3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #121bis-e R2-22xxxxx

e-Meeting, 17th April – 26th April 2023

Agenda Item: 8.11.2

Source: ZTE

Title: Report of [Post121][606][eMBS] Service continuity and notifications (ZTE)

Document for: Discussion, Decision

# 1 Introduction

This document is the report of the following email discussion,

* [Post121][606][eMBS] Service continuity and notifications (ZTE)

Scope: Based on the companies' contributions discuss:

* + - Service continuity (frequency/cell prioritization, neighbor cell list etc.)
    - Notifications for session activation, deactivation etc. (e.g. group paging or MCCH change notification, "special" UEs handling etc.)

Outcome: Report

Deadline: 5th Apr. 23:59 UTC.

Please provide your comments before 5th Apr. 23:59 UTC.

The summary for discussion is organized as above scope per chair guide.

* Service continuity in section 3. Other than the frequency/cell prioritization, neighbor cell list, this part also includes the analysis to some scenarios as well, to cover several outstanding UE behaviour/flow for service continuity.
* Notification mechanism in section 4. This part includes whether and how to notify UE upon events like session state change, data availability and "special" UE handling.
* Issues not covered, if found, please kindly add them to the list in section 5.

# 2 Contact information

Participants are encouraged to leave their contact information in the following table.

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# 3 Service continuity

Agreements made so far that's related to service continuity.

RAN2#119-e:

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| * **Multicast service continuity after cell reselection in RRC\_INACTIVE state (i.e. without resuming RRC connection) will be supported (if the configuration of the new cell is available for the UE). FFS whether there are cases where the UE needs to resume the connection. FFS RAN3 impacts due to inter-gNB mobility.** * **Upon cell reselection to neighbour cells during active multicast session, if the configuration of the session is not available for the new cell for UEs in INACTIVE, then the UE is required to resume RRC connection to get the Multicast MRB configuration.** * **We will have a mixed approach and we start with the following:**   1. When NW configures UE to continue the multicast reception in INACTIVE state, NW provides the PTM configuration for the activated multicast session via the RRC dedicated signalling, at least for the serving cell (FFS other cases).  2. MCCH is used in case there is a need to indicate a PTM configuration in case there is a need for change in PTM config or during mobility beyond serving cell / gNB. FFS session status change and other indications.  3. We assume that the UE can only receive multicast service after it joined the session.  FFS whether MCCH configuration is initially provided to the UE via dedicated signalling. |

RAN2#120:

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| * **We will have a mixed approach and we start with the following:**   **1. When NW configures UE to continue the multicast reception in INACTIVE state, NW provides the PTM configuration for the activated multicast session via the RRC dedicated signalling, at least for the serving cell (FFS other cases).**  **2. MCCH is used in case there is a need to indicate a PTM configuration in case there is a need for change in PTM config or during mobility beyond serving cell / gNB. FFS session status change and other indications.**  **3. We assume that the UE can only receive multicast service after it joined the session.**  **FFS whether MCCH configuration is initially provided to the UE via dedicated signalling.** |

RAN2#121:

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| * **Serving cell will not provide the PTM configuration of neighbour cells from other gNBs.** * **FFS whether the network can provide PTM configuration for intra-gNB cells.** |

Service continuity in this section will be covering the issues on frequency/cell prioritization, neighbor cell list etc. Before that, we aim to confirm the scenarios brought up by companies. It should be noted that Access categories and RRC resume cause value were also mentioned in companies contributions. However it is suggested to firstly have a common understanding on the essential service continuity scenarios and related solutions first (e.g., when will UE trigger RRC connection resumption).

## 3.1 Scenarios

The following service continuity scenarios/solutions were proposed by companies for UE in RRC\_INACTIVE [2, 4, 9, 11, 14-17, 19].

