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Technical Specification

Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Interworking between the Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) supporting GPRS and Packet Data Networks (PDN) (GSM 09.61 version 6.2.0 Release 1997)



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Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by the Special Mobile Group (SMG) of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

This specification describes the network interworking for the GSM service General Packet Radio Service (GPRS). Interworking to various external networks is defined together with the interworking for data forwarding while subscribers roam within the digital cellular telecommunications systems.

The contents of this TS is subject to continuing work within SMG and may change following formal SMG approval. Should SMG modify the contents of this TS, it will be re-released by SMG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

Version 6.x.y

where:

- 6 indicates GSM Phase 2+ Release 1997;
- x the second digit is incremented for all other types of changes, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.;
- y the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the specification.

1 Scope

This Specification defines the requirements for General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) interworking between a:-

- a) PLMN and PSDN
- b) PLMN and IP Networks
- c) PLMN and PLMN

2 Normative References

References may be made to:

- a) specific versions of publications (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.), in which case, subsequent revisions to the referenced document do not apply; or
- b) all versions up to and including the identified version (identified by "up to and including" before the version identity); or
- c) all versions subsequent to and including the identified version (identified by "onwards" following the version identity); or
- d) publications without mention of a specific version, in which case the latest version applies.

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]	GSM 01.04: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); Abbreviations and acronyms".
[2]	GSM 02.60: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS): Stage 1 Service Description".
[3]	GSM 03.60: "Digital cellular telecommunication system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Stage 2 Service Description ".
[4]	GSM 03.61: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Point to Multipoint Multicast Service Description; Stage 2".
[5]	GSM 03.62: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Point to Multipoint Group Call Service Description; Stage 2".
[6]	GSM 03.64: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+);General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Overall description of the Radio interface; Stage 2".
[7]	GSM 04.60: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Mobile Station (MS) - Base Station System (BSS) interface; Radio Link Control / Medium Access Control (RLC/MAC) protocol".
[8]	GSM 04.64: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Logical Link Control (LLC)".
[9]	GSM 04.65: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Subnetwork Dependent Convergence Protocol (SNDCP)".
[10]	GSM 07.60: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Mobile Station (MS) supporting GPRS".
[11]	CCITT Recommendation E.164: "Numbering plan for the ISDN era".

- CCITT Recommendation X.25: "Interface between data terminal equipment (DTE) and data [12] circuit-terminating equipment (DCE) for terminals operating in the packet mode and connected to public data networks by dedicated circuit". CCITT Recommendation X.75: "Packet-switched signalling system between public networks [13] providing data transmission services". CCITT Recommendation X.121: "International Numbering Plan for Public Data Networks". [14] IETF RFC 768 (1980): "User Datagram Protocol" (STD 6). [15] IETF RFC 791 (1981): "Internet Protocol" (STD 5). [16] [17] IETF RFC 792 (1981): "Internet Control Message Protocol" (STD 5). IETF RFC 793 (1981): "Transmission Control Protocol" (STD 7). [18]
- [19] IETF RFC 1034 (1987): "Domain Names Concepts and Facilities" (STD 7).

3 Definitions, abbreviations and Symbols

3.1 Definitions

See GSM 02.60.

In GSM 02.02 the bearer services are described. The general network configuration is described in GSM 03.02 and the GSM PLMN access reference configuration is defined in GSM 04.02. The various connection types used in the GSM PLMN are presented in GSM 03.10. Terminology used in this Specification is presented in GSM 01.04. For support of data services between GSM PLMN and other networks see GSM 09-series of Specifications.

