QUESTION ITU-R 238/7

Trusted time source for time stamp authority

(2001)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

a) that the importance of time stamping is increasing due to global development of electronic commerce;

b) that the time provided from Trusted Third Party (TTP) used for time stamping service needs to be coordinated all over the world;

c) that time provided from TTP needs to use a clock of very high reliability, availability and trustworthiness, as contained in ITU-T Recommendation X.842;

d) that transfer of time and frequency information by digital telecommunication networks as described in Opinion ITU-R 94 could be techniques used in timing provided by TTPs;

e) that a Time Stamp Authority (TSA) is a TTP that produces the time which satisfies the condition mentioned above;

f) that Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) determined by Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and International Earth Rotation Service (IERS) as described in Recommendation ITU-R TF.486 is the international time reference;

g) that each UTC(k) generated by timing centres can be used in real time and a time difference with UTC is regularly published by the BIPM,

decides that the following Question should be studied

**1** For each timing centre, what means are appropriate in order to provide certified UTC(k) time to the TSA?

**2** What are the methods for TSA to achieve the above certified time at the required accuracies?

further decides

**1** that the results of the above studies should be included in (a) Recommendation(s);

1. that the above studies should be completed by 2023.

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