Fifth Meeting of the Mobile Phone Working Group  
November 16, 2005

Participants:
Marco Buletti, Switzerland (Chair) Joachim Wuttke, Germany
Greg Rippon Australia Bob Tonetti, USEPA
Margareta Appelberg, Sweden Ibrahim Sow, Senegal
Domenic Wing, Fonebak Peter Hine, Panasonic
Zephirin Athanase Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso Kathy Woodward, Fonebak
Helena Castren, Nokia Paul Didcott, Motorola
Luc Perrouin, France Telecom Paul Hagen, CTIA
Ross Bartley, BIR Stephane Burbane, Noranda
Christian Hagelüken, Umicore John Bullock, IPMI
Jim Puckett, BAN

Pierre Portas, SBC
Claudia Fenerol, SBC
John Myslicki, Consultant-SBC

Regrets received: Benoit Sicotte, Bell Canada; and Gareth Rice, Panasonic; Zubaria Lone, France Telecom/Orange; Lucy Connell, Vodafone; Cornelia Szyszkowitz, T-Mobile; and Jenifer Chambers, ReCellular.

SUMMARY REPORT

Welcome and Introductions:

• The chair, Marco Buletti, welcomed everyone to the 5th physical meeting of the Mobile Phone Working Group.
• He took the opportunity to thank the German government, in particular Joachim Wuttke, for making all the arrangements and for use of their excellent facilities.
• He mentioned that he would like to finish the meeting by 14:00.
• He indicated that the main purpose of this meeting is to once again review the pilot project proposals for collection and treatment schemes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to come to some agreement on the financial resources, so that projects could start early in 2006.
• The chair mentioned that after 2 teleconferences with telecom operators there is a proposal on front of us to start with pilot projects in Egypt and Romania, as reflected in the note that was circulated prior to this meeting. The report of these two teleconferences was also distributed prior to this meeting.
• To help the discussion on financial issues, a note for this meeting was also prepared that provides resource breakdown, as requested during the October 12th teleconference.
• The draft agenda was adopted with no additions or deletions.
Pilot Projects on Collection and Treatment Schemes:

- The chair asked Claudia Fenerol to briefly summarize the proposal that the Secretariat received from the BCRC in Beijing. She mentioned that the proposal deals with the collection and treatment schemes for used mobile phones, and indicated that the cost of this pilot project has been estimated to be USD 400,000.

- He then asked John Myslicki to introduce the note on the new way forward, which was distributed prior to this meeting. John indicated that this note contains 3 sections: background, objectives (taken from the document that was approved during the July 5th meeting in Geneva), and section C that highlights the following points:
  - MPPI should start with 2 pilot projects, one in Egypt and another in Romania.
  - In both cases, the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRC) in Cairo and Bratislava will be involved in the organization of local projects, and will be members of each project team.
  - Each pilot project will test the guidelines, which have been developed by the MPPI.
  - Each pilot project will be 24 months in duration. The cost of each project, for 2 year period, will be USD 500,000 (revised from previous amount of USD 400,000).

- The chair mentioned that the proposed project for Egypt was completely reworked, in order to fit the criteria for field projects, as developed and agreed to by the MPWG.

- Luc Perrouin introduced both pilot project proposals. Luc indicated that both proposals are similar as far as project details (scope, objectives, project team composition, activities, timing, key deliverables, estimated costs and financial situation). He highlighted few points, as follows:
  - Both projects will test the guidelines, as developed under the MPPI, and will provide recommendations for consideration by the MPWG.
  - Projects will be 2 ½ years in duration, to allow 6 months for planning and organization of each project at a local level.
  - The Romanian proposal is similar to the one for Egypt, even though Romania is a more economically advance country than Egypt.

- Luc then mentioned that the Senegal project is ready to start, however they are still waiting for financial contribution from the French government.

- The chair opened the floor for comments and any questions on the proposed pilot projects. He also mentioned that Latin America and the Caribbean region would be an additional important target region for next pilot project.

- John Myslicki provided an update on discussions with refurbishers on the project to test refurbishment guidelines, which were prepared by the project group 1.1. He indicated that, as requested during the July 5 meeting, the terms of reference for these test studies were developed in consultation with ReCellular in US, and Shield Environmental/Fonebak in UK. Both refurbishers agreed with the draft terms of reference, which were distributed for information prior to this meeting.
Helena Castren asked that the refurbishers, while testing 1.1 guidelines, should also consider testing the guidelines on the design of mobile phones, and provide feedback to manufacturers. In doing so, the issue of commercial confidentiality came up, and this is to be reflected in the terms of reference.

The telecom operators indicated that they are also interested in these test studies of the refurbishment guidelines, and would be happy to be associated with these studies.