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this specification the following abbreviations apply:

APN ATM BG CHAP DHCP DNS DNIC GGSN	Access Point Name Asynchronous Transfer Mode Border Gateway Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol Domain Name Server Data Network Identification Code Gateway GPRS Support Node
ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IP	Internet Protocol
IPv4	Internet Protocol version 4
IPv6	Internet Protocol version 6
ISP	Internet Service Provider
LAPB	Link Access Protocol Balanced
MS	Mobile Station
MT	Mobile Terminal
PDN	Packet Data Network
PDU	Protocol Data Unit
PNIC	Pseudo Network Identification Code
PSDN	Packet Switched Data Network
RADIUS	Remote Authentication Dial In User Service
SGSN	Serving GPRS Support Node

SMDS	Switched Multimegabit Data Service
TE	Terminal Equipment
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
ТСР	Transmission Control Protocol

3.3 Symbols

For the purposes of this specification the following Symbols apply:

Gb	Interface between an SGSN and a BSC.
Gi	Reference point between GPRS and an external packet data network.
Gn	Interface between two GSNs within the same PLMN.
Gp	Interface between two GSNs in different PLMNs. The Gp interface allows support of GPRS
	network services across areas served by the co-operating GPRS PLMNs.
Gs	Interface between an SGSN and MSC.
R	The reference point between a non-ISDN compatible TE and MT. Typically this reference point
	supports a standard serial interface.
Um	The interface between the MS and the GPRS fixed network part. The Um interface is the GPRS
	network interface for providing packet data services over the radio to the MS. The MT part of the
	MS is used to access the GPRS services through this interface.

4 Network characteristics

4.1 Key characteristics of PLMN

The GSM PLMN is fully defined in the GSM technical specifications. The GPRS related key characteristics are found in GSM 02.60 and 03.60.

4.2 Key characteristics of PSDN

Packet Switched Data Networks (PSDNs) are defined in the relevant CCITT/ITU-T X series.

4.3 Key characteristics of IP Networks

The Internet is a conglomeration of networks utilising a common set of protocols. IP protocols are defined in the relevant IETF STD specifications and RFCs. The networks topologies may be based on LANs (e.g. ethernet), Point to Point leased lines, PSTN, ISDN, X.25 or WANs using switched technology (e.g. SMDS, ATM).

5 Interworking Classifications

5.1 Service Interworking

Service interworking is required when the Teleservice at the calling and called terminals are different. For GPRS, service interworking is not applicable at the Gi reference point.

5.2 Network Interworking

Network interworking is required whenever a PLMN is involved in communications with another network to provide end-to-end communications. The PLMN shall interconnect in a manner consistent with that of a normal Packet Data Network (type defined by the requirements e.g. IP, PSDN X.75). Interworking appears exactly like that of Packet Data Networks.

5.3 Numbering and Addressing

See GSM 03.03 and the relevant sections for X.25 and IP addressing below.

6 Access reference configuration

Figure 1 shows the relationship between the MS, its terminal equipment and the GSM network in the overall GPRS environment.



Figure 1:GPRS Access Interfaces and Reference Points

7 Interface to GPRS Bearer Services

The following Figure 2: Transmission Plane shows the relationship of the GPRS Bearer terminating at the SNDCP layer to the rest of the GPRS environment. It is shown for reference purposes only and detailed information can be found in GSM 03.60, 04.64, and 04.65.



8 Subscription checking

Subscription is checked during the GPRS Attach procedure and also during the PDP Context Activation procedure as described in GSM 03.60. The GGSN implicitly checks its internal context related to the destination address for each mobile terminated packet. If there is a context associated with the PDP address the packet shall be forwarded to the MS, otherwise the packet shall be discarded or rejected depending on the implemented protocol.

9 Screening

Screening function's reside within the GPRS network and has three levels as described in GSM 02.60 and 03.60. Screening may be applicable for only certain protocols. Screening is outside the scope of GPRS standardisation, however, the following types of screening shall be supported.

9.1 Network controlled screening

The PLMN administration and/or the GPRS service provider shall set basic screening functionality, if applicable, (e.g. firewall) to reduce the risk of fraud and misuse. This is to ensure the integrity of the network and to protect subscribers.

9.2 Subscription controlled screening

This will not be in GPRS phase 1.

9.3 User controlled screening

This will not be in GPRS phase 1.

