



Request for Proposals

Commissioned Vice-chair - Femto Forum Regulatory Working Group

Background

The Femto Forum is the independent international industry body dedicated to promoting and enabling femtocell technology, across all standards for licensed mobile communications. Initiated in 2007, the Forum has grown to over 130 members and has had considerable success in driving standards, building a wide industrial ecosystem and in overcoming barriers to femtocell launches. Femtocells are now being launched in increasing numbers by operators around the world and Femto Forum is now dedicated to expanding the range of applications for femtocell technology and maximising the future growth potential. See www.femtoforum.org for further details.

Since the start of Femto Forum, one of the key working groups has been the Regulatory Working Group (WG4). The group has the following mandate:

- To identify the regulatory requirements and drivers for efficient femtocell deployment and operation
- To raise the understanding of the value (consumer and supplier) of femtocells amongst regulators
- To maintain a register of regulatory status in markets of primary interest to members
- To determine regulatory constraints in relevant markets and work with regulators to remove these

The group has achieved notable successes. There are considerable challenges ahead, however, and it is desired to increase the 'tempo' of activities by commissioning additional support for the group in the form of a vice chair working on a consultancy basis, at a level averaging around 1.5-2 days per month. Proposals are requested by **10th September 2010** by email to Simon Saunders, simon@femtoforum.org and should include full details of relevant experience and approach to the role as well as proposed costings. Informal discussions to clarify the role in support of proposals are welcomed.

Role - Commissioned Vice chair of Femto Forum Regulatory Working Group 4

It has been noted that the WG4 regulatory activity is widely acknowledged by members to be an important activity. Addressing the regulatory issues in a timely manner can have a substantial positive impact on the growth of the femtocell market. On the other hand, substantial regulatory barriers to femtocell deployment can emerge if issues are not identified and acted upon in good time. There are already numerous examples in both directions.

Some good progress has already been made by WG4, but the scope for a more fully effective and sustained effort in the regulatory area has naturally been limited by the resources available to the working group, on a day-to-day basis. Until now, the direction and driving force has had to come from the Femto Forum chair who has been attempting to steer the work on a 'caretaker' basis whilst at the same time continuing to discharge his overall responsibilities for the wider organisation. It is therefore proposed to increase the tempo of WG4 activities by engaging the services of an independent regulatory specialist.

The remit of this new position would be:

- to act as vice chair of WG4, but not normally to attend plenary meetings. (Attendance at such meetings is anyway limited by the fact that most attendees at plenaries are not the regulatory specialists of member organisations)
- to organise and set up regular - at least monthly - 'heart beat' conference calls to encourage and focus regulatory activity
- to encourage and lead a move away from reactive gathering of regulatory information to a better targeted gathering of regulatory status from identified regions worldwide
- to draw on the information contained within the regulatory database, to add value to this and help to target activities aligned to member interests
- to provide a regular regulatory update newsletter as a service to members
- to provide ad-hoc support to the chair, as needed, in the broader WG4 activities

Some specific activities, to be progressed through these new arrangements, include but are not limited to (dates to be fixed on appointment of the vice chair):

- Assess the responses received to date from regulators to questionnaire on local IP access regulations, seeking to fill in the gaps through follow-up requests to relevant national authorities then to summarise and circulate findings to members for discussion/identification of necessary action
- Review current draft of Regulatory White Paper, soliciting suggestions from members on required updates, then producing revised version for consideration by FF plenary. Feedback from plenary to be incorporated into final revisions with a view to approval for publication by plenary.

- Progress the use of the global spectrum usage database (already procured within WG4) to link with other regulatory data within the Forum intranet to ensure maximum value to members

- Progress other issues as identified by discussion, potentially including for example:

- a) Inter-operator agreement to avoid cases of Femto-cell misuse.
- b) Address issues relating to legal intercept requirements in each administration identified as potentially problematic in that area
- c) Address issues relating to Emergency Call Routing

- Assist in formulating appropriate and timely responses to regulatory obstacles, as identified in any given jurisdiction by members seeking to introduce femtocells in that country.
- Assist in production of regulatory “best practice” papers/presentations for use in lobbying national or regional regulatory authorities.

In order to maintain this higher level of activity and release the anticipated benefits of a more proactive approach, it is recommended that the regulatory specialist is asked to commit to a regular involvement in the WG activities, of the order of 1.5 to 2 days a month. This may include occasional peaks of activity extending beyond two days, where the priorities demand it, whilst staying within the overall budget request as determined by the FF board.