3GPP RAN WG2 Meeting #122 R2-230xxxx

Incheon, Republic of Korea, May 22nd – 25th, 2023

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| *CR-Form-v12.1* |
| **CHANGE REQUEST** |
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|  | **38.321** | **CR** | **draft** | **rev** | **-** | **Current version:** | **17.4.0** |  |
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| *For* [*HE**LP*](http://www.3gpp.org/3G_Specs/CRs.htm#_blank)*on using this form: comprehensive instructions can be found at* [*http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests*](http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests)*.* |
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| ***Proposed change affects:*** | UICC apps |  | ME | **X** | Radio Access Network | **x** | Core Network |  |

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|  |
| ***Title:***  | Stage-3 running CR for TS 38.321 for Rel-18 NTN |
|  |  |
| ***Source to WG:*** | InterDigital |
| ***Source to TSG:*** | R2 |
|  |  |
| ***Work item code:*** | NR\_NTN\_solutions-core |  | ***Date:*** | 2023-06-28 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Category:*** | B  |  | ***Release:*** | Rel-18 |
|  | *Use one of the following categories:****F*** *(correction)****A*** *(mirror corresponding to a change in an earlier release)****B*** *(addition of feature),* ***C*** *(functional modification of feature)****D*** *(editorial modification)*Detailed explanations of the above categories canbe found in 3GPP [TR 21.900](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/21900.htm). | *Use one of the following releases:Rel-8 (Release 8)Rel-9 (Release 9)Rel-10 (Release 10)Rel-11 (Release 11)…Rel-15 (Release 15)Rel-16 (Release 16)Rel-17 (Release 17)Rel-18 (Release 18)* |
|  |  |
| ***Reason for change:*** | Introduction of Release-18 support for Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) |
|  |  |
| ***Summary of change:*** | This running CR captures agreements made for NR to support Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) for Release-18 up to and including the RAN2 122 meeting. |
|  |  |
| ***Consequences if not approved:*** | No support for Release-18 enhancements for NTN in NR |
|  |  |
| ***Clauses affected:*** | To be determined |
|  |  |
|  | **Y** | **N** |  |  |
| ***Other specs*** |  |  |  Other core specifications  | TS/TR ... CR ...  |
| ***affected:*** |  |  |  Test specifications | TS/TR ... CR ...  |
| ***(show related CRs)*** |  |  |  O&M Specifications | TS/TR ... CR ...  |
|  |  |
| ***Other comments:*** |  |
|  |  |
| ***This CR's revision history:*** | R2-2303732: Initial running CRR2-2305933: running CR including agreements up to RAN1#121bis |

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< First change begins >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

## 5.1 Random Access procedure

### 5.1.1 Random Access procedure initialization

Editor’s note: *Agreement:* Support RACH-less Handover in Rel-18.

Editor’s note: *Agreement:* RACH-less Handover in NR NTN is a L3 mobility procedure (FFS if this is combined with the unchanged PCI approach, if supported) and uses the LTE’s RACH-less Handover procedure as a baseline. FFS on TA acquisition

The Random Access procedure described in this clause is initiated by a PDCCH order, by the MAC entity itself, or by RRC for the events in accordance with TS 38.300 [2]. There is only one Random Access procedure ongoing at any point in time in a MAC entity. The Random Access procedure on an SCell shall only be initiated by a PDCCH order with *ra-PreambleIndex* different from 0b000000.

NOTE 1: If a new Random Access procedure is triggered while another is already ongoing in the MAC entity, it is up to UE implementation whether to continue with the ongoing procedure or start with the new procedure (e.g. for SI request).

NOTE 2: If there was an ongoing Random Access procedure that is triggered by a PDCCH order while the UE receives another PDCCH order indicating the same Random Access Preamble, PRACH mask index and uplink carrier, the Random Access procedure is considered as the same Random Access procedure as the ongoing one and not initialized again.

When a Random Access procedure is initiated, UE selects a set of Random Access resources as specified in clause 5.1.1b and initialises the following parameters for the Random Access procedure according to the values configured by RRC for the selected set of Random Access resources:

- *prach-ConfigurationIndex*: the available set of PRACH occasions for the transmission of the Random Access Preamble for Msg1. These are also applicable to the MSGA PRACH if the PRACH occasions are shared between 2-step and 4-step RA types;

- *prach-ConfigurationPeriodScaling-IAB*: the scaling factor defined in TS 38.211 [8] and applicable to IAB-MTs, extending the periodicity of the PRACH occasions baseline configuration indicated by *prach-ConfigurationIndex*;

- *prach-ConfigurationFrameOffset-IAB*: the frame offset defined in TS 38.211 [8] and applicable to IAB-MTs, altering the ROs frame defined in the baseline configuration indicated by *prach-ConfigurationIndex*;

- *prach-ConfigurationSOffset-IAB*: the subframe/slot offset defined in TS 38.211 [8] and applicable to IAB-MTs, altering the ROs subframe or slot defined in the baseline configuration indicated by *prach-ConfigurationIndex*;