10 Interworking with PSDN (X.75/X.25)

10.1 General

GPRS shall support interworking with PSDN networks. The interworking may be either direct or through a transit network.

GPRS shall support both CCITT/ITU-T X.121 and CCITT/ITU-T E.164 addressing.

GPRS shall provide support for CCITT/ITU-T X.25 and CCITT/ITU-T X.75.

The GPRS TE's shall have addresses provided, and controlled, by their GPRS operator. The PSDN TE sends data to the GPRS TE by use of that TE's GPRS DNIC (Data Network Identification Code) or equivalent which uniquely identifies that GPRS network worldwide.

The GGSN for interworking with PSDNs is the access point of the GSM GPRS data network.

There are two models for PSDN interworking.

- X.75 over the Gi reference point.
- X.25 over the Gi reference point with the DCE located within the PSDN and the DTE located within the TE of the GPRS PLMN.

Both X.75 and X.25 access methods are supported when mobile users are resident on HPLMN or VPLMN. A roaming user may be allocated a dynamic address from the VPLMN.

10.2 PSDN Interworking Models

The two models of X.75 and X.25 represent the different scenarios for PSDN interworking with the GPRS network.

The model differences lie in the interconnection protocol over the Gi reference point.

10.2.1 Interworking at the Gi Reference Point

Figure 3 represents the case where X.75 is used as the interworking protocol, as used between interconnect X.25 PSDNs currently. The GPRS network will look like any other PSDN in all respects and uses X.75 addressing. Figure 4 shows the interconnecting protocol stacks to the GPRS bearer. The GPRS bearer is described in GSM 07.60, which uses the protocols described in GSM 03.60.



Figure 4: The Protocol Stack for the X.75 Gi Reference Point

10.2.1.1 Numbering and Addressing

A PLMN GPRS network requires a DNIC or PNIC.

X.121 addresses allocated to subscribers belong to the PLMN operator.

10.2.1.2 Charging

Charging of X.25 packets is done at the GGSN.

10.2.2 Interworking at the Gi Reference Point

Figure 5 represents the case where X.25 is used as the interconnect protocol between a DCE and a DTE.

The DTE resides within the GPRS network. The DCE resides within the PSDN.

The GPRS Network is seen as part of the PSDN, as the Gi reference point is the interconnect point between the DCE and the DTE.

The protocol stack for this model is shown in Figure 6.



Actual PSDN

NOTE: The PSDN can interwork at X.75 to other PSDN's





Figure 6: The Protocol Stack for the X.25 / Gi Reference point

Figure 6 shows the transmission plane only. In this case the GGSN shall resolve the association between the MS GPRS bearer and the X.25 DCE. L1 is left to operators to determine connection to other networks.

The X.25 Relay performs the following:

- mapping of logical channel numbers.

10.2.2.1 Numbering and Addressing

A fixed X.121 address for the MS maybe allocated by the PSDN operator, and is integral to the PSDN numbering plan. A dynamic X.121 address can also be used which is assigned by the GPRS network at PDP context activation.

10.2.2.2 Charging

The charging information may be collected in the X.25 network, depending upon the agreement between the GPRS operator and the PSDN operator. The charging may also be collected in the GPRS network. If the VPLMN assigns the dynamic address, the charging of the GPRS and the external network shall be gathered and sent to the HPLMN.

10.3 User Facilities

The set of user facilities as defined in CCITT/ITU-T X.25 may be supported.

As a minimum the following shall be supported:

- reverse charging;
- reverse charging acceptance;
- fast select restricted;
- fast select unrestricted;
- fast select acceptance.

10.4 The GPRS Interworking to PSDN Characteristics

The following table describes the differences in addressing, and user profile for each interconnect type. The static X.121 address in the following table indicates an address which is permanently allocated to the GPRS subscriber by the network operator. The dynamic X.121 address is assigned automatically on the PDP Context Activation procedure. The dynamic address is allocated from a free pool held in the GGSN. This is described in GSM 03.60.

