

ETSI Position Statement on Using Interoperability Events to Validate Standards

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ETSI is a European Standards Body with a global outreach (e.g., GSM, DECT, TETRA). For over 20 years ETSI has been a pioneer in recognising the importance of achieving interoperability through validation and testing. Many key ETSI technologies have an accompanying set of standardized test specifications that may be used by ETSI Members and other organizations in a variety of contexts, ranging from in-house product development to industrial certification schemes, such as the certification of 3G handsets by GCF.

Validation through Interoperability Events

One well-proven and cost-effective approach to validate standards for interoperability, ultimately leading to interoperable products, is through interoperability events, or Plugtests™.

These events, which may comprise just a few or many hundreds of participants, collect engineers and equipment in a neutral environment - possibly distributed - where they can execute a large variety of real-life scenarios in various combinations and with different equipment.

Interoperability events have the additional advantage of optimising the development of implementations and providing an open forum for resolving issues of non-interoperability and other technical aspects related to standards development and validation. It is a place for engineers to meet and develop interoperable solutions in a practical environment and to provide feedback to the standardization groups.

ETSI Plugtests™ Events

In the last 10 years ETSI has organized over 150 Plugtests events in Europe and Asia covering more than 50 different technologies and involving at least 4000 engineers. These open events have included standards from many different organisations (not just ETSI) and industry fora. The scope ranges from lower layer radio to applications and services, including IMS, Femtocell, Intelligent Transport Systems, J2ME, Mobile Applications, GRID/Cloud, IPv6 and RFID. For more info see:

<http://vimeo.com/23255899>

<http://www.etsi.org/Website/OurServices/Plugtests/home.aspx>

For clarification, ETSI does not host test beds or laboratory facilities but we work closely with organisations that do. An example of this is CTI support to EMMIA – European Mobile and Mobility Industries Alliance – which is an EC (DG ENTR) initiative to promote innovation and interoperability of mobile services and applications through the Europe wide provision of test beds.

Collaboration with OGC

ETSI would welcome exploring possible collaborations with the OGC Interoperability Program in the area of Mobile Internet, Future Internet, Embedded Mobile and Internet of Things.