* **1. Similar to Rel-17 broadcast reception procedure, UE acquires new SIB and multicast MCCH to get PTM configuration after cell reselection**. This is consistent with RAN2#121 agreement that new SIB/MCCH for multicast reception in RRC\_INACITVE, and also earlier agreement that "MCCH is used in case there is a need to indicate a PTM configuration in case there is a need for change in PTM config or during mobility beyond serving cell / gNB".
* **2. When a UE enters to a cell for which PTM configuration is not available in multicast MCCH, the UE may return to RRC\_CONNECTED state for an active multicast session.** This is also a natural continuation of RAN2#119-e agreement that "if the configuration of the session is not available for the new cell for UEs in INACTIVE, then the UE is required to resume RRC connection to get the Multicast MRB configuration."
* **3. UE is able to trigger RRC connection resumption if the reception quality of the multicast data is below a configured threshold**. Companies are concerned that in RRC\_INACTIVE the reception quality might not meet the QoS requirement and network is not aware. Therefore it is reasonable for UE to resume to RRC\_CONNECTED to have the QoS requirement met. This is also related to previous RAN2 FFS on "if there are other cases when UE triggers resume."

**Q1: Companies are invited to provide their views on the following,**

* **1. Similar to Rel-17 broadcast reception procedure, UE acquires new SIB and multicast MCCH to get PTM configuration after cell reselection.**
* **2. When a UE enters to a cell for which PTM configuration is not available in multicast MCCH, the UE may return to RRC\_CONNECTED state for an active multicast session.**
* **3. UE is able to trigger RRC connection resumption if the reception quality of the multicast data is below a configured threshold.**

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## 3.2 Frequency/cell prioritization

Frequency based cell reselection is the very basic mechanism to enable service continuity for broadcast, that was defined in LTE and later adopted in MBS broadcast in Rel-17. Since UE is also able to receive MBS multicast in RRC\_INACTIVE, companies suggest that such mechanism can be applied as well [4, 6, 14, 16, 18]. That is, it is beneficial if UE can be guided to frequencies or cells on which the multicast service may also be provided (for UE in RRC\_INACTIVE).

There are concerns though: the way how multicast service for RRC\_INACTIVE UEs is deployed shall be different from broadcast service, i.e., no per frequency deployment. Per frequency deployment may be usual for broadcast which is intended for larger area broadcasting, while multicast reception for UEs in RRC\_INACTIVE may be across only a few cells where congestion is happening. Therefore, there is doubt whether the such mechanism can be reused [3]. Moreover, whether current USD are ready to be reused needs to be confirmed by other working group [14], and whether a new SIBx may be needed as the SIB21 equivalent, are undetermined.

**Q2: Whether a frequency prioritization/de-prioritization mechanism is needed for cell reselection for multicast reception in RRC\_INACTIVE?**

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A related issue is if multicast reception for UEs in RRC\_CONNECTED might not be enough based on frequency prioritization/de-prioritization, whether other per cell based prioritization should be defined?

**Q3: Whether a mechanism should be defined to help UE to choose the right cell to camp on, i.e., per cell based prioritization in cell re-selection, to continue the multicast reception in RRC\_INACTIVE?**

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## 3.2 Neighbour cell list

MCCH in legacy system functions for both PTM configuration provisioning and service availability in cells inside a neighbouring cell list (NCL). Different from the frequency prioritization in above section, based on NCL UE can be aware of the service availability in one specific neighbouring cell, and then UE can decide whether to apply unicast bearer in the target cell.

It is agreed that a new MCCH (with new SIB) is to be defined, to support multicast reception in RRC\_INACTIVE in RAN2#121. For multicast reception in RRC\_INACTIVE, similar mechanism can be adopted, suggested by companies [3, 15, 19], e.g., UE resumes RRC connection immediately if service is not available in the re-selected cell if known by UE beforehand. In such case, there is no need for UE to monitor MCCH in the re-selected cell to be aware of service availability. There are concerns from [17] that the benefits to reduce the latency is quite limited though.

So the next question is whether to apply the similar NCL mechanism that was defined for broadcast, to multicast in Rel-18 as well.

**Q4: Whether the neighbor cell list mechanism for multicast reception in RRC\_INACTIVE is needed, e.g., UE resumes RRC connection immediately if service is not available in the re-selected cell by NCL, without reading MCCH in the re-selected cell?**

Please also note NCL here is not used for cell re-selection which is handled in Q3.

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# 4 Notification mechanism

Agreements made so far (since we are going with a mixed solution, specific agreements/assumption on option1/2 only will not be considered).