- *msgA-PRACH-ConfigurationIndex*: the available set of PRACH occasions for the transmission of the Random Access Preamble for MSGA in 2-step RA type;

- *preambleReceivedTargetPower*: initial Random Access Preamble power for 4-step RA type;

- *msgA-PreambleReceivedTargetPower*: initial Random Access Preamble power for 2-step RA type;

- *rsrp-ThresholdSSB*: an RSRP threshold for the selection of the SSB for 4-step RA type. If the Random Access procedure is initiated for beam failure recovery, *rsrp-ThresholdSSB* used for the selection of the SSB within *candidateBeamRSList* refers to *rsrp-ThresholdSSB* in *BeamFailureRecoveryConfig* IE;

- *rsrp-ThresholdCSI-RS*: an RSRP threshold for the selection of CSI-RS for 4-step RA type. If the Random Access procedure is initiated for beam failure recovery, *rsrp-ThresholdCSI-RS* is equal to *rsrp-ThresholdSSB* in *BeamFailureRecoveryConfig* IE;

- *msgA-RSRP-ThresholdSSB*: an RSRP threshold for the selection of the SSB for 2-step RA type;

- *rsrp-ThresholdSSB-SUL*: an RSRP threshold for the selection between the NUL carrier and the SUL carrier;

*- msgA-RSRP-Threshold*: an RSRP threshold for selection between 2-step RA type and 4-step RA type when both 2-step and 4-step RA type Random Access Resources are configured in the UL BWP;

*- rsrp-ThresholdMsg3*: an RSRP threshold for Msg3 repetition (see clause 5.1.1b);

*- FeatureCombination*: feature or a combination of features associated with a set of Random Access resources;

*- featurePriorities*: priorities for features, such as RedCap, Slicing, etc. (see clause 5.1.1d);

- *msgA-TransMax*: The maximum number of MSGA transmissions when both 4-step and 2-step RA type Random Access Resources are configured;

- *candidateBeamRSList*: a list of reference signals (CSI-RS and/or SSB) identifying the candidate beams for recovery and the associated Random Access parameters;

- *recoverySearchSpaceId*: the search space identity for monitoring the response of the beam failure recovery request;

- *powerRampingStep*: the power-ramping factor;

- *msgA-PreamblePowerRampingStep*: the power ramping factor for MSGA preamble;

- *powerRampingStepHighPriority*: the power-ramping factor in case of prioritized Random Access procedure;

- *scalingFactorBI*: a scaling factor for prioritized Random Access procedure;

- *ra-PreambleIndex*: Random Access Preamble;

- *ra-ssb-OccasionMaskIndex*: defines PRACH occasion(s) associated with an SSB in which the MAC entity may transmit a Random Access Preamble (see clause 7.4);

- *msgA-SSB-SharedRO-MaskIndex*: Indicates the subset of 4-step RA type PRACH occasions shared with 2-step RA type PRACH occasions for each SSB. If 2-step RA type PRACH occasions are shared with 4-step RA type PRACH occasions and *msgA-SSB-SharedRO-MaskIndex* is not configured, then all 4-step RA type PRACH occasions are available for 2-step RA type (see clause 7.4);

- *ssb-SharedRO-MaskIndex*: defines PRACH occasions, on which preambles are allocated for a feature or a combination of features, associated with an SSB in which the MAC entity may transmit a Random Access Preamble (see clause 7.4);

- *ra-OccasionList*: defines PRACH occasion(s) associated with a CSI-RS in which the MAC entity may transmit a Random Access Preamble;

- *ra-PreambleStartIndex*: the starting index of Random Access Preamble(s) for on-demand SI request;

- *startPreambleForThisPartition*: the first preamble associated with the set of Random Access Resources applicable to the Random Access procedure;

- *preambleTransMax*: the maximum number of Random Access Preamble transmission;

- *ssb-perRACH-OccasionAndCB-PreamblesPerSSB*: defines the number of SSBs mapped to each PRACH occasion for 4-step RA type and the number of contention-based Random Access Preambles mapped to each SSB;

- *msgA-CB-PreamblesPerSSB-PerSharedRO*: defines the number of contention-based Random Access Preambles for 2-step RA type mapped to each SSB when the PRACH occasions are shared between 2-step and 4-step RA types;

- *msgA-SSB-PerRACH-OccasionAndCB-PreamblesPerSSB*: defines the number of SSBs mapped to each PRACH occasion for 2-step RA type and the number of contention-based Random Access Preambles mapped to each SSB;

- *numberOfPreamblesPerSSB-ForThisPartition*: defines the number ofconsecutive preambles for a feature or a combination of features mapped to each SSB;

- *msgA-PUSCH-ResourceGroupA*: defines MSGA PUSCH resources that the UE shall use when performing MSGA transmission using Random Access Preambles group A;

- *msgA-PUSCH-ResourceGroupB*: defines MSGA PUSCH resources that the UE shall use when performing MSGA transmission using Random Access Preambles group B;

- *msgA-PUSCH-Resource-Index*: identifies the index of the PUSCH resource used for MSGA in case of contention-free Random Access with 2-step RA type;

- if *groupBconfigured* is configured, then Random Access Preambles group B is configured for 4-step RA type.

