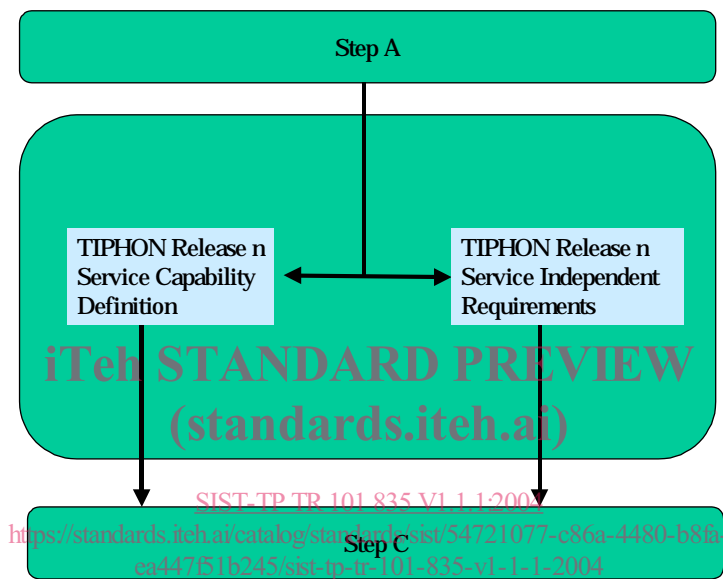


Figure 3: Step B – Release Capability Definition

Step B Service Capability Definitions, indicated in Figure 3, specify the core components expected from the network technology and associated management technology and processes to deliver the functions specified for the Release. Additionally, it is inevitable that there will be aspects implied for a Release that cannot be defined within a Service Capability Definition; these requirements will be captured in a Statement of Service Independent Requirements for the associated Release.

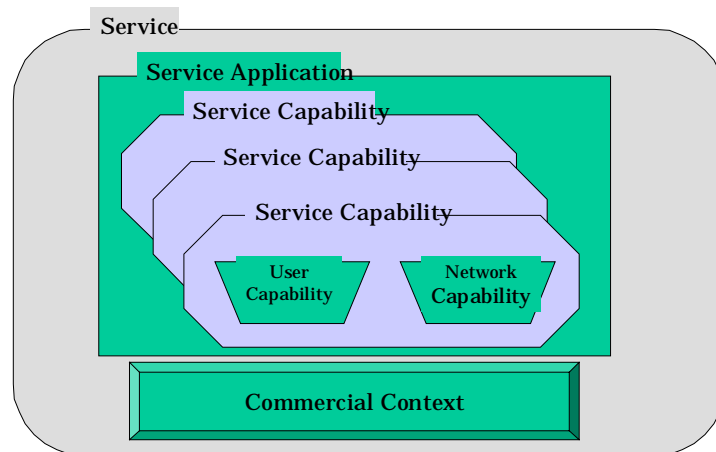


Figure 4: Services and Service Capabilities

Within the TIPHON project, end services are understood to mean functionality provided by service applications set in a commercial context. It is therefore not the purpose of TIPHON to specify services, rather the scope is to address the needs of how service applications can be constructed from sets of functionality. In line with the approach adopted by Third Generation networks, the focus is on the definition of User and Network Capabilities that may be assembled into Service Capabilities. Whilst the support of Third Generation Network services is seen as desirable, such support is not a mandatory requirement of the TIPHON process.

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4.4 Step C – Reference Architecture

The outputs from both Step A and Step B form the source documents for Step C that develops a Reference Architecture in support of the Release. The Reference Architecture shall be developed independently of underlying technology issues where possible and represents a static design for the Release. In support of the Reference Architecture, Management and Network Information flows are developed to express the dynamic behaviour of the system.

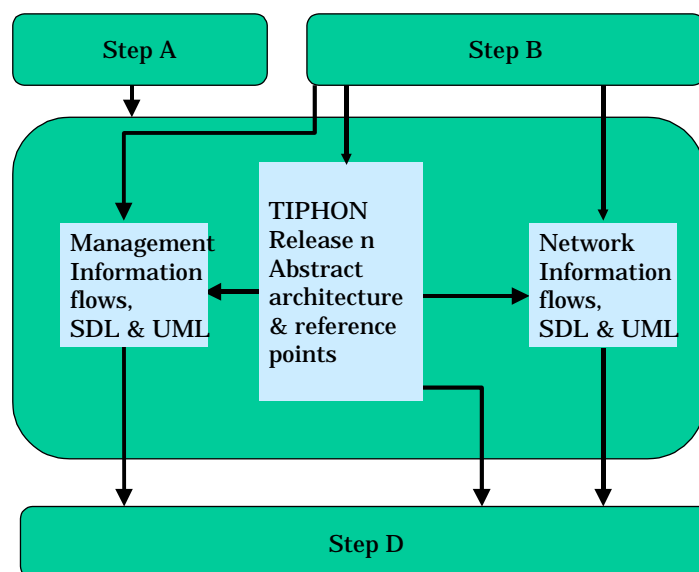


Figure 5: Step C - Development of the Reference Architecture