Metric	X.75 - Stand Alone PSPDN X.25 - PSPDN Sub Network	
	Static X.121 address	Dynamic X.121 address
X.25 profile	User determined in X.25 DCE	Only Default Profiles allowed in X.25 DCE- Selected upon PDP context activation
X.28/X.29 PAD	Address in GGSN	Address in GGSN after PDP Context Activation

 Table 1: PSPDN GPRS Interconnection Characteristics

11 Interworking with PDN (IP)

11.1 General

GPRS shall support interworking with networks based on the Internet Protocol (IP). These interworked networks may be either intranets or the Internet.

11.2 PDN Interworking Model

When interworking with the IP networks, GPRS can operate IPv4 or Ipv6. The interworking point with IP networks is at the Gi reference point as shown in Figure 7.





The GGSN for interworking with the IP network is the access point of the GSM GPRS data network (see Figure 8). In this case the GPRS network will look like any other IP network or subnetwork.



Figure 8: The protocol stacks for the GiIP reference point

Typically in the IP networks, the interworking with subnetworks is done via IP routers. The Gi reference point is between the GGSN and the external IP network. From the external IP network's point of view, the GGSN is seen as a normal IP router. The L2 and L1 layers are operator specific.

It is out of the scope of this specification to standardise the router functions and the used protocols in the Gi reference point.

Interworking with user defined ISPs and private/public IP networks is subject to interconnect agreements between the network operators.

No user data or header compression is done in the GGSN.

The following working assumptions are valid in the generic case:

- A firewall is configured by the GPRS operator. In general, all applications that are using IP as the underlying protocol are supported, but the GPRS operator may restrict their usage.
- A Domain Name Server is managed by the GPRS operator. Alternatively, the Domain Name Server can be managed by the external IP network operator.
- From the GPRS network's point of view, the allocation of a dynamic IP address is done by the GGSN as described in GSM 03.60. The GGSN may allocate these addresses by itself or use an external device such as an DHCP server. This external device may be operated by an external organisation such as an ISP or Intranet operator.

11.2.1 Access to Internet, Intranet or ISP through GPRS

The access to Internet, Intranet or ISP may involve specific functions such as : user authentication, user's authorization, end to end encryption between MS and Intranet/ISP, allocation of a dynamic address belonging to the PLMN/Intranet/ISP addressing space, etc.

For this purpose the GPRS PLMN may offer:

- either direct transparent access to the Internet.
- or a non transparent access to the Intranet/ISP. In this case the GPRS PLMN, i.e. the GGSN, takes part in the functions listed above.

11.2.1.1 Transparent access to the Internet



Figure 9: Example of the PDN Interworking Model, transparent case

In this case (see Figure 9),

- The MS is given an address belonging to the operator addressing space. The address is a public IP address given either at subscription in which case it is a static address or at PDP context activation in which case it is a dynamic address. This address is used for packet forwarding between the Internet and the GGSN and within the GGSN.
- The MS need not send any authentication request at PDP context activation and the GGSN need not take any part in the user authentication/authorization process.

The transparent case provides at least a basic ISP service. As a consequence of this it may therefore provide a bearer service for a tunnel to a private Intranet.

NB The remainder of this section deals with this specific case.

- The user level configuration may be carried out between the TE and the intranet, the GPRS network is transparent to this procedure.

The used protocol stack is depicted in Figure 10.



Figure 10: Transparent access to an Intranet

The communication between the GPRS PLMN and the Intranet may be performed over any network, even a insecure network e.g. the Internet. There is no specific security protocol between GGSN and the Intranet because security is ensured on an end to end basis between MS and the intranet by the «Intranet protocol».

User authentication and encryption of user data are done within the «Intranet protocol» if either of them is needed. This «Intranet protocol» may also carry private (IP) addresses belonging to the address space of the Intranet.