- Amongst the contention-based Random Access Preambles associated with an SSB (as defined in TS 38.213 [6]), the first *numberOfRA-PreamblesGroupA* included in *groupBconfigured* Random Access Preambles belong to Random Access Preambles group A. The remaining Random Access Preambles associated with the SSB belong to Random Access Preambles group B (if configured).

- if *groupB-ConfiguredTwoStepRA* is configured, then Random Access Preambles group B is configured for 2-step RA type.

- Amongst the contention-based Random Access Preambles for 2-step RA type associated with an SSB (as defined in TS 38.213 [6]), the first *numberOfRA-PreamblesGroupA* included in *GroupB-ConfiguredTwoStepRA* Random Access Preambles belong to Random Access Preambles group A. The remaining Random Access Preambles associated with the SSB belong to Random Access Preambles group B (if configured).

NOTE 3: If Random Access Preambles group B is supported by the cell Random Access Preambles group B is included for each SSB.

- if Random Access Preambles group B is configured for 4-step RA type:

- *ra-Msg3SizeGroupA*: the threshold to determine the groups of Random Access Preambles for 4-step RA type;

- *msg3-DeltaPreamble*: ∆*PREAMBLE\_Msg3* in TS 38.213 [6];

- *messagePowerOffsetGroupB*: the power offset for preamble selection included in *groupBconfigured*;

- *numberOfRA-PreamblesGroupA*: defines the number of Random Access Preambles in Random Access Preamble group A for each SSB included in *groupBconfigured*.

- if Random Access Preambles group B is configured for 2-step RA type:

- *msgA-DeltaPreamble*: ∆*MsgA\_PUSCH* in TS 38.213 [6];

- *messagePowerOffsetGroupB*: the power offset for preamble selection included in *GroupB-ConfiguredTwoStepRA*;

- *numberOfRA-PreamblesGroupA*: defines the number of Random Access Preambles in Random Access Preamble group A for each SSB included in *GroupB-ConfiguredTwoStepRA*;

- *ra-MsgA-SizeGroupA*: the threshold to determine the groups of Random Access Preambles for 2-step RA type.

- the set of Random Access Preambles and/or PRACH occasions for SI request, if any;

- the set of Random Access Preambles and/or PRACH occasions for beam failure recovery request, if any;

- the set of Random Access Preambles and/or PRACH occasions for reconfiguration with sync, if any;

- *ra-ResponseWindow*: the time window to monitor RA response(s) (SpCell only);

- *ra-ContentionResolutionTimer*: the Contention Resolution Timer (SpCell only);

- *msgB-ResponseWindow*: the time window to monitor RA response(s) for 2-step RA type (SpCell only).

In addition, the following information for related Serving Cell is assumed to be available for UEs:

- if Random Access Preambles group B is configured:

- if the Serving Cell for the Random Access procedure is configured with supplementary uplink as specified in TS 38.331 [5], and SUL carrier is selected for performing Random Access Procedure:

- PCMAX,f,c of the SUL carrier as specified in TS 38.101-1 [14], TS 38.101-2 [15], and TS 38.101-3 [16].

- else:

- PCMAX,f,c of the NUL carrier as specified in TS 38.101-1 [14], TS 38.101-2 [15], and TS 38.101-3 [16].

The following UE variables are used for the Random Access procedure:

- *PREAMBLE\_INDEX*;

- *PREAMBLE\_TRANSMISSION\_COUNTER*;

- *PREAMBLE\_POWER\_RAMPING\_COUNTER*;

- *PREAMBLE\_POWER\_RAMPING\_STEP*;

- *PREAMBLE\_RECEIVED\_TARGET\_POWER*;

- *PREAMBLE\_BACKOFF*;

- *PCMAX*;

- *SCALING\_FACTOR\_BI*;

- *TEMPORARY\_C-RNTI*;

- *RA\_TYPE*;

- *POWER\_OFFSET\_2STEP\_RA*;

- *MSGA\_PREAMBLE\_POWER\_RAMPING\_STEP*.

When the Random Access procedure is initiated on a Serving Cell, the MAC entity shall:

1> flush the Msg3 buffer;

1> flush the MSGA buffer;

1> set the *PREAMBLE\_TRANSMISSION\_COUNTER* to 1;

1> set the *PREAMBLE\_POWER\_RAMPING\_COUNTER* to 1;

1> set the *PREAMBLE\_BACKOFF* to 0 ms;

1> set *POWER\_OFFSET\_2STEP\_RA* to 0 dB;

1> if the carrier to use for the Random Access procedure is explicitly signalled:

2> select the signalled carrier for performing Random Access procedure;

2> set the *PCMAX* to PCMAX,f,c of the signalled carrier.

1> else if the carrier to use for the Random Access procedure is not explicitly signalled; and

1> if the Serving Cell for the Random Access procedure is configured with supplementary uplink as specified in TS 38.331 [5]; and

1> if the RSRP of the downlink pathloss reference is less than *rsrp-ThresholdSSB-SUL*:

2> select the SUL carrier for performing Random Access procedure;

2> set the *PCMAX* to PCMAX,f,c of the SUL carrier.

