Electronic Communications Committee (ECC)
within the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)

ECC RECOMMENDATION (04)02

THE CHOICE OF NUMBER RANGE FOR SERVICES ON EMERGING MOBILE SYSTEMS

Recommendation adopted by the Working Group "Numbering Naming and Addressing" (WG NNA)

INTRODUCTION

As new mobile systems are implemented throughout Europe, which provide new services and also services currently available on second generation mobile systems (GSM), the national Administrations need guidelines to be able to allocate appropriate number ranges for all these services. This recommendation aims at providing those guidelines.

"The European conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

a) that E.164 numbers are allocated to users or their terminals and also to "host" services (eg information services and call centres) that are called by users;

b) that E.164 number ranges are normally allocated to distinguish between different services and tariff levels especially for host services;

c) that numbering allocation should be technology neutral, assuring non-discrimination between providers;

d) that numbering allocation should be user friendly, assuring a good level of information to the user and not constraining service provider portability;

e) that users of 2nd generation mobile services who wish to migrate to 3rd generation will wish to retain their existing numbers and in many cases will use this number for dual mode 2nd & 3rd generation services;

f) that when new user-to-user services are introduced on 3rd generation mobile networks, users are likely to access these services from the same terminals that they also use for public telephony;

g) that users find difficulty in having different user or terminal numbers for different user-to-user services to which they subscribe especially if the services may be used by the same terminal;

h) that when terminals are used as "clients" to access new "host" services (e.g. information services), the important issue is the choice of numbering range for the host service; the choice of numbers for the "client" terminal is immaterial.

recommends

1. that in general, both GPRS and 3GPP user entities (e.g. SIM card) should be allowed to use existing ranges of E.164 numbers for user-to-user services similar to those provided on GSM (e.g. mobile telephony) and as CLI for "client" access to new "host" services.

2. that existing E.164 numbers can also continue to be used when new user-to-user services are added since most terminals will support multiple services;

3. that allocation of new separate number ranges for user entities is needed when:
    - new user-to-user services are introduced for which new numbering ranges are appropriate in accordance with the normal criteria for creating new numbering ranges (e.g. a different tariff),
    - continued use of a single number for multiple services restricts unreasonably the choice of service provider because the same service provider has to be used for all services that use the number
    - the benefits of separate number ranges exceed the costs of increasing the number of numbers for the same user entity;

4. that new number ranges may be appropriate for providers of new "host" services depending on the nature of the service, but the terminal or client would continue to use the existing number ranges as CLI when accessing these new host services;

5. that a clear separation is desirable between number ranges used for host services and number ranges for users and terminals."

Note:
Please check the CEPT web site(http://www.CEPT.org) for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC recommendations.