

## **Annex 6: ETSI Intellectual Property Rights Policy**

### **1 Introduction**

The General Assembly of ETSI has established the following Intellectual Property Rights POLICY.

### **2 Definitions**

Terms in the POLICY which are written in capital letters shall have the meaning set forth in Clause 15 entitled DEFINITIONS.

### **3 Policy Objectives**

- 3.1 It is ETSI's objective to create STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS that are based on solutions which best meet the technical objectives of the European telecommunications sector, as defined by the General Assembly. In order to further this objective the ETSI IPR POLICY seeks to reduce the risk to ETSI, MEMBERS, and others applying ETSI STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, that investment in the preparation, adoption and application of STANDARDS could be wasted as a result of an ESSENTIAL IPR for a STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION being unavailable. In achieving this objective, the ETSI IPR POLICY seeks a balance between the needs of standardization for public use in the field of telecommunications and the rights of the owners of IPRs.
- 3.2 IPR holders whether members of ETSI and their AFFILIATES or third parties, should be adequately and fairly rewarded for the use of their IPRs in the implementation of STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.
- 3.3 ETSI shall take reasonable measures to ensure, as far as possible, that its activities which relate to the preparation, adoption and application of STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, enable STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS to be available to potential users in accordance with the general principles of standardization.

### **4 Disclosure of IPRs**

- 4.1 Subject to Clause 4.2 below, each MEMBER shall use its reasonable endeavours, in particular during the development of a STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION where it participates, to inform ETSI of ESSENTIAL IPRs in a timely fashion. In particular, a MEMBER submitting a technical proposal for a STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION shall, on a bona fide basis, draw the attention of ETSI to any of that MEMBER's IPR which might be ESSENTIAL if that proposal is adopted.
- 4.2 The obligations pursuant to Clause 4.1 above do however not imply any obligation on MEMBERS to conduct IPR searches.
- 4.3 The obligations pursuant to Clause 4.1 above are deemed to be fulfilled in respect of all existing and future members of a PATENT FAMILY if ETSI has been informed of a member of this PATENT FAMILY in a timely fashion. Information on other members of this PATENT FAMILY, if any, may be voluntarily provided.

### **5 Procedures for Committees**

ETSI shall establish guidelines for the chairmen of COMMITTEES with respect to ESSENTIAL IPRs.

### **6 Availability of Licences**

- 6.1 When an ESSENTIAL IPR relating to a particular STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION is brought to the attention of ETSI, the Director-General of ETSI shall immediately request the

owner to give within three months an irrevocable undertaking in writing that it is prepared to grant irrevocable licences on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions under such IPR to at least the following extent:

- MANUFACTURE, including the right to make or have made customized components and sub-systems to the licensee's own design for use in MANUFACTURE;
- sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of EQUIPMENT so MANUFACTURED;
- repair, use, or operate EQUIPMENT; and
- use METHODS.

The above undertaking may be made subject to the condition that those who seek licences agree to reciprocate.

In the event a MEMBER assigns or transfers ownership of an ESSENTIAL IPR that it disclosed to ETSI, the MEMBER shall exercise reasonable efforts to notify the assignee or transferee of any undertaking it has made to ETSI pursuant to Clause 6 with regard to that ESSENTIAL IPR.

- 6.2 An undertaking pursuant to Clause 6.1 with regard to a specified member of a PATENT FAMILY shall apply to all existing and future ESSENTIAL IPRs of that PATENT FAMILY unless there is an explicit written exclusion of specified IPRs at the time the undertaking is made. The extent of any such exclusion shall be limited to those explicitly specified IPRs.
- 6.3 As long as the requested undertaking of the IPR owner is not granted, the COMMITTEE Chairmen should, if appropriate, in consultation with the ETSI Secretariat use their judgment as to whether or not the COMMITTEE should suspend work on the relevant parts of the STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION until the matter has been resolved and/or submit for approval any relevant STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION.
- 6.4 At the request of the European Commission and/or EFTA, initially for a specific STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION or a class of STANDARDS/TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, ETSI shall arrange to have carried out in a competent and timely manner an investigation including an IPR search, with the objective of ascertaining whether IPRs exist or are likely to exist which may be or may become ESSENTIAL to a proposed STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS and the possible terms and conditions of licences for such IPRs. This shall be subject to the European Commission and/or EFTA meeting all reasonable expenses of such an investigation, in accordance with detailed arrangements to be worked out with the European Commission and/or EFTA prior to the investigation being undertaken.

## **6bis Use of the IPR Licensing Declaration Forms**

MEMBERS shall use one of the ETSI IPR Licensing Declaration forms at the Appendix to this ETSI IPR Policy to make their IPR licensing declarations.

