

ETSI GS MEC 040 V3.2.1 (2024-03)



Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); Federation enablement APIs

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Contents

Intellectual Property Rights	6
Foreword.....	6
Modal verbs terminology.....	6
1 Scope	7
2 References	7
2.1 Normative references	7
2.2 Informative references.....	7
3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations.....	8
3.1 Terms.....	8
3.2 Symbols.....	8
3.3 Abbreviations	8
4 Overview	8
4.1 Introduction	8
4.2 GSMA Operator Platform and its interfaces	9
5 Description of the services (informative).....	10
5.1 Federation enablement service introduction.....	10
5.2 Sequence diagrams	10
5.2.1 Introduction.....	10
5.2.2 Request/Response model	11
5.2.2.1 Registration/Update/Deregistration of MEC system to the MEC federator	11
5.2.2.1.1 Registration	11
5.2.2.1.2 Update	11
5.2.2.1.3 Deregistration	11
5.2.2.2 MEC system discovery	12
5.2.2.3 MEC application instance discovery	13
5.2.2.4 MEC service discovery	14
5.2.2.5 Application package management and Application instance lifecycle management	16
5.2.2.5.1 Introduction	16
5.2.2.5.2 On-boarding application package.....	16
5.2.2.5.3 Application Instantiation	17
5.2.2.6 Providing MEC system-wide MEC application instance information updates to MEF.....	18
5.2.2.7 Forwarding MEC system-wide MEC application instance information updates to another MEC system of MEC federation	18
5.2.3 REST based subscribe-notify model.....	19
5.2.3.1 Subscribing to federation event notifications.....	19
5.2.3.2 Receiving notification on expiry of federation event subscription.....	20
5.2.3.3 Updating subscription for federation event notifications	20
5.2.3.4 Unsubscribing from federation event notifications	21
5.2.3.5 Receiving MEC system registration/update notifications	21
5.2.3.6 Receiving MEC application instance registration/ registration update/ deregistration notifications.....	21
5.2.4 Creation/Update/Removal of MEC federation between two partners.....	22
5.2.4.1 Introduction.....	22
5.2.4.2 Create MEC Federation between partners.....	22
5.2.4.3 Update MEC Federation between partners	23
5.2.4.4 Remove MEC Federation between partners.....	23
6 Data model	24
6.1 Introduction	24
6.2 Resource data types	24
6.2.1 Introduction.....	24
6.2.2 Type: SystemInfo.....	24
6.2.3 Type: SystemInfoUpdate	24
6.2.4 Type: FedServiceInfo	25
6.2.5 Referenced simple data types.....	25

6.2.5.1	Introduction.....	25
6.2.5.2	Simple data types	25
6.3	Subscription data types.....	25
6.3.1	Introduction.....	25
6.3.2	Type: SystemUpdateNotificationSubscription	25
6.3.3	Type: SubscriptionLinkList	26
6.4	Notifications data types	26
6.4.1	Introduction.....	26
6.4.2	Type: SystemUpdateNotification.....	26
6.5	Referenced structured data types.....	27
6.5.1	Introduction.....	27
6.5.2	Type: TimeStamp	27
7	API definition	27
7.1	Introduction	27
7.2	Global definitions and resource structure	27
7.3	Resource: A list of system_info	28
7.3.1	Description.....	28
7.3.2	Resource definition.....	28
7.3.3	Resource methods.....	29
7.3.3.1	GET.....	29
7.3.3.2	PUT	29
7.3.3.3	PATCH	30
7.3.3.4	POST.....	30
7.3.3.5	DELETE	30
7.4	Resource: Individual system.....	31
7.4.1	Description.....	31
7.4.2	Resource definition.....	31
7.4.3	Resource methods.....	31
7.4.3.1	GET.....	31
7.4.3.2	PUT	32
7.4.3.3	PATCH	32
7.4.3.4	POST.....	33
7.4.3.5	DELETE	33
7.5	Resource: subscriptions	34
7.5.1	Description.....	34
7.5.2	Resource definition.....	34
7.5.3	Resource methods.....	34
7.5.3.1	GET.....	34
7.5.3.2	PUT	35
7.5.3.3	PATCH	35
7.5.3.4	POST.....	35
7.5.3.5	DELETE	37
7.6	Resource: existing subscription	37
7.6.1	Description.....	37
7.6.2	Resource definition.....	37
7.6.3	Resource methods.....	37
7.6.3.1	GET.....	37
7.6.3.2	PUT	38
7.6.3.3	PATCH	40
7.6.3.4	POST.....	40
7.6.3.5	DELETE	40
7.7	Resource: A list of MEC services for federation on the Mfm and Mff reference points.....	40
7.7.1	Description.....	40
7.7.2	Resource definition.....	40
7.7.3	Resource methods.....	41
7.7.3.1	GET.....	41
7.7.3.2	PUT	42
7.7.3.3	PATCH	42
7.7.3.4	POST.....	42
7.7.3.5	DELETE	42
7.8	Resource: Individual MEC service for federation on the Mfm and Mff reference points	43