RAN2#119-e:

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| * **In Rel-18, multicast reception for UEs in INACTIVE supports at least the following scenarios, with the assumption that the UE already has a valid PTM configuration:**   **- Scenario 1: a UE has been receiving multicast in CONNECTED, and it enters INACTIVE and continues the multicast reception.**  **- Scenario 2: a UE has joined a multicast session and has been directed to INACTIVE, the UE starts to receive the multicast session**  **FFS for state changes, e.g. due to service being not provided in INACTIVE anymore etc.** |

RAN2#119bis-e:

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| * For both option 1 and option 2, as a baseline, group paging can be used to switch UEs receiving multicast from RRC\_INACTIVE to RRC\_CONNECTED, and UEs continue the multicast reception in CONNECTED. FFS if there is any potential issue if Rel-17 group paging is reused. FFS if there are other cases when UE triggers resume. FFS if MCCH can also be used in case of option 2. * Rel-18 UE in INACTIVE can be informed when the session is activated (Details FFS). * As a baseline, group paging can be used to inform Rel-18 UE(s) about the session activation (Details FFS, e.g., UE behavior when receiving such group notification). * If a UE is in RRC\_INACTIVE and is configured to receive a multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE, the UE may be notified when the multicast session is deactivated. FFS how (e.g., informed via group paging, MCCH, or other ways). * Rel-17 mechanism (NAS-based indication) is applicable for multicast session release. FFS if any enhancement is needed. * FFS how UE determines whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE or not when the session is activated, taking into account the following solutions (can further update the descriptions if needed, and several solutions may be needed, some solutions may apply only for certain configuration options)   **1. When the multicast session is activated, UE can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE if the PTM configuration used in RRC\_INACTIVE for the session is available to the UE and the UE has joined the session already (e.g., configuration provided to UE via dedicated RRC signaling or via MCCH), otherwise it goes back to RRC\_CONNECTED to receive the multicast session.**  **2. When the multicast session is activated, UE is indicated by group paging whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE or not (detailed signaling FFS).**  **3. UE is configured "whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE" by dedicated signaling before UE is released. When the multicast session is activated, UE stays in RRC\_INACTIVE or resumes RRC connection accordingly (detailed signaling FFS).** |

RAN2#120:

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| * **We will have a mixed approach and we start with the following:**   **1. When NW configures UE to continue the multicast reception in INACTIVE state, NW provides the PTM configuration for the activated multicast session via the RRC dedicated signalling, at least for the serving cell (FFS other cases).**  **2. MCCH is used in case there is a need to indicate a PTM configuration in case there is a need for change in PTM config or during mobility beyond serving cell / gNB. FFS session status change and other indications.**  **3. We assume that the UE can only receive multicast service after it joined the session.**  **FFS whether MCCH configuration is initially provided to the UE via dedicated signalling.** |

In Rel-17, one UE in non RRC\_CONNENCTED state may be notified when the session is activated/released, or when multicast data is available to be transmitted. Upon such notification (i.e., group paging), UE resumes to RRC\_CONNECTED state to receive the multicast data.

While in Rel-18, UE is also able to receive multicast data in RRC\_INACTIVE, e.g., in case of large number of UEs and potential high level of network congestion. Therefore a preferred UE behaviour may be UE to start or stop monitoring multicast transmission accordingly without RRC connection resumption, if UE is already in RRC\_INACITVE while being capable and allowed to receive multicast data in RRC\_INACTIVE. There are possible session state change or its implications that may need to be notified to UE:

* Session activation. Previous RAN2 discussion confirmed UE may be notified upon multicast session activation and continues to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE for multicast data reception. Detailed notification mechanism is FFS;
* Session deactivation. It was also agreed that UE may be notified when the multicast session is deactivated;
* Session release. While Rel-17 mechanism (NAS-based indication) is applicable for multicast session release, it is FFS if any enhancement is needed.

Based on [25, 34], UE might not be aware of the difference between "session activation" and "data transmission resumed", or the difference between "session deactivation" and "temporary no data". In the following text, they are suggested to be handled together for simplicity. However whether this is a feasible way shall still be open, if there are different views.