## **7 Information on IPR by ETSI**

- 7.1 Any published STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION shall include information pertaining to ESSENTIAL IPRs which are brought to the attention of ETSI prior to such publication.
- 7.2 ETSI shall establish appropriate procedures to allow access to information at any time with respect to ESSENTIAL IPRs which have been brought to the attention of ETSI.

## **8 Non-availability of Licences**

- 8.1 Non-availability of licences prior to the publication of a STANDARD or a TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

8.1.1 Existence of a viable alternative technology

Where prior to the publication of a STANDARD or a TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION an IPR owner informs ETSI that it is not prepared to license an IPR in respect of a STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION in accordance with Clause 6.1 above, the General Assembly shall review the requirement for that STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION and satisfy itself that a viable alternative technology is available for the STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION which:

- is not blocked by that IPR; and
- satisfies ETSI's requirements.

8.1.2 Non-existence of a viable alternative technology

Where, in the opinion of the General Assembly, no such viable alternative technology exists, work on the STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION shall cease, and the Director-General of ETSI shall observe the following procedure:

- a) If the IPR owner is a MEMBER,
  - i) the Director-General of ETSI shall request that MEMBER to reconsider its position.
  - ii) If that MEMBER however decides not to withdraw its refusal to license the IPR, it shall then inform the Director-General of ETSI of its decision and provide a written explanation of its reasons for refusing to license that IPR, within three months of its receipt of the Director-General's request.
  - iii) The Director-General of ETSI shall then send the MEMBER's explanation together with relevant extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly to the ETSI Counsellors for their consideration.
- b) If the IPR owner is a third party,
  - i) the Director-General of ETSI shall, wherever appropriate, request full supporting details from any MEMBER who has complained that licences are not available in accordance with Clause 6.1 above and/or request appropriate MEMBERS to use their good offices to find a solution to the problem.
  - ii) Where this does not lead to a solution the Director-General of ETSI shall write to the IPR owner concerned for an explanation and request ultimately that licences be granted according to Clause 6.1 above.
  - iii) Where the IPR owner refuses the Director-General's request and decides not to withdraw its refusal to license the IPR or does not answer the letter within three months after the receipt of the Director-General's request, the Director-General shall then send the IPR owner's explanation, if any, together with relevant extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly to the ETSI Counsellors for their consideration.

8.1.3 Prior to any decision by the General Assembly, the COMMITTEE should in consultation with the ETSI Secretariat use their judgment as to whether or not the COMMITTEE should pursue development of the concerned parts of the STANDARD or a TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION based on the non-available technology and should look for alternative solutions.

**8.2 Non-availability of licences after the publication of a STANDARD or a TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION**

Where, in respect of a published STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION, ETSI becomes aware that licences are not available from an IPR owner in accordance with Clause 6.1 above, that STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION shall be referred to the Director-General of ETSI for further consideration in accordance with the following procedure:

- i) The Director-General shall request full supporting details from any MEMBER or third party who has complained that licences are not available in accordance with Clause 6.1 above.
- ii) The Director-General shall write to the IPR owner concerned for an explanation and request that licences be granted according to Clause 6.1 above. Where the concerned IPR owner is a MEMBER, it shall inform the Director-General of ETSI of its decision and provide a written explanation of its reasons in case of continuing refusal to license that IPR.
- iii) Where the IPR owner refuses the Director-General's request or does not answer the letter within three months, the Director-General shall inform the General Assembly and, if available, provide the General Assembly with the IPR owner's explanation for consideration. A vote shall be taken in the General Assembly on an individual weighted basis to immediately refer the STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION to the relevant COMMITTEE to modify it so that the IPR is no longer ESSENTIAL.
- iv) Where the vote in the General Assembly does not succeed, then the General Assembly shall, where appropriate, consult the ETSI Counsellors with a view to finding a solution to the problem. In parallel, the General Assembly may request appropriate MEMBERS to use their good offices to find a solution to the problem.
- v) Where (iv) does not lead to a solution, then the General Assembly shall request the European Commission to see what further action may be appropriate, including non-recognition of the STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION in question.

In carrying out the foregoing procedure due account shall be taken of the interest of the enterprises that have invested in the implementation of the STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION in question.

## **9 ETSI ownership of IPRs**

- 9.1 The ownership of the copyright in STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS documentation and reports created by ETSI or any of its COMMITTEES shall vest in ETSI but due acknowledgement shall be given to copyrights owned by third parties that are identifiable in ETSI copyrighted works.
- 9.2 In respect of IPRs other than copyright in STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS documentation and reports, ETSI shall only seek ownership of IPRs generated either by its employees or by secondees to ETSI from organizations who are not MEMBERS.
- 9.3 ETSI shall, on request by a non-member, grant licences to that non-member on fair and reasonable terms and conditions in respect of any IPRs, other than those referred to in Clause 9.1 above, owned by ETSI. MEMBERS shall be allowed to use IPRs owned by ETSI free of charge.