7.8.1	Description.....	43
7.8.2	Resource definition.....	43
7.8.3	Resource methods.....	43
7.8.3.1	GET.....	43
7.8.3.2	PUT.....	44
7.8.3.3	PATCH	44
7.8.3.4	POST.....	44
7.8.3.5	DELETE	44
Annex A (informative):	Enabling MEC App providers to access MEC federation services	45
A.1	Introduction	45
Annex B (informative):	Complementary material for API utilization	46
Annex C (informative):	Data models of EWBI defined by GSMA OPG.....	47
C.1	Introduction	47
C.2	Interface Management API	47
History		48

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Foreword

This Group Specification (GS) has been produced by ETSI Industry Specification Group (ISG) Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC).

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**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).

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1 Scope

The present document focuses on the functionalities enabled over the relevant reference points (i.e. Mfm and Mff) to support MEC federation. It describes the information flows, required information, and specifies the necessary operations, data models and API definitions. The present document carefully considers the relevant work of other industry bodies relating to MEC federation (e.g. GSMA OPG, 5GAA, etc.) and all relevant work done in ETSI.

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 referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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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] [ETSI GS MEC 001](#): "Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); Terminology".
- [2] Void.
- [3] Void.
- [4] Void.
- [5] [GSMA Permanent Reference Document OPG.04](#): "Operator Platform - East-Westbound Interface APIs", V2.0, March 2023.
- [6] [3GPP TS 23.502](#): "3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects; Procedures for the 5G System (5GS); Stage 2 (Release 18)".
- [7] [ETSI GS MEC 010-2](#): "Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); MEC Management; Part 2: Application lifecycle, rules and requirements management".
- [8] Void.
- [9] [IETF RFC 4122](#): "A Universally Unique IDentifier (UUID) URN Namespace".

2.2 Informative references

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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] [GSMA Official Document OPG.02](#): "Operator Platform Requirements and Architecture", V5.0, July 2023.

- [i.2] ETSI GR MEC 035: "Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); Study on Inter-MEC systems and MEC-Cloud systems coordination".
- [i.3] ETSI GS MEC 002: "Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); Use Cases and Requirements".
- [i.4] ETSI GS MEC 003: "Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); Framework and Reference Architecture".
- [i.5] Void.
- [i.6] Void.
- [i.7] [OpenAPI™ Specification](#).
- [i.8] ETSI GS MEC 009: "Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); General principles, patterns and common aspects of MEC Service APIs".
- [i.9] Void.

3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

Void.

3.2 Symbols

Void.

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in ETSI GS MEC 001 [1] and the following apply:

App	Application
CHF	CHarging Functions
CR	Cloud Resources
E/WBI	East/West Bound Interface
GSMA	GSM Association
MEF	MEC Federator
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
NBI	NorthBound Interface
NR	Network Resources
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
OP	Operator Platform
SBI	SouthBound Interface
UNI	User Network Interface

4 Overview

4.1 Introduction

The present document specifies Federation enablement APIs that enable the shared usage of MEC services and applications across different systems (e.g. MEC system, Cloud system).

Clause 4 introduces the relevant work of other industry bodies e.g. GSMA OPG.

Clause 5 presents the reference scenarios for the MEC federation, and introduces the functionalities enabled via the relevant reference points (i.e. Mfm and Mff). It provides the high-level information flows and describes the necessary operations.

Clause 6 describes the data models that can be exchanged over the Federation enablement APIs, which provide detailed descriptions of all information elements used for MEC federation.