Companies' inputs to RAN2#121 showed a trend or interest that upon such notifications from network a UE that is already in RRC\_INACTIVE, it should stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and start/stop monitor multicast service (or G-RNTI) accordingly. Below table shows the categorized events (e.g., session state change, data availability, among others), and the potential UE behaviour (e.g., RRC state transitioning, G-RNTI monitoring) based on companies' contribution. The design aims for one purpose: to enable UE to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE, if possible. Consequently, mechanism shall be clear on how to transition UE to RRC\_CONNECTED when network thinks it is needed, if legacy mechanism is enhanced.

Please note this table full of question mark is only for "Example UE behaviour upon various events including session state change" with confirmed and not confirmed issues, i.e., the table is not the final proposal, but only an input to the discussion itself.

**Table 1. Example UE behaviour upon various events including session state change.**

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| **Section** | **Events, e.g., multicast session states, or data transmission states change** | **UE behaviour** | |
| **UE's RRC state** | **whether UE needs to monitor G-RNTI** |
| 4.1 | Session activation (or data transmission resumed) | UE stays in RRC\_INACTIVE (confirmed) | yes (confirmed) |
| 4.2 | Session deactivation (or temporary no data) | UE stays in RRC\_INACTIVE? | no? |
| 4.3 | Session release | UE stays in RRC\_INACTIVE? | no? |
| 4.4 | Network intends to resume UE's RRC connection, e.g., service being not provided in INACTIVE anymore. | UE resumes to RRC\_CONNECTED | follow RRC\_CONNECTED configuration |

Various notification mechanism were proposed by companies (with candidate solutions like, group paging, MCCH, or PTM configuration availability), on how to notify UE, as the continuation of discussion from RAN2#119bis-e in which a few options were proposed.

The discussion is organized in the following way that in corresponding sections (4.1 to 4.3),

* 1. The scenarios are to be confirmed first, e.g., should UE be kept in RRC\_INACTIVE upon session release? Apparently companies have different views.
* 2. Notification mechanism is to be discussed for each supported scenario in later part of that section. It should be well known that the solutions from section 4.1 to 4.4 are actually coupled, e.g., in some of the proposed solutions group paging is enhanced such that RRC state/whether to monitor G-RNTI/session state are explicitly indicated. Such mechanisms work for more than one events, e.g., for both session activation/deactivation, etc.

Current discussion are organized to discuss them separately for clearer understanding although the solutions may overlap.

## 4.1 Session activation or data transmission resumed

According to the agreements in RAN2#119bis-e meeting, Rel-18 UE in RRC\_INACTIVE UE can be informed when session is activated. And as a baseline, group paging can be used to inform Rel-18 UE about the session activation. Moreover, UE can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE upon session activation, and the detailed solution is FFS, with a few options on the table.

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| * **Rel-18 UE in INACTIVE can be informed when the session is activated (Details FFS).** * **As a baseline, group paging can be used to inform Rel-18 UE(s) about the session activation (Details FFS, e.g., UE behavior when receiving such group notification).** * **FFS how UE determines whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE or not when the session is activated, taking into account the following solutions (can further update the descriptions if needed, and several solutions may be needed, some solutions may apply only for certain configuration options)**   **1. When the multicast session is activated, UE can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE if the PTM configuration used in RRC\_INACTIVE for the session is available to the UE and the UE has joined the session already (e.g., configuration provided to UE via dedicated RRC signaling or via MCCH), otherwise it goes back to RRC\_CONNECTED to receive the multicast session.**  **2. When the multicast session is activated, UE is indicated by group paging whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE or not (detailed signaling FFS).**  **3. UE is configured "whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE" by dedicated signaling before UE is released. When the multicast session is activated, UE stays in RRC\_INACTIVE or resumes RRC connection accordingly (detailed signaling FFS).** |

The first coming question is about the "special UE" handling from the latest SA2 progress. It is understood that 5GC's UE level MBS assistance information suggests that such UE is preferred to be handled differently. It might be a leading UE in a group, therefore the UE might need special treatment in network scheduling with less control/user plane latency, e.g., by keeping the UE in RRC\_CONNECTED. However, such UE may be released to RRC\_INACTIVE too, e.g., for an deactivated multicast session [35]. How to resume only such "special" UE while keeping other "normal" UEs in RRC\_INACTIVE, is the issue companies are trying to resolve.