An example of an «Intranet protocol» is IPsec (see RFC 1825). If IPsec is used for this purpose then IPsec authentication header or security header may be used for user (data) authentication and for the confidentiality of user data (see RFC 1826 and RFC 1827). In this case private IP tunneling within public IP takes place.

11.2.1.2 Non Transparent access to an Intranet or ISP

In this case;

- the MS is given an address belonging to the Intranet/ISP private addressing space. The address is given either at subscription in which case it is a static address or at PDP context activation in which case it is a dynamic address. This address is used for packet forwarding within the GGSN and for packet forwarding on the Intranet/ISP. This requires a link between the GGSN and an address allocation server, like Radius, DHCP, ..., belonging to the Intranet/ISP;
- the MS shall send an authentication request at PDP context activation and the GGSN requests user authentication from a server, like Radius, DHCP, ..., belonging to the Intranet/ISP;
- the protocol configuration options are retrieved (if requested by the MS at PDP context activation) from some server (Radius or DHCP, ...) belonging to the Intranet/ISP;
- the communication between the GPRS PLMN and the Intranet/ISP may be performed over any network, even an
 insecure e.g. the Internet. In case of an insecure connection between the GGSN and the Intranet/ISP there may be
 a specific security protocol in between. This security protocol is defined by mutual agreement between GPRS
 PLMN operator and Intranet/ISP administrator.



Figure 11 Signalling plane of non transparent case

The following description bullet items describe the signal flow.

- 1) The TE sends an AT-command to the MT to set up parameters and enter PPP mode. The MT responds with an AT-response.
- 2) LCP negotiates Maximum-Receive-Unit and authentication protocol. The negotiated authentication protocol is, either CHAP, PAP or 'none'. The MT shall try to negotiate for CHAP as first priority.
- 3) If the negotiated authentication protocol is either of CHAP or PAP, the TE authenticates itself towards the MT by means of that protocol. The MT stores the necessary authentication data and sends a forced positive acknowledgement of the authentication to the TE.
- 4) The TE requests IP configuration by sending the IPCP Configure-Request message to the MT indicating either the static IP address that shall be used or that an IP-address shall be dynamically allocated.
- 5) The MT sends the Activate PDP context request message to the SGSN, including the Protocol Configuration Options. The SGSN sends the Create PDP context req message to the chosen GGSN including the unmodified Protocol Configuration Options.
- 6) The GGSN deduces from the APN :
 - the server(s) to be used for address allocation, authentication and protocol configuration options retrieval;
 - the protocol like Radius, DHCP, ... to be used with this / those server(s);
 - the communication and security feature needed to dialogue with this / those server(s) e.g. tunnel ,IPSec security association, dial-up connection (using possibly PPP),

As an example the GGSN may use one of the following options:

- RADIUS for authentication and IP-address allocation.. The RADIUS server responds with either an Access-Accept or an Access-Reject to the RADIUS client in the GGSN.
- RADIUS for authentication and DHCP for host configuration and address allocation. The RADIUS server responds with either an Access-Accept or an Access-Reject to the RADIUS client in the GGSN. After a successful authentication, the DHCP client discovers the DHCP server(s) in the ISP/Intranet and receives host configuration data.
- The GGSN sends back to the SGSN a Create PDP Context Response message, containing the Protocol Configuration Options IE. The cause value shall be set according to the outcome of the host -authentication and configuration.
- 8) Depending on the cause value received in the Create PDP Context Response the SGSN may either relay the Protocol Configuration Options in the Activate PDP Context Accept or send an Activate PDP Context Reject, to the MS. The MT sends either the configuration-ack packet (e.g. IPCP Configure Ack in PPP case) or a link Terminate request (LCP Terminate-Request in PPP case) back to the TE.9)

In case a configuration-ack packet was sent to the TE, the link from the TE to the external ISP/Intranet is established and IP packets may be exchanged.

In case a link terminate request packet was sent to the TE, the TE and MT negotiates for link termination. The MT may then send a final AT-response to inform the TE about the rejected PDP Context activation.