1> else:

2> select the NUL carrier for performing Random Access procedure;

2> set the *PCMAX* to PCMAX,f,c of the NUL carrier.

NOTE 4: Void.

1> perform the BWP operation as specified in clause 5.15;

1> select the set of Random Access resources applicable to the current Random Access procedure according to clause 5.1.1b;

1> if the Random Access procedure is initiated by PDCCH order and if the *ra-PreambleIndex* explicitly provided by PDCCH is not 0b000000; or

1> if the Random Access procedure was initiated for SI request (as specified in TS 38.331 [5]) and the Random Access Resources for SI request have been explicitly provided by RRC; or

1> if the Random Access procedure was initiated for SpCell beam failure recovery (as specified in clause 5.17) and if the contention-free Random Access Resources for beam failure recovery request for 4-step RA type have been explicitly provided by RRC for the BWP selected for Random Access procedure; or

1> if the Random Access procedure was initiated for reconfiguration with sync and if the contention-free Random Access Resources for 4-step RA type have been explicitly provided in *rach-ConfigDedicated* for the BWP selected for Random Access procedure:

2> set the *RA\_TYPE* to *4-stepRA*.

1> else if the BWP selected for Random Access procedure is configured with both 2-step and 4-step RA type Random Access Resources within the selected set of Random Access resources (as specified in clause 5.1.1b) and the RSRP of the downlink pathloss reference is above *msgA-RSRP-Threshold*; or

1> if the BWP selected for Random Access procedure is only configured with 2-step RA type Random Access resources within the selected set of Random Access resources according to clause 5.1.1b; or

1> if the Random Access procedure was initiated for reconfiguration with sync and if the contention-free Random Access Resources for 2-step RA type have been explicitly provided in *rach-ConfigDedicated* for the BWP selected for Random Access procedure:

2> set the *RA\_TYPE* to *2-stepRA*.

1> else:

2> set the *RA\_TYPE* to *4-stepRA*.

1> perform initialization of variables specific to Random Access type as specified in clause 5.1.1a;

1> if *RA\_TYPE* is set to *2-stepRA*:

2> perform the Random Access Resource selection procedure for 2-step RA type (see clause 5.1.2a).

1> else:

2> perform the Random Access Resource selection procedure (see clause 5.1.2).

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< First change ends >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< Next change begins >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

## 5.2 Maintenance of Uplink Time Alignment

Editor’s note: *Agreement:* - start time alignment timer (MAC).

RRC configures the following parameters for the maintenance of UL time alignment:

- *timeAlignmentTimer* (per TAG) which controls how long the MAC entity considers the Serving Cells belonging to the associated TAG to be uplink time aligned;

- *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer* which controls how long the MAC entity considers the Positioning SRS transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE in clause 5.26 to be uplink time aligned;

- *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* which controls how long the MAC entity considers the uplink transmission for CG-SDT to be uplink time aligned.

The MAC entity shall:

1> when a Timing Advance Command MAC CE is received, and if an NTA (as defined in TS 38.211 [8]) has been maintained with the indicated TAG:

2> apply the Timing Advance Command for the indicated TAG;

2> if there is ongoing Positioning SRS Transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE as in clause 5.26:

3> start or restart the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with the indicated TAG.

2> if CG-SDT procedure triggered as in clause 5.27 is ongoing:

3> start or restart the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with the indicated TAG.

2> else:

3> start or restart the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with the indicated TAG.

1> when a Timing Advance Command is received in a Random Access Response message for a Serving Cell belonging to a TAG or in a MSGB for an SpCell:

2> if the Random Access Preamble was not selected by the MAC entity among the contention-based Random Access Preamble:

3> apply the Timing Advance Command for this TAG;

3> start or restart the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG.

2> else if the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG is not running:

3> apply the Timing Advance Command for this TAG;

3> start the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG;

3> when the Contention Resolution is considered not successful as described in clause 5.1.5; or

3> when the Contention Resolution is considered successful for SI request as described in clause 5.1.5, after transmitting HARQ feedback for MAC PDU including UE Contention Resolution Identity MAC CE:

4> stop *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG.

3> when the Contention Resolution is considered not successful as described in clause 5.1.5:

4> if CG-SDT procedure triggered as in clause 5.27 is ongoing:

5> set the NTA value to the value before applying the received Timing Advance Command as in TS 38.211 [8].

3> when the Contention Resolution is considered successful for Random Access procedure while the CG-SDT procedure is ongoing:

4> stop *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG;

4> start or restart the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG.

3> when the Contention Resolution is considered successful for Random Access procedure while SRS transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE is ongoing:

4> start or restart the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG.

2> else:

3> ignore the received Timing Advance Command.

1> when an Absolute Timing Advance Command is received in response to a MSGA transmission including C-RNTI MAC CE as specified in clause 5.1.4a:

2> apply the Timing Advance Command for PTAG;

2> if there is ongoing Positioning SRS Transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE as in clause 5.26:

3> start or restart the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with the indicated TAG.