* Companies suggest that UE needs a pre-configuration, e.g., a valid PTM configuration in dedicated RRC signaling [36] or an indication that allows UE [24] to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE, and start multicast data reception upon session activation/data transmission resumed. Such PTM configuration is only for UE that is suitable to receive multicast data in RRC\_INACTIVE, but not the ones indicated by 5GC's UE level MBS assistance information that reception in RRC\_CONNECTED is suggested [36]. Therefore, this "special" UEs without such configuration will always resume to RRC\_CONNECTED.
* Meanwhile, [24, 35] suggests that UEs, e.g., the ones preferred by 5GC to be served in RRC\_CONNECTED for a multicast session, can be configured when UEs are released to RRC\_INACTIVE state, e.g., to always come to RRC\_CONNECTED state in case of session activation.

Others think it might not be needed, as if the gNB wants to select a subset of UEs to perform the RRC state change, it can use some POs for the group paging. Furthermore, the gNB can also use the legacy paging to trigger the RRC state transition for a specific UE. No enhancement is needed for Rel-17 group paging [32].

Therefore we have the question as below.

**Q5: Rel-18 UE can stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and start multicast data reception upon session activation/data transmission resumed only if there is a pre-configuration (e.g., valid PTM configuration or an indication that allows one UE to receive multicast data in RRC\_INACTIVE.)?**

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On the "**FFS how UE determines whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE or not when the session is activated**", several options were proposed as summarized below:

* **Option 1. PTM config availability** (e.g., the configuration was previously provided to UE via dedicated RRC signaling or via MCCH) to the UE [39]. It works with the benefits of less paging signaling overhead, however this option may require UE to consistently monitor MCCH and also cause frequent MCCH change with higher UE power consumption [25]. It may also ask for a different treatment between Rel-17 and Rel-18 UEs, e.g., Rel-18 UE to ignore group paging, which may result in potential compatibility issue [25].
* **Option 2. Group paging** [24, 25, 28, 30, 32, 35-38, 40-44]. This is the most supported option, as RAN2 already agreed that group paging is the baseline for session activation, and it features less spec impact and shorter latency, as companies stated. One [38] suggest that if UE has pre-configured information of multicast reception state, it follows the indication in group paging but ignore the pre-configured one. And there are variations on whether and what enhancement is needed.
  + Enhanced group paging by adding different indication per session in group paging, e.g., when the multicast session is activated, UE is indicated by group paging whether it can receive the multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE or not [25, 30-32, 35, 36, 38, 40, 43]. This option enables gNB to control the inactive reception dynamically, and UE does not need to always monitor MCCH.
  + While some others suggest adding session state explicitly in group paging. [33, 44]
  + [37] suggests that in the group paging it is explicitly indicating UE whether to monitor G-RNTI, i.e., multicast data transmission.
  + While some suggest legacy group paging without enhancement could be used to indicate session activation, as long as UE is with valid pre-configuration [29] or UE can also start acquiring the PTM config upon Rel-17 group paging [26]. There are also concerns [24, 43]suggesting that a pre-configuration can not deal with the varying network condition with dynamic parameters, e.g., cell load, audience size and congestion level at the gNB, if a pre-configuration is required. However this is not always needed as in [26], the PTM config can be indicated in MCCH. This sub-option features the least spec impact without further enhancing the paging design.
* **Option 3. Indication in MCCH**. MCCH is already agreed for PTM configuration update and mobility, it would be good to use MCCH for informing session activation [34], e..g, together with activation indication in the MCCH. However, relying on MCCH may lead to following issues: 1) UE has to always monitor MCCH [25], and 2) higher control plane latency. There are also different MCCH based solution though: notification of start/stop monitoring is added to the multicast MCCH for better reliability in case UE might miss the group paging since UE stays in RRC\_INACTIVE [37].
* **Others**, if needed.