Clause 7 defines the actual Federation enablement APIs providing detailed information of how information elements are mapped into a RESTful API design.

4.2 GSMA Operator Platform and its interfaces

According to the GSMA Permanent Reference Document (PRD), "Operator Platform Telco Edge Requirements" [i.1], an Operator Platform (OP) is a facilitator of subscribers' seamless access to edge applications instantiated within a federation of edge networks involving multiple owners. Such seamless access is needed either when subscribers roam to visited networks or when a partner network is a better choice for edge application instantiation.

The objective of the OP concept is to guide the industry ecosystem, i.e. MNOs, vendors, OEMs and service providers towards shaping a common solution for the exposure of network capabilities. As an initial step, [i.1] provides both an end-to-end definition and requirements of the OP for the support of edge computing. In further details, the GSMA defines OP requirements as well as OP architecture and functional modules. Therefore, aim of GSMA is to engage with standardization and open source communities that will undertake the standard definition of the OP. As depicted in Figure 4.2-1, the following OP interfaces have been defined in [i.1].

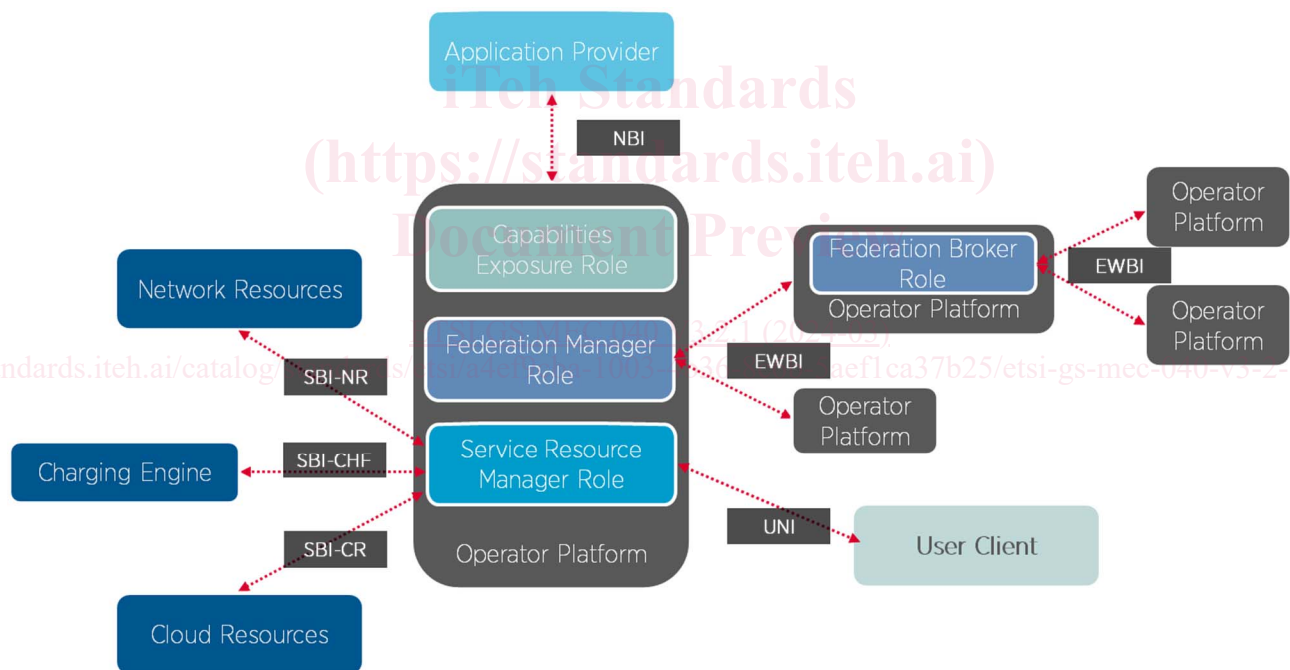


Figure 4.2-1: High-level OP reference architecture
(source: [i.1])

- Northbound Interface (NBI);
- Southbound Interface (SBI); Cloud Resources (SBI-CR);
- Southbound Interface (SBI); Network Resources (SBI-NR);
- Southbound Interface (SBI); Charging Functions (SBI-CHF);
- User Network Interface (UNI);
- East/West Bound Interface (E/WBI).

