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CCITT SGXV
WORKING PARTY XV/1
SPECIALISTS GROUP ON
CODING FOR VISUAL TELEPHONY

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**TITLE: THE WORK OF THE CEPT AD-HOC GROUP ON
PRIVACY IN AUDIO-VISUAL CONFERENCING**

SOURCE: UK , FRANCE, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, ITALY

CEPT NA3.1 recognised early in 1988 that it needed to produce a privacy system for videoconferencing and related services in order to satisfy perceived market demands.

In order to progress this work, it established an ad-hoc group of experts to devise a suitable system.

This was to be completed in November 1988.

By November, it became clear that the work could not be completed in time, but would need further development during the first half of 1989.

The objective of this work is to develop a system that provides a privacy system with the following security services :

1. Confidentiality of information
2. Mutual Authentication of communicating parties
3. limited access control for MCUs.

The reasons for these choices were based in part on earlier CEPT work and in part a consideration of system operation in multi-point calls.

When a multipoint call is effected through an MCU, it is necessary to consider the trust that must be vested in the MCU, and the manner in which this trusted MCU will exercise access control to the information it is passing. It is also necessary to consider the manner in which this access control will be managed.

In order that this access control be effected, authentication must be provided.

The concept of untrusted MCUs was discarded at an early stage for a number of reasons. The main problem being that of speech mixing. Solution of this problem would require either a fundamental change to speech coding or consume considerable bandwidth in transmission together with additional and costly equipment at each terminal.

A set of documents either exist or are in production at the moment. These comprise :

1. An introductory text that describes the system
2. A document outlining some of the trust considerations
3. A document covering confidentiality
4. A document covering access control & authentication
5. A tutorial example

The first of these documents will not be produced until the others are agreed.

The second is available as an NA3.1 document that will be released to NA3 early in 1989.

The third document is also complete but undergoing a few final modifications. It will also be available to NA3 early in 1989.

The fourth document is undergoing change at the moment, and will not be finished until June 1989. This is a three stage process that will involve a re-examination of the assumptions made for the provision of the authentication service.

The fifth document is not yet written and will not be produced until the others are complete.