The chair asked Helena Castren and Peter Hine to prepare a paragraph on the need to test design guidelines, as well as propose a sentence on the confidentiality issue that could be added to the terms of reference. The chair, asked John Myslicki to coordinate a rewrite of these TOR and organize a teleconference, if necessary, to have them finalized.

Jim Puckett wanted to ensure that these test studies are carried on domestically generated used mobile phones, and do not involve any transboundary movements of used mobile phones. John Myslicki agreed to follow-up on this with ReCellualar, since they were not represented at this meeting.

Finally, the chair thanked refurbishment companies for their offer to carry out studies, without any additional cost to the MPPI.

Financial Matters:

(i) Pilot Projects:

The chair indicated that the issue of financial contributions has been discussed for more than a year, including the July 5th meeting in Geneva when a detailed proposal was discussed. He mentioned that a number of documents providing descriptions of projects, scope of coverage, cost breakdowns, and in-kind contributions towards MPPI have been identified and this information distributed in the past.

He reminded the industry that at the second meeting in Geneva (in February of 2004), when the whole financial issue of the MPPI was discussed, the manufactures indicated that they will be willing to provide funds for on the ground pilot projects, and to cover the cost of printing of MPPI reports.

Since then, a number of requests for additional information have been made, one of which was to confirm the cost of each pilot project. As such the cost breakdown, in accordance with 15 activities, has been identified. The chair confirmed that the overall two year cost of each pilot project would now be USD 500,000.

John Myslicki introduced the note on financial issues. John mentioned that the note lists all in-kind contributions towards the MPPI, and mentioned that the table listing 15 activities with estimated cost was prepared.

Luc Perrouin then provided a summary of the cost identified in the table that was distributed prior to the meeting, and mentioned that the revised project cost for 2 year period is now USD 500,000.

The chair thanked the telecom operators for agreeing to pick up a significant amount of the cost for each individual project to the tune of USD 170,000, or USD 340,000 for both projects. However, the chair mentioned that there still is a shortfall in resources and he is looking towards manufacturers to contribute their share.
He said that with 12 manufacturers as members of the MPWG, the resource gap of USD 330,000 (per project) would translate to a contribution of USD 25,000 to USD 30,000 by each member for each project. He added that this amount doesn’t seem to be that great for an initiative that should generate positive publicity that the product they manufacture will be managed in an environmentally sound manner at the end of their useful life.

Some mentioned that there should be no cost for activity #3 in the year 2007. At the same time, the cost for activity #9 (awareness raising) seems to be low. It was suggested that the cost estimate of #3 and #9 to be combined, and the text of these two activities to be revised. Luc Perrouin agreed to look into this.

Few participants raised the issue of business plans, and the need to ensure sustainability of these projects beyond the 2 year period. Luc Perrouin indicated that such plans would be prepared after activities #1, #2, and #3 have been completed.

Recyclers mentioned that they would also like to participate in these pilot projects, and are prepared to provide some in-kind contributions towards these studies. Christian Hagelüken mentioned that his company would be prepared to provide some analytical testing, and would pick up any transportation cost for samples to be sent to them for analysis.

Fonebak indicated that they are pleased to participate in these projects, and would be prepared to undertake some other activities, as part of their in-kind contribution.

The chair concluded this discussion by mentioning that letters were already sent to companies of the MPPI providing information on the progress so far, to be followed by second letters asking for financial contribution for these pilot projects.

(ii) Printing of Reports:

The chair mentioned that the cost for printing reports was in the note distributed prior to this meeting. He indicated that once all the projects are completed, there will be 4 guidelines to be printed, as MPWG reports, and one overall Basel Guidance Document.

Claudia Fenerol mentioned that the translation cost for the overall Guidance Document could be is significant, if it is to be translated into 6 official UN languages. She estimated that this cost could be as much as USD 26,000 and the Secretariat do not have that amount of money to have the overall Guideline translated and printed.

A number of participants indicated that it is important to have the overall Guidance Document approved by the COP 8, and funds will be made available to the Secretariat for translation and printing.

Need for Coordinating Working Group (Project Group 2.2):

The chair mentioned that as these two pilot projects are being launched, there may be a need to set up a coordination working group, which would also look after the project to test the refurbishment guidelines.

This group could be responsible for effective coordination, and to provide an opportunity for other BCRCs, stakeholders and Parties to be involved.
• Luc Perrouin stated that this group should be responsible for cross fertilization of ideas and approaches, rather being directly involved in overseeing each pilot project.
• Finally, it was agreed that the terms of reference for such a group should be prepared for consideration by this working group at the next teleconference.

Next Teleconference:
• The next teleconference of the MPWG will be on January 25th, 2006 at 15:00 hours (Geneva time).

Closure of the Meeting:
• Once again the chair thanked the German government for all their work in making arrangement for this meeting.