A link terminate request packet (such as LCP Terminate-request in PPP case) causes a PDP context deactivation.

Example: In the following example PPP is used as layer 2 protocol over the R reference point.

The MT acts as a PPP server and translates Protocol Configuration Options into SM message IEs. GTP carries this information unchanged to the GGSN which uses the information e.g. for DHCP or RADIUS authentication and host configuration. The result of the host authentication and configuration is carried via GTP to the SGSN which relays the information to the MT. The MT sends an IPCP Configure-Ack to the TE with the appropriate options included.



11.3 Numbering and Addressing

In the case of interworking with the public IP networks (such as the Internet), the GPRS operator shall use public network addresses. These public addresses can be reserved from the responsible IP numbering body, or from an ISP

with which the GPRS operator has an agreement. In the case of interworking with the private IP networks, the GPRS operator manages internally the subnetwork addresses.

The GPRS operator allocates the IP addresses for the subscribers in either of the following ways.

- The GPRS operator allocates a static IP address when the subscription record is built. The IP address is reserved from a pool of free IP addresses.
- The GPRS operator allocates (either on its own or in conjunction with an ISP) a dynamic IP address when the MS performs the PDP Context Activation procedure with dynamic address allocationas described in GSM 03.60.

11.4 Charging

The GPRS operator may define the accuracy of the charging mechanism using one of the following categories:

- Every source/destination pair is logged separately.
- Source/destination pairs are logged to an accuracy of subnetworks.
- Source/destination pairs are logged to an accuracy of connection types (e.g., external data network, corporate network, another mobile).

11.5 Domain Name Server (DNS)

Provision of Domain Name services shall be provided by the GPRS operators in the transparent case and the ISP in the non transparent case. Domain name registration is handled by RIPE (Réseaux IP Européens) in Europe (DNS documentation is provided in RFC 1034 and RFC 1035).

11.6 Screening

The way the GPRS operator is performing the operator controlled screening and the subscription controlled screening is out of the scope of this specification. These functions may be done, for example, in a firewall.

12 Interworking between GPRS networks

The primary reason for the interworking between the GPRS networks is to support roaming GPRS subscribers as described in GSM 03.60. The general model for GPRS network interworking is shown in Figure 12.



Figure 12: General interworking between GPRS networks to support roaming subscribers

For roaming subscribers that have a PDP address allocated from the HPLMN a forwarding route between the HPLMN and the VPLMN is created. This route is used for both mobile terminated and mobile originated data traffic. The communication is done via the BGs (Border Gateways) as described in GSM 03.60.

The procedures to set the link between the SGSN in the VPLMN and the GGSN in the HPLMN is described in GSM 03.60.

The inter-PLMN link may be any packet data network or dedicated link as described in GSM 03.60. The GPRS operators may have a dedicated inter-PLMN link to fulfil the QoS requirements of a certain protocol.

12.1 Security Agreements

Each GPRS operator may support IPsec (RFC 1825) and accompanying specifications for authentication (RFC 1826) and encryption (RFC 1827) as a basic set of security functionality in its border gateways. The GPRS operators may decide to use other security protocols based on bilateral agreements.

12.2 Routing protocol agreements

Each GPRS operator may support BGP (RFC 1771) as a basic set of routing functionality in its border gateways. The GPRS operators may decide to use other routing protocols based on bilateral agreements.

12.3 Charging agreements

Sharing the cost of the inter-PLMN link is subject to the agreement between the GPRS operators.

There may be a requirement to collect charging information in the Border Gateway (see Figure 12) and this is down to the normal interconnect agreement between PLMN and PDN operators.

Annex A (informative): Document change history

Document history		
Version 6.0.0	CR A001 approved at SMG#25 (Not for Publication)	
Version 6.1.0	CRs A002, 003, 004, 005 approved at SMG#26	
Version 6.2.0	Correction of Word 95/97 problem (incomplete incorporation of CR A003 into V6.1.0)	

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History

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