5 Description of the services (informative)

5.1 Federation enablement service introduction

Federation enablement APIs offers services such as discovery, information exchange and application life cycle management to enable the inter-work of one MEC system with another MEC system. The related requirements were carefully studied and extracted from various use cases in ETSI GR MEC 035 [i.2] including V2X services scenario, multi-operator environment, Application instance transfer between a MEC system and a MEC/Cloud system, connecting different services, immersive AR game scenario, edge service delivery through visited network and edge node sharing.

The extracted requirements are listed as follows, summarized from ETSI GS MEC 002 [i.3]:

- MEC system discovery ([Federation-02])
- MEC platform discovery ([Federation-03])
- Information exchange between MEC systems ([Federation-04])
- Information exchange between MEC platforms ([Federation-05])
- Support handling direct/indirect MEC system communication ([Federation-06])
- MEC application discovery ([Federation-07])
- MEC application on-boarding/instantiation ([Federation-08])
- Information exchange among MEC applications ([Federation-09])
- MEC service discovery ([Federation-10])

NOTE: Reusing the data models and APIs for MEC-Cloud coordination is considered if applicable, but its information flow is out of scope of the present document.

5.2 Sequence diagrams

5.2.1 Introduction

The rest of clause 5.2 introduces the following sequence diagrams based on the extracted requirements.

- Registration of MEC system(s) to the federation (clause 5.2.2.1)
- Discovery:
 - MEC system discovery (clause 5.2.2.2)
 - MEC application discovery (clause 5.2.2.3)
 - MEC service discovery (clause 5.2.2.4)
- Application package management and Application instance lifecycle management (clause 5.2.2.5)

NOTE 1: Support handling direct/indirect MEC system communication is satisfied by MEC Federator as defined in ETSI GS MEC 003 [i.4].

NOTE 2: The requirement for registration is based on the premise that multiple MEOs can register to a single MEF.

5.2.2 Request/Response model

5.2.2.1 Registration/Update/Deregistration of MEC system to the MEC federator

5.2.2.1.1 Registration

The registration information flow is used for enabling a MEO to register its MEC system information with a MEC Federator over Mfm reference point, as depicted in Figure 5.2.2.1.1-1.

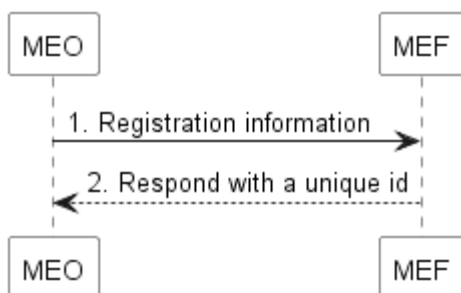


Figure 5.2.2.1.1-1: Information flow of Registration

Registration procedure consists of the following steps:

- 1) The MEO sends a registration request to the MEC federator.
- 2) The MEC federator responds with a unique ID among federation members.

5.2.2.1.2 Update

Information flow of update of MEC system(s) to the federation is depicted in Figure 5.2.2.1.2-1.

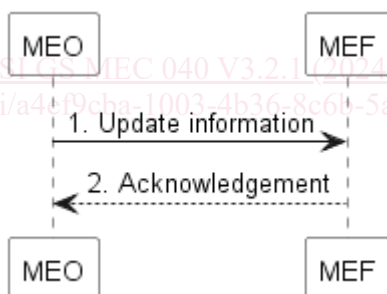


Figure 5.2.2.1.2-1: Information flow of Update

Update procedure consists of the following steps:

- 1) The MEO sends an update request to MEC Federator.
- 2) MEC Federator returns an acknowledgement to MEO.

5.2.2.1.3 Deregistration

Information flow of deregistration of MEC system(s) from the federation is depicted in Figure 5.2.2.1.3-1.

