

CCITT SGXV
Working Party XV/1
Specialists Group on
Coding for Visual Telephony

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Title: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Source: British Telecom

At the last Specialists Group meeting in Oslo the Chairman requested that organisations should submit statements concerning Patent Information Disclosure Policy and Patent Licensing Policy. This document states the position of British Telecom concerning these matters in relation to the p x 64kbit/s H.261 Recommendation.

Patent Licensing Policy

British Telecom supports the CCITT "Code of Practice" concerning patents (Annex 3 - COM XV-R 22-E). This statement on CCITT Patent Policy is attached as Appendix 1.

BT wishes to support option 2.2 in the CCITT Recommendation, subject to reciprocal rights from other patent holders. Presumably, licences are only to be granted for patents essential to the Recommendation.

Patent Information Disclosure Policy

In the interests of avoiding patent conflicts after a Recommendation is issued, British Telecom are willing to inform the Specialists Group of the general contents and scope of any patent application relevant to the Recommendation shortly after the patent application is filed at the UK Patent Office. Such information shall be received in confidence by the members of the Specialists Group. Since such actions are weakening the company's position regarding retention of its Intellectual Property, BT will only continue with this policy provided all other members of the Specialists Group do likewise, if this is not possible then no further patent information will be provided until the Patent enters the public domain, ie at least 18 months after first filing.