## **10 Confidentiality**

The proceedings of a COMMITTEE shall be regarded as non-confidential except as expressly provided below and all information submitted to a COMMITTEE shall be treated as if non-confidential and shall be available for public inspection unless:

- the information is in written or other tangible form; and
- the information is identified in writing, when submitted, as confidential; and
- the information is first submitted to, and accepted by, the chairman of the COMMITTEE as confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION incorporated in a STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION shall be regarded as non-confidential by ETSI and its MEMBERS, from the date on which the STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION is published.

## **11 Reproduction of Standards Documentation**

MEMBERS may make copies of STANDARDS and TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS documentation produced by ETSI for their own use free of charge but may not distribute such copies to others.

## **12 Law and Regulation**

The POLICY shall be governed by the laws of France. However, no MEMBER shall be obliged by the POLICY to commit a breach of the laws or regulations of its country or to act against supranational laws or regulations applicable to its country insofar as derogation by agreement between parties is not permitted by such laws.

Any right granted to, and any obligation imposed on, a MEMBER which derives from French law and which are not already contained in the national or supranational law applicable to that MEMBER is to be understood as being of solely a contractual nature.

## **13 Policy Decisions**

Without prejudice to ETSI's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, no decisions shall be taken by ETSI in relation to implementation of the POLICY unless supported by a 71 % majority of the weighted individual votes cast by MEMBERS.

## **14 Violation of Policy**

Any violation of the POLICY by a MEMBER shall be deemed to be a breach, by that MEMBER, of its obligations to ETSI. The ETSI General Assembly shall have the authority to decide the action to be taken, if any, against the MEMBER in breach, in accordance with the ETSI Statutes.

## **15 Definitions**

1 "AFFILIATE" of a first legal entity means any other legal entity:

- directly or indirectly owning or controlling the first legal entity, or
- under the same direct or indirect ownership or control as the first legal entity, or
- directly or indirectly owned or controlled by the first legal entity,

for so long as such ownership or control lasts.

Ownership or control shall exist through the direct or indirect:

- ownership of more than 50 % of the nominal value of the issued equity share capital or of more than 50 % of the shares entitling the holders to vote for the election of directors or persons performing similar functions, or

- right by any other means to elect or appoint directors, or persons who collectively can exercise such control. A state, a division of a state or other public entity operating under public law, or any legal entity, linked to the first legal entity solely through a state or any division of a state or other public entity operating under public law, shall be deemed to fall outside the definition of an AFFILIATE.
- 2 **"COMMITTEE"** shall mean any Technical Body of ETSI and shall include ETSI Projects, Technical Committees, ETSI Partnership Projects, and their Working Groups.
  - 3 **"CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION"** shall mean all information deemed to be confidential pursuant to Clause 10 of the POLICY disclosed directly or indirectly to the MEMBER.
  - 4 **"EQUIPMENT"** shall mean any system, or device fully conforming to a STANDARD.
  - 5 **"METHODS"** shall mean any method or operation fully conforming to a STANDARD.
  - 6 **"ESSENTIAL"** as applied to IPR means that it is not possible on technical (but not commercial) grounds, taking into account normal technical practice and the state of the art generally available at the time of standardization, to make, sell, lease, otherwise dispose of, repair, use or operate EQUIPMENT or METHODS which comply with a STANDARD without infringing that IPR. For the avoidance of doubt in exceptional cases where a STANDARD can only be implemented by technical solutions, all of which are infringements of IPRs, all such IPRs shall be considered ESSENTIAL.
  - 7 **"IPR"** shall mean any intellectual property right conferred by statute law including applications therefor other than trademarks. For the avoidance of doubt rights relating to get-up, confidential information, trade secrets or the like are excluded from the definition of IPR.
  - 8 **"MANUFACTURE"**, shall mean production of EQUIPMENT.
  - 9 **"MEMBER"** shall mean a member or associate member of ETSI. References to a MEMBER shall wherever the context permits be interpreted as references to that MEMBER and its AFFILIATES.
  - 10 **"POLICY"** shall mean ETSI's Intellectual Property Rights Policy.
  - 11 **"STANDARD"** shall mean any standard adopted by ETSI including options therein or amended versions and shall include European Standards (ENs) (telecommunications series), ETSI Standards (ESs), Common Technical Regulations (CTRs) which are taken from ENs (telecommunications series) and including drafts of any of the foregoing, and documents made under the previous nomenclature, including ETs, I-ETs, parts of NETs and TBRs, the technical specifications of which are available to all MEMBERS, but not including any standards, or parts thereof, not made by ETSI.

The date on which a STANDARD is considered to be adopted by ETSI for the purposes of this POLICY shall be the date on which the technical content of that STANDARD was available to all MEMBERS.