**Q6: How to notify Rel-18 UE to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and start monitoring corresponding G-RNTI upon session activation/data transmission resumed?**

* **Option 1. PTM config availability.**
* **Option 2. Group paging. Please also indicate whether and what enhancement is needed.**
* **Option 3. Enhanced MCCH. Please also indicate whether and what enhancement is needed.**
* **Others. Please elaborate the details in comment.**

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An immediate question is, upon session activation or data transmission resumed, if PTM configuration is not available to UE (e.g., either UE is not pre-configured, or there is no corresponding PTM config available in MCCH), does UE resume RRC connection? (this may be a mis-configuration from network or intended by network, but it would be good to clarify UE behaviour).

**Q7: Upon session activation/data transmission resumed, if PTM configuration is not available to UE, does UE need to resume RRC connection?**

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## 4.2 Session deactivation or temporary no data

According to the agreements in RAN2#119bis-e meeting, Rel-18 UE in RRC\_INACTIVE UE may be informed when session is deactivated. This sounds reasonable to avoid unnecessary monitoring of the multicast transmission [35, 40]. How to notify and the behavior of RRC\_INACTIVE UEs are FFS.

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| * If a UE is in RRC\_INACTIVE and is configured to receive a multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE, the UE may be notified when the multicast session is deactivated. FFS how (e.g., informed via group paging, MCCH, or other ways). |

Similarly, to avoid worsening network congestion, companies prefer UE to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE upon session deactivation or temporary no data. Again, it is suggested to confirm upon session deactivation/temporary no data, a UE who is already in RRC\_INACTIVE, can stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and stop monitoring corresponding G-RNTI.

**Q8: For one UE already in RRC\_INACTIVE, it can stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and stop monitoring corresponding G-RNTI upon session deactivation/temporary no data?**

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Views are even more diverse on how to notify UE to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and stop monitoring G-RNTI upon session deactivation deactivated/temporary no data.

* **Option 1. PTM config availability in MCCH**. No explicit indication is needed, but notify UE via the removal of PTM configuration of the multicast service [39]. MCCH can be used to notify the UEs in RRC\_INACTIVE about the multicast session similar as broadcast [36, 30] as MCCH is agreed to be used to notify PTM config change.
* **Option 2. Group paging** [25, 26, 31, 37, 43, 44]. An indication in Paging message to indicate UE to start/stop monitoring G-RNTI upon session deactivation or temporarily no data [25, 37, 43]. While there are some others suggest adding session state explicitly in group paging [26, 31, 44]. It may also be good to have a unified solution for both session activation and deactivation to avoid the complexity [32]. [35] proposes to add a new group of identity indicating which multicast session is deactivated.
* **Option 3. Enhanced MCCH** [28, 30, 37]. Notification of start/stop monitoring is added to the multicast MCCH for better reliability, i.e., UE might miss the group paging while network is not aware [37].
* **Option 4. A new MAC CE** [26, 40]. Upon the reception of the deactivation MAC CE, the UE suspends the corresponding PTM configuration (e.g. stop GC-PDCCH monitoring). Companies' concern is, group paging might not be a suitable way to carry deactivation notification since there may be impacts on non-MBS or non-interested UEs to increase their probability and power consumption of checking with irrelevant paging messages [26]. The MAC CE method, compared to MCCH, features less delay, less impact on other UEs and more power-saving gain.
* **Option 5. DCI**. It is stated that compared with MAC CE, DCI indication have lower latency and less overhead, which has been used for the broadcast MCCH change notification. Considering the resource efficiency and latency, DCI indication may be a good way for the notification of session deactivation for UEs receiving multicast in RRC INACTIVE [29]. After reception of such indication in DCI, UE stops monitoring G-RNTI and stays in RRC\_INACTIVE when receiving the notification for session deactivation.
* **Others**. Please elaborate in comments.

**Q9: How to notify Rel-18 UE to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and stop monitoring corresponding G-RNTI upon session deactivation/temporary no data?**

* **Option 1. PTM config availability in MCCH.**
* **Option 2. Group paging. Please also indicate what enhancement is needed.**
* **Option 3. Enhanced MCCH. Please also indicate what enhancement is needed.**
* **Option 4. MAC CE. (MAC CE multiplexed with data? Please elaborate.)**
* **Option 5. DCI. (DCI associated to the PDCCH addressed to MCCH-RNTI? Please elaborate.)**
* **Others. Please elaborate the details in comment.**

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## 4.3 Session release

According to the agreements in RAN2#119bis-e meeting, Rel-17 mechanism is applicable for multicast session release, but whether any enhancement is needed is FFS.