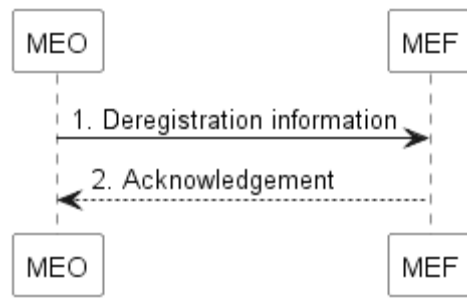


Figure 5.2.2.1.3-1: Information flow of Deregistration

Deregistration procedure consists of the following steps:

- 1) The MEO sends an update request to MEC Federator.
- 2) MEC Federator returns an acknowledgement to MEO.

5.2.2.2 MEC system discovery

Information flow of MEC system discovery is used for enabling MEO to be aware of another MEC system. MEC system discovery is the primitive and essential procedure for enabling the other functionalities relating to Feature MECFederation. The information flow is depicted in Figure 5.2.2.2-1.

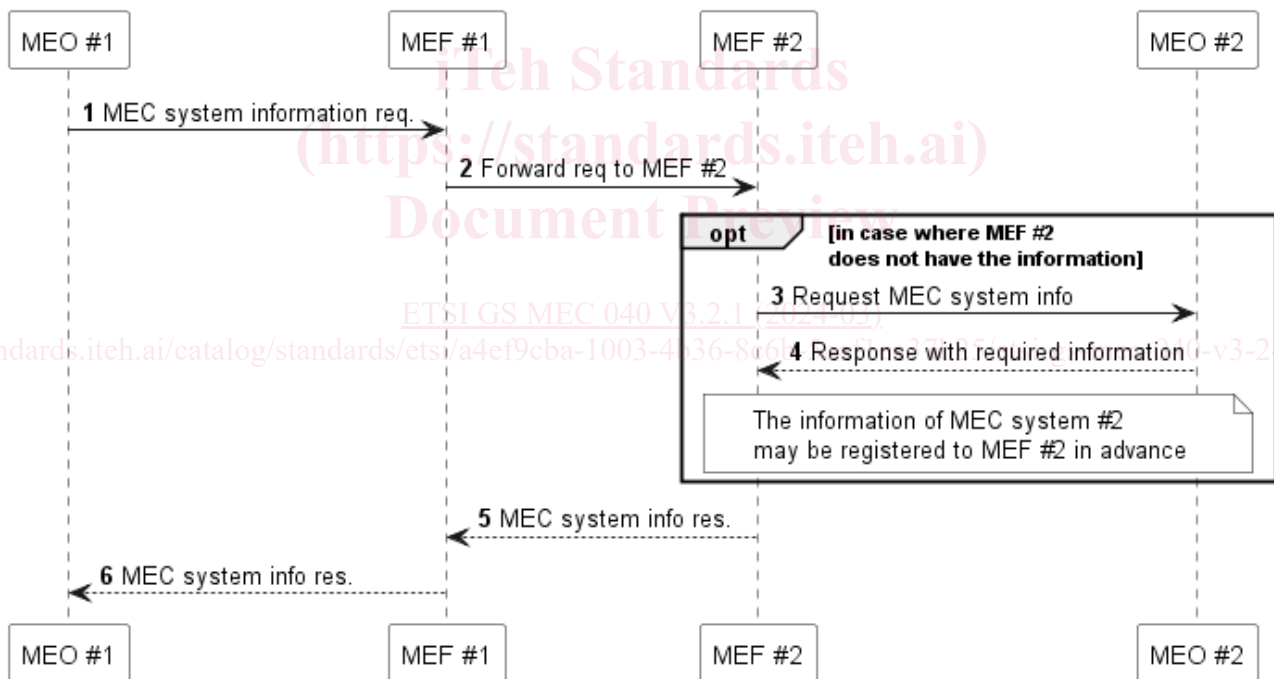


Figure 5.2.2.2-1: Information flow of MEC system discovery

As a prerequisite of this flow, MEC Federator Discovery is conducted among MEC Federators, which means MEC Federators are aware of each other in advance:

- 1) The MEO #1 sends a MEC system information request to MEC Federator #1 over Mfm reference point. This request is triggered by MEC platform or MEC Application instance.
- 2) MEC Federator #1 forwards the request to MEC Federator #2.
- 3) In case where MEC Federator #2 does not have the desired information (which means MEO #2 does not register its own information in advance), MEC Federator #2 sends a MEC system information request to MEO #2 over Mfm reference point.
- 4) MEO #2 responds with the information of its own system to MEC Federator #2.