2> if CG-SDT procedure is ongoing:

3> start or restart the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with PTAG.

2> else:

3> start or restart the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with PTAG.

1> when the indication is received from upper layer for stopping the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer*:

2> stop the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer*.

1> when the indication is received from upper layer for starting the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer*:

2> start or restart the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer*.

1> when instruction from the upper layer has been received for starting the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer*:

2> start the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer*.

1> when instruction from the upper layer has been received for stopping the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer*:

2> consider the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* as expired.

1> when instruction from the upper layer has been received for starting the *TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with PTAG:

2> start the *TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with PTAG.

1> when a *timeAlignmentTimer* expires:

2> if the *timeAlignmentTimer* is associated with the PTAG:

3> flush all HARQ buffers for all Serving Cells;

3> notify RRC to release PUCCH for all Serving Cells, if configured;

3> notify RRC to release SRS for all Serving Cells, if configured;

3> clear any configured downlink assignments and configured uplink grants;

3> clear any PUSCH resource for semi-persistent CSI reporting;

3> consider all running *timeAlignmentTimer*s as expired;

3> maintain NTA (defined in TS 38.211 [8]) of all TAGs.

2> else if the *timeAlignmentTimer* is associated with an STAG, then for all Serving Cells belonging to this TAG:

3> flush all HARQ buffers;

3> notify RRC to release PUCCH, if configured;

3> notify RRC to release SRS, if configured;

3> clear any configured downlink assignments and configured uplink grants;

3> clear any PUSCH resource for semi-persistent CSI reporting;

3> maintain NTA (defined in TS 38.211 [8]) of this TAG.

1> when the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer* expires:

2> notify RRC to release Positioning SRS for RRC\_INACTIVE configuration(s).

1> when the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* expires:

2> clear any configured uplink grants;

2> if a PDCCH addressed to the MAC entity's C-RNTI after initial transmission for the CG-SDT with CCCH message has not been received:

3> consider ongoing CG-SDT procedure as terminated;

3> indicate the expiry of *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* to the upper layer.

2> flush all HARQ buffers;

2> maintain NTA (defined in TS 38.211 [8]) of this TAG.

When the MAC entity stops uplink transmissions for an SCell due to the fact that the maximum uplink transmission timing difference between TAGs of the MAC entity or the maximum uplink transmission timing difference between TAGs of any MAC entity of the UE is exceeded, the MAC entity considers the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with the SCell as expired.

The MAC entity shall not perform any uplink transmission on a Serving Cell except the Random Access Preamble and MSGA transmission when the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with the TAG to which this Serving Cell belongs is not running, CG-SDT procedure is not ongoing and SRS transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE as in clause 5.26 is not on-going. Furthermore, when the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with the PTAG is not running, CG-SDT procedure is not ongoing and SRS transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE as in clause 5.26 is not ongoing, the MAC entity shall not perform any uplink transmission on any Serving Cell except the Random Access Preamble and MSGA transmission on the SpCell. The MAC entity shall not perform any uplink transmission except the Random Access Preamble and MSGA transmission when the *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* is not running during the ongoing CG-SDT procedure as triggered in clause 5.27 and the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer* is not running.

## 5.2a Maintenance of UL Synchronization

Editor’s note: *Agreement:* perform DL and UL synchronization, and start timer T430.RAN2 assumes the UL sync handling in the target cell is the same in RACH-based HO and RACH-less HO, except how to acquire NTA (FFS on the spec impact , if any)

Editor’s note: *Agreement:* In NTN RACH-less handover, network indicates (implicitly or explicitly) whether NTA in the target cell is identical to the source cell or explicitly provided by the NW

Editor’s note: *Agreement*: In NTN RACH-less handover, NW either indicates NTA in the target cell is identical to the source cell, or the NTA explicitly provided by the NW is 0. RAN2 will not discuss the case where NTA does not equal to 0

The MAC entity shall for each Serving Cell:

1> if an indication of uplink synchronization has been received from upper layers (see clause 5.2.2.6 of TS 38.331 [5]):

2> allow uplink transmission on the Serving Cell.

1> if an indication of uplink synchronization loss is received from upper layers:

2> flush all HARQ buffers;

2> not perform any uplink transmission on the Serving Cell.

## 5.3 DL-SCH data transfer

### 5.3.1 DL Assignment reception

Downlink assignments received on the PDCCH both indicate that there is a transmission on a DL-SCH for a particular MAC entity and provide the relevant HARQ information.

When the MAC entity has a C-RNTI, Temporary C-RNTI, CS-RNTI, G-RNTI or G-CS-RNTI, the MAC entity shall for each PDCCH occasion during which it monitors PDCCH and for each Serving Cell:

1> if a downlink assignment for this PDCCH occasion and this Serving Cell has been received on the PDCCH for the MAC entity's C-RNTI, or Temporary C‑RNTI, or G-RNTI configured for multicast MTCH:

2> if this is the first downlink assignment for this Temporary C-RNTI:

3> consider the NDI to have been toggled.

