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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | | TSAG-TD149 |
| TSAG |
| Original: English |
| **Question(s):** | | RG-WM | Geneva, 12-16 December 2022 |
| **TD** | | | |
| **Source:** | | RG-WM Rapporteur | |
| **Title:** | | Output of editing session on Revised Supplement 2 to ITU-T A-series Recommendations "Guidelines on interoperability experiments" (13 Dec 2022, 13h30-14h30) | |
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**Abstract:** This TD provides the results from the editing session on A-series Supplement 2 to ITU‑T A-series Recommendations, which took place on Tuesday 13 Dec 2020, 13:30-14:30. It is based on contribution C4 and TD137.

**Action**: This TD is proposed for discussion in RG-WM for possible agreement by the TSAG closing plenary.

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| **Revised Supplement 2 to ITU-T A-series Recommendations**  Guidelines on interoperability experiments and proof-of-concept events |

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| **Summary**  These guidelines relate to interoperability experiments and proof-of-concept events to be performed outside of ITU-T. The guidelines have been prepared in order to encourage such experiments to be performed and events, and to facilitate information exchange between ITU-T and parties participating in such experiments. |

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| **Keywords**  Information exchange, Interoperability experiment to be performed outside of ITU-T, proof-of-concept, Quality of Recommendations. |

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Revised Supplement 2 to ITU-T A-series Recommendations

Guidelines on interoperability experiments  
and proof-of-concept events

**1 Scope**

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**2 References**

None

**3 Definitions**

None

**4 Abbreviations and acronyms**

PoC Proof-of-Concept

**5 Conventions**

None

# 6 Background

**6.1** Study groups of ITU-T have been doing their best to ensure interoperability of products made in accordance with ITU-T Recommendations. There is no better way to assess interoperability than to actually interoperate systems and equipment of various manufacturers. ITU-T has occasionally initiated interoperability experiments for specific projects in the past.

**6.2** However, when interoperability experiment/testing has not been performed, users may have suffered from the lack of interoperability between products coming from different manufacturers. Moreover, manufacturers are not always members of ITU-T and develop their products only by reading relevant Recommendations.

**6.3** In addition, following rapid development of new technologies which appear in the market, the proof-of-concept (PoC) is used by different standards development organizations as a useful tool to determine the feasibility of the concept, technology or solution, or to verify that it will function as intended and according to the features defined in particular standards that are under development. This approach may significantly help ITU standardization activities in order to understand whether the concept, technology or solution is viable, and provide useful information in order to advance work items under study or to evolve the standards of interest.

# 7 Objective

The objective of these guidelines is to encourage interoperability experiments and PoC events to be performed outside of ITU-T and to facilitate information exchange between parties participating in such experiments and study groups of ITU-T.

# 8 Guidelines

**8.1** The interoperability experiments and PoC events are to be performed outside of ITU-T on a voluntary basis, self-governed, self-supporting and incurring no additional cost to ITU-T. Such interoperability experiments and PoC events may therefore involve non ITU-T members as well.

**8.2** The self-governance of interoperability experiments and PoC events to be performed outside of ITU-T means that parties participating in such an experiment or event should govern themselves by making rules of their own. ITU-T is in no way involved in such a rule making.

**8.3** ITU-T would like to ask the kind cooperation of its members participating in such an interoperability experiment or PoC event to submit contributions to study groups based on the results of the interoperability experiment or PoC event in order to advance ongoing work items and improve the quality of Recommendations, e.g., by proposing text changes to remove ambiguities, etc.

**8.4** Furthermore, ITU-T would like to ask the kind cooperation of its members participating in such an interoperability experiment or PoC event to share as much information as possible on its results at study group meetings.

**8.5** In addition, members participating in such an interoperability experiment or PoC event are also encouraged to share feedback about the organization of other interoperability experiments or PoC events, for example as a contribution. Examples of information that would be useful to be shared are as follows:

− how should interoperability experiments or PoC events be performed: description of the experiment or event, testing or PoC methods, test equipment, experiment schedules, coordinator, etc;

− where are the interoperability experiments or PoC events going to be conducted;

− how should testing or PoC results be handled in order to submit contributions to ITU-T to advance ongoing work items and improve the quality of ITU-T Recommendations;

− identification of other activities in the same area and potential cooperation and work-sharing with them.

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