- 12 **"TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION"** shall mean any Technical Specification (TS) adopted by ETSI including options therein or amended version including drafts, the Technical Specifications of which are available to all MEMBERS, but not including any technical specifications, or parts thereof, not made by ETSI.

The date on which a TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION is considered to be adopted by ETSI for the purposes of this POLICY shall be the date on which the technical content of that TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION was available to all MEMBERS.

- 13 **“PATENT FAMILY”** shall mean all the documents having at least one priority in common, including the priority document(s) themselves. For the avoidance of doubt, “documents” refers to patents, utility models, and applications therefor.

Annex 6 - Appendix A: IPR Licensing Declaration forms

**IPR HOLDER / ORGANISATION ("Declarant")**

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT DETAILS FOR LICENSING INFORMATION:**

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ URL: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL IPR LICENSING DECLARATION**

In accordance with Clause 4.1 of the ETSI IPR Policy the Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES hereby informs ETSI that **(check one box only)**:

with reference to ETSI STANDARD(S) or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION(S) No.: \_\_\_\_\_, or

with reference to ETSI Project(s): \_\_\_\_\_, or

with reference to all ETSI STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

and with reference to **(check one box only)**:

IPR(s) contained within technical contributions made by the Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES, or

any IPRs

the Declarant hereby irrevocably declares that it and its AFFILIATES are prepared to grant irrevocable licenses under its/their IPR(s) on terms and conditions which are in accordance with Clause 6.1 of the ETSI IPR Policy, in respect of the STANDARD(S), TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION(S), or the ETSI Project(s), as identified above, to the extent that the IPR(s) are or become, and remain ESSENTIAL to practice that/those STANDARD(S) or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION(S) or, as applicable, any STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION resulting from proposals or Work Items within the current scope of the above identified ETSI Project(s), for the field of use of practice of such STANDARD or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION.

This irrevocable undertaking is made subject to the condition that those who seek licences agree to reciprocate **(check box if applicable)**.

The construction, validity and performance of this General IPR licensing declaration shall be governed by the laws of France.

Terms in ALL CAPS on this form have the meaning provided in Clause 15 of the ETSI IPR Policy.

**SIGNATURE**

By signing this General IPR Licensing Declaration form, you represent that you have the authority to bind the Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES to the representations and commitments provided in this form.

Name of authorized person: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of authorized person: \_\_\_\_\_

Place, Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form duly signed to: ETSI Director-General  
ETSI - 650, route des Lucioles - F-06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex – France / Fax. +33 (0) 4 93 65 47 16*

# IPR INFORMATION STATEMENT AND LICENSING DECLARATION

## IPR HOLDER / ORGANISATION ("Declarant")

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR LICENSING INFORMATION:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ URL: \_\_\_\_\_

## IPR INFORMATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Clause 4.1 of the ETSI IPR Policy the Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES hereby informs ETSI that it is the Declarant's and/or its AFFILIATES' present belief that the IPR(s) disclosed in the attached *IPR Information Statement Annex* may be or may become ESSENTIAL in relation to at least the ETSI Work Item(s), STANDARD(S) and/or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION(S) identified in the attached *IPR Information Statement Annex*.

The Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES (**check one box only**):

are the proprietor of the IPR(s) disclosed in the attached *IPR Information Statement Annex*.

are not the proprietor of the IPR(s) disclosed in the attached *IPR Information Statement Annex*.

## IPR LICENSING DECLARATION

In accordance with Clause 6.1 of the ETSI IPR Policy the Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES hereby irrevocably declares the following (**check one box only, and subordinate box, where applicable**):

To the extent that the IPR(s) disclosed in the attached *IPR Information Statement Annex* are or become, and remain ESSENTIAL in respect of the ETSI Work Item, STANDARD and/or TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION identified in the attached *IPR Information Statement Annex*, the Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES are prepared to grant irrevocable licences under this/these IPR(s) on terms and conditions which are in accordance with Clause 6.1 of the ETSI IPR Policy.

This irrevocable undertaking is made subject to the condition that those who seek licences agree to reciprocate (**check box if applicable**).

The Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES are not prepared to make the above IPR Licensing Declaration (reasons may be explained in writing in the attached *IPR Licensing Declaration Annex*).

The construction, validity and performance of this IPR information statement and licensing declaration shall be governed by the laws of France.

Terms in ALL CAPS on this form have the meaning provided in Clause 15 of the ETSI IPR Policy.

## SIGNATURE

By signing this IPR Information Statement and Licensing Declaration form, you represent that you have the authority to bind the Declarant and/or its AFFILIATES to the representations and commitments provided in this form.

Name of authorized person: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of authorized person: \_\_\_\_\_

Place, Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form duly signed to: ETSI Director-General  
ETSI - 650, route des Lucioles - F-06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex – France / Fax. +33 (0) 4 93 65 47 16*