2> if the downlink assignment is for the MAC entity's C-RNTI, and if the previous downlink assignment indicated to the HARQ entity of the same HARQ process was either a downlink assignment received for the MAC entity's CS-RNTI or G-CS-RNTI, or a configured downlink assignment for unicast or MBS multicast; or

2> if the downlink assignment is for the MAC entity's G-RNTI configured for multicast MTCH, and if the previous downlink assignment indicated to the HARQ entity of the same HARQ process was either a downlink assignment received for the MAC entity's CS-RNTI or G-CS-RNTI, or other G-RNTI, or C-RNTI, or a configured downlink assignment for unicast or MBS multicast:

3> consider the NDI to have been toggled regardless of the value of the NDI.

2> stop the *cg-SDT-RetransmissionTimer*, if it is running, for the corresponding HARQ process for initial transmission with CCCH message;

2> stop the *configuredGrantTimer*, if it is running, for the corresponding HARQ process for initial transmission with CCCH message;

2> indicate the presence of a downlink assignment and deliver the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

1> else if a downlink assignment for this PDCCH occasion has been received for this Serving Cell on the PDCCH for the MAC entity's CS-RNTI or G-CS-RNTI:

2> if the NDI in the received HARQ information is 1:

3> consider the NDI for the corresponding HARQ process not to have been toggled;

3> indicate the presence of a downlink assignment for this Serving Cell and deliver the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

2> if the NDI in the received HARQ information is 0:

3> if PDCCH contents indicate SPS deactivation:

4> clear the configured downlink assignment for this Serving Cell (if any);

4> if the *timeAlignmentTimer*, associated with the TAG containing the Serving Cell on which the HARQ feedback is to be transmitted, is running:

5> indicate a positive acknowledgement for the SPS deactivation to the physical layer.

3> else if PDCCH content indicates SPS activation:

4> store the downlink assignment for this Serving Cell and the associated HARQ information as configured downlink assignment;

4> initialise or re-initialise the configured downlink assignment for this Serving Cell to start in the associated PDSCH duration and to recur according to rules in clause 5.8.1;

1> if the MAC entity is configured with *ntn-rach-lessHO* and a UE Contention Resolution Identity MAC control element has been received on the PDSCH indicated by the PDCCH of the SpCell addressed to the C-RNTI:

2> indicate to upper layer the successful reception of a PDCCH transmission addressed to C-RNTI.

For each Serving Cell and each configured downlink assignment, if configured and activated, the MAC entity shall:

1> if the PDSCH duration of the configured downlink assignment does not overlap with the PDSCH duration of a downlink assignment received on the PDCCH for this Serving Cell:

2> instruct the physical layer to receive, in this PDSCH duration, transport block on the DL-SCH according to the configured downlink assignment and to deliver it to the HARQ entity;

2> set the HARQ Process ID to the HARQ Process ID associated with this PDSCH duration;

2> consider the NDI bit for the corresponding HARQ process to have been toggled;

2> indicate the presence of a configured downlink assignment and deliver the stored HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

For configured downlink assignments without *harq-ProcID-Offset*, the HARQ Process ID associated with the slot where the DL transmission starts is derived from the following equation:

 HARQ Process ID = [floor (CURRENT\_slot × 10 / (*numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *periodicity*))]
 modulo *nrofHARQ-Processes*

where CURRENT\_slot = [(SFN × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame*) + slot number in the frame] and *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* refers to the number of consecutive slots per frame as specified in TS 38.211 [8].

For configured downlink assignments with *harq-ProcID-Offset*, the HARQ Process ID associated with the slot where the DL transmission starts is derived from the following equation:

 HARQ Process ID = [floor (CURRENT\_slot × 10 / (*numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *periodicity*))]
 modulo *nrofHARQ-Processes* + *harq-ProcID-Offset*

where CURRENT\_slot = [(SFN × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame*) + slot number in the frame] and *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* refers to the number of consecutive slots per frame as specified in TS 38.211 [8].

NOTE 1: In case of unaligned SFN across carriers in a cell group, the SFN of the concerned Serving Cell is used to calculate the HARQ Process ID used for configured downlink assignments.

NOTE 2: CURRENT\_slot refers to the slot index of the first transmission occasion of a bundle of configured downlink assignment.

When the MAC entity needs to read BCCH, the MAC entity may, based on the scheduling information from RRC:

1> if a downlink assignment for this PDCCH occasion has been received on the PDCCH for the SI-RNTI;

2> indicate a downlink assignment and redundancy version for the dedicated broadcast HARQ process to the HARQ entity.

When the MAC entity needs to read MCCH, the MAC entity may, based on the scheduling information from RRC:

1> if a downlink assignment for this PDCCH occasion has been received on the PDCCH for the MCCH-RNTI:

2> indicate a downlink assignment and redundancy version for the selected HARQ process to the HARQ entity.

