



Press Release

## **3GPP SA1 meeting in India concludes with prime focus on LTE Release 12**

New Delhi, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013: The 3GPP Technical Specifications Group Service and System Aspects Working Group 1 meeting was held in India for the first time in New Delhi from 6-10 May, 2013; co-hosted by the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and the Indian Friends of 3GPP (IF3). Earlier this year, a MoU was signed between the COAI and IF3 to organise and provide support to all 3GPP meetings and initiatives in the country.

The 3GPP Technical Specifications Group Service and System Aspects (TSG-SA) is responsible for the overall architecture and service capabilities of systems based on 3GPP specifications. System Aspects Working Group 1 of (SA1) reports to the 3GPP TSG SA. The scope of SA1 work includes service and feature requirements applicable to mobile and fixed communications technology for 2G, 3G and future communication technologies independent of access technologies.

The meeting focused on topics primarily pertaining to the next release of LTE i.e. LTE Release 12. While the primary use case for LTE is mobile broadband, it is also being seen a viable technology for critical communications such as public safety. The Group Communication function will be a vital requirement to achieve this objective. The discussions in this meeting focussed mainly on requirements for improvement of the technologies of EPC and E-UTRAN for system enablers to the 3GPP system to support Group Communication over LTE for Public Safety and Critical Communication.

The Group Communication function will complement its sibling communication feature of proximity based services to provide support for Public Safety and non-Public Safety services that would be of interest to operators and users. The introduction of Proximity Services capability in LTE would allow the 3GPP industry to serve this developing market. Significant amount of meeting time was devoted to discussions on discovery and communication in the context of Proximity Services.

Inaugurating the meeting, **Mr. Rajan S Mathews, Director General, COAI**, commented, *"It gives us immense pleasure to be flagging off the first SA meeting of the 3GPP in the country. The industry is reaching new heights of development and technological advancements in the global arena and it is important that our players stay updated to the international standards and best practices which have been effective across the globe. We are looking forward to hosting 3GPP towards its initiatives in the country and work together towards the development of the Indian industry towards global standards of efficiency and service delivery."*

The meeting concluded on a positive note with a promising outlook towards the next release of LTE in India. The technical challenges and issues look to be addressed satisfactorily in the future.