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| * Rel-17 mechanism (NAS-based indication) is applicable for multicast session release. FFS if any enhancement is needed. |

In Rel-17, upon session release, Rel-17 UE in RRC\_INACTIVE or RRC\_IDLE shall be paged back to RRC\_CONNECTED, e.g., to release PTM config, and finish the NAS procedure.

It was proposed that, to avoid aggravating the congestion of the cell, UE can also stay in the RRC\_INACTIVE state and stop monitoring corresponding G-RNTI upon session release [28, 31, 43, 44]. Companies further suggest that, UE might not be required to transit to RRC\_CONNECTED immediately, e.g. when a group paging with session release is received. For instance, if UE is already receiving another multicast session in RRC\_INACTIVE or network is too congested; forcing all UEs at once to transit to RRC\_CONNECTED and to immediately respond to group paging with session release is not desirable.

There are also proposal that suggesting session release in current SA2 procedure requires UE to resume RRC connection, therefore no enhancement is needed [32, 34, 39]. Others think the notification of session deactivation could work for session release, e.g., to stop monitoring the data transmission. UE just stops the G-RNTI monitoring, the rest is network implementation, e.g., network ignores the group paging intentionally when needed, or network delays the NAS message delivery until UE re-connects to RRC\_CONNECTED [37, 40].

**Q10: For one UE already in RRC\_INACTIVE, it can stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and stop monitoring corresponding G-RNTI upon session release?**

Note: whether there will be NAS layer interaction issues, is one of the possible concern, e.g., what happens if NAS message can not reach one UE, this might be out of RAN2 expertise but worth some attention.

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Therefore it is suggested that to explicitly indicating UE the session state (e.g., session released) in group paging, to align the session state between 5GC and UE without resumption of UE's RRC connection [28, 31, 44, 43].

This can also be achieved by explicitly indicate whether to monitor G-RNTI upon session release, i.e., UE shall be notified later on NAS message (PDU session modification on session release) [37].

**Q11: How to notify Rel-18 UE to stay in RRC\_INACTIVE and stop monitoring corresponding G-RNTI upon session release?**

* **Option 1. No enhancement needed.**
* **Option 2. Indicating UE the multicast session state through group paging.**
* **Option 3. Indicating UE to stop monitoring G-RNTI.**

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## 4.4 Network resumes UE's RRC connection

It could happen that network wants to resume UE's RRC connection, e.g, upon turning off the multicast reception for UE in RRC\_INACTIVE when network congestion is over/eased or reception UE number is lower, network may enable Rel-17 delivery mode instead. Depending on the design details in above section, there are different solutions:

* **Legacy group paging** (or a group paging without the Rel-18 enhancement) [24, 25, 31, 32].
* **Enhancement to group paging** to explicitly resume UE's RRC connection.
* **Enhanced MCCH**. Other companies [26, 28] also consider to enhance MCCH to indicate preferred UE state per session. Based on such explicit UE RRC state, UE resumes to RRC\_CONNECTED if needed. The Multicast MCCH includes a new indicator for state transition per service level. If there is a transition indicator included in the MCCH message for UE’s interested & joined service, the UE immediately transfers from RRC\_INACTIVE to RRC\_CONNECTED state. While [32] think the MCCH based notification has a too high granularity, it can not notify only a subset of the UEs to resume RRC connection.

**Q12: How to indicate RRC\_INACTIVE UE to transition to RRC\_CONNECTED state.**

* **Option 1: Group paging with no enhancement.**
* **Option 2: Enhanced group paging to indicate preferred UE RRC state.**
* **Option 3: Enhanced MCCH to indicate preferred UE RRC state.**
* **Others. Please elaborate in comments.**

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# 5 Issues not covered

**Q13: For any issues not covered in current questions, please kindly add it up here.**

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# 6 Conclusions

TBD

# 7 Reference

*# PTM config and mobility*

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