When the MAC entity needs to read broadcast MTCH, the MAC entity may, based on the scheduling information from RRC and DCI:

1> if a downlink assignment for this PDCCH occasion has been received on the PDCCH for the G-RNTI configured for broadcast MTCH:

2> indicate the presence of a downlink assignment and deliver the associated HARQ information for the selected HARQ process to the HARQ entity.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< Change ends >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< Next change begins >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

## 5.4 UL-SCH data transfer

### 5.4.1 UL Grant reception

Uplink grant is either received dynamically on the PDCCH, in a Random Access Response, configured semi-persistently or preallocated by RRC or determined to be associated with the PUSCH resource of MSGA as specified in clause 5.1.2a. The MAC entity shall have an uplink grant to transmit on the UL-SCH. To perform the requested transmissions, the MAC layer receives HARQ information from lower layers. An uplink grant addressed to CS-RNTI with NDI = 0 is considered as a configured uplink grant. An uplink grant addressed to CS-RNTI with NDI = 1 is considered as a dynamic uplink grant.

If the MAC entity has a C-RNTI, a Temporary C-RNTI, or CS-RNTI, the MAC entity shall for each PDCCH occasion and for each Serving Cell belonging to a TAG that has a running *timeAlignmentTimer* or a running *cg-SDT-TimeAlignmentTimer* and for each grant received for this PDCCH occasion:

1> if an uplink grant for this Serving Cell has been received on the PDCCH for the MAC entity's C-RNTI or Temporary C-RNTI; or

1> if an uplink grant has been received in a Random Access Response:

2> if the uplink grant is for MAC entity's C-RNTI and if the previous uplink grant delivered to the HARQ entity for the same HARQ process was either an uplink grant received for the MAC entity's CS-RNTI or a configured uplink grant:

3> consider the NDI to have been toggled for the corresponding HARQ process regardless of the value of the NDI.

2> if the uplink grant is for MAC entity's C-RNTI, and the identified HARQ process is configured for a configured uplink grant:

3> start or restart the *configuredGrantTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if configured;

3> stop the *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if running.

2> stop the *cg-SDT-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if running.

2> deliver the uplink grant and the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

1> else if an uplink grant for this PDCCH occasion has been received for this Serving Cell on the PDCCH for the MAC entity's CS-RNTI:

2> if the NDI in the received HARQ information is 1:

3> consider the NDI for the corresponding HARQ process not to have been toggled;

3> start or restart the *configuredGrantTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if configured;

3> stop the *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if running;

3> stop the *cg-SDT-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if running;

3> deliver the uplink grant and the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity;

3> if a logical channel associated with a DRB configured with *survivalTimeStateSupport* is multiplexed in the MAC PDU stored in the HARQ buffer for the corresponding HARQ process:

4> trigger activation of PDCP duplication for all configured RLC entities of the DRB.

2> else if the NDI in the received HARQ information is 0:

3> if PDCCH contents indicate configured grant Type 2 deactivation:

4> trigger configured uplink grant confirmation.

3> else if PDCCH contents indicate configured grant Type 2 activation:

4> trigger configured uplink grant confirmation;

4> store the uplink grant for this Serving Cell and the associated HARQ information as configured uplink grant;

4> initialise or re-initialise the configured uplink grant for this Serving Cell to start in the associated PUSCH duration and to recur according to rules in clause 5.8.2;

4> stop the *configuredGrantTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if running;

4> stop the *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process, if running.

For each Serving Cell and each configured uplink grant, if configured and activated, the MAC entity shall:

1> if the MAC entity is configured with *lch-basedPrioritization*, and the PUSCH duration of the configured uplink grant does not overlap with the PUSCH duration of an uplink grant received in a Random Access Response or with the PUSCH duration of an uplink grant addressed to Temporary C-RNTI or the PUSCH duration of a MSGA payload for this Serving Cell; or

1> if the MAC entity is not configured with *lch-basedPrioritization*, and the PUSCH duration of the configured uplink grant does not overlap with the PUSCH duration of an uplink grant received on the PDCCH or in a Random Access Response or the PUSCH duration of a MSGA payload for this Serving Cell:

2> set the HARQ Process ID to the HARQ Process ID associated with this PUSCH duration;

2> if, for the corresponding HARQ process, the *configuredGrantTimer* is not running and *cg-RetransmissionTimer* is not configured and *cg-SDT-RetransmissionTimer* is not configured (i.e. new transmission):

3> if there is an on-going CG-SDT procedure and PDCCH addressed to the MAC entity's C-RNTI has been received; or

3> if there is no on-going CG-SDT procedure:

4> consider the NDI bit for the corresponding HARQ process to have been toggled;

4> deliver the configured uplink grant and the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

2> else if the *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process is configured and not running, then for the corresponding HARQ process:

3> if the *configuredGrantTimer* is not running, and the HARQ process is not pending (i.e. new transmission):

4> consider the NDI bit to have been toggled;

4> deliver the configured uplink grant and the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

3> else if the previous uplink grant delivered to the HARQ entity for the same HARQ process was a configured uplink grant (i.e. retransmission on configured grant):

4> deliver the configured uplink grant and the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

2> else if the *cg-SDT-RetransmissionTimer* is configured and not running for the corresponding HARQ process;

3> if the configured uplink grant is for the initial transmission for the CG-SDT with CCCH message (i.e., initial new transmission); or

3> if the *configuredGrantTimer* is not running or not configured, and PDCCH addressed to the MAC entity's C-RNTI has been received after the initial transmission of the CG-SDT with CCCH message (i.e., subsequent new transmission):

4> consider the NDI bit to have been toggled;

4> deliver the configured uplink grant and the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

3> else if the previous uplink grant delivered to the HARQ entity for the same HARQ process was a configured uplink grant for initial transmission of CG-SDT with CCCH message or for its retransmission; and

3> if PDCCH addressed to the MAC entity's C-RNTI has not been received (i.e., retransmission for initial CG-SDT transmission):

4> consider the NDI bit to have not been toggled;

4> deliver the configured uplink grant and the associated HARQ information to the HARQ entity.

For configured uplink grants neither configured with *harq-ProcID-Offset2* nor with *cg-RetransmissionTimer*, the HARQ Process ID associated with the first symbol of a UL transmission is derived from the following equation:

 HARQ Process ID = [floor(CURRENT\_symbol/*periodicity*)] modulo *nrofHARQ-Processes*

For configured uplink grants with *harq-ProcID-Offset2*, the HARQ Process ID associated with the first symbol of a UL transmission is derived from the following equation:

 HARQ Process ID = [floor(CURRENT\_symbol / *periodicity*)] modulo *nrofHARQ-Processes* + *harq-ProcID-Offset2*

where CURRENT\_symbol = (SFN × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot* + slot number in the frame × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot* + symbol number in the slot), and *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* and *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot* refer to the number of consecutive slots per frame and the number of consecutive symbols per slot, respectively as specified in TS 38.211 [8].

For configured uplink grants configured with *cg-RetransmissionTimer*, the UE implementation selects an HARQ Process ID among the HARQ process IDs available for the configured grant configuration. If the MAC entity is configured with *intraCG-Prioritization*, for HARQ Process ID selection, the UE shall prioritize the HARQ Process ID with the highest priority, where the priority of HARQ process is determined by the highest priority among priorities of the logical channels that are multiplexed (i.e. the MAC PDU to transmit is already stored in the HARQ buffer) or have data available that can be multiplexed (i.e. the MAC PDU to transmit is not stored in the HARQ buffer) in the MAC PDU, according to the mapping restrictions as described in clause 5.4.3.1.2. If the MAC entity is configured with *intraCG-Prioritization*, for HARQ Process ID selection among initial transmission and retransmission with equal priority, the UE shall prioritize retransmissions before initial transmissions. The priority of a HARQ Process for which no data for logical channels is multiplexed or can be multiplexed in the MAC PDU is lower than the priority of a HARQ Process for which data for any logical channels is multiplexed or can be multiplexed in the MAC PDU. If the MAC entity is not configured with *intraCG-Prioritization*, for HARQ Process ID selection, the UE shall prioritize retransmissions before initial transmissions. The UE shall toggle the NDI in the CG-UCI for new transmissions and not toggle the NDI in the CG-UCI in retransmissions.

NOTE 1: CURRENT\_symbol refers to the symbol index of the first transmission occasion of a bundle of configured uplink grant.

NOTE 2: A HARQ process is configured for a configured uplink grant where neither *harq-ProcID-Offset* nor *harq-ProcID-Offset2* is configured, if the configured uplink grant is activated and the associated HARQ process ID is less than *nrofHARQ-Processes*. A HARQ process is configured for a configured uplink grant where *harq-ProcID-Offset2* is configured, if the configured uplink grant is activated and the associated HARQ process ID is greater than or equal to *harq-ProcID-Offset2* and less than sum of *harq-ProcID-Offset2* and *nrofHARQ-Processes* for the configured grant configuration.

NOTE 3: If the MAC entity receives a grant in a Random Access Response (i.e. MAC RAR or fallbackRAR), or addressed to Temporary C-RNTI or determines a grant as specified in clause 5.1.2a for MSGA payload and if the MAC entity also receives an overlapping grant for its C-RNTI or CS-RNTI, requiring concurrent transmissions on the SpCell, the MAC entity may choose to continue with either the grant for its RA-RNTI/Temporary C-RNTI/MSGB-RNTI/the MSGA payload transmission or the grant for its C-RNTI or CS-RNTI.

NOTE 4: In case of unaligned SFN across carriers in a cell group, the SFN of the concerned Serving Cell is used to calculate the HARQ Process ID used for configured uplink grants.

NOTE 5: If *cg-RetransmissionTimer* is not configured, a HARQ process is not shared between different configured grant configurations in the same BWP.

For the MAC entity configured with *lch-basedPrioritization*, priority of an uplink grant is determined by the highest priority among priorities of the logical channels that are multiplexed (i.e. the MAC PDU to transmit is already stored in the HARQ buffer) or have data available that can be multiplexed (i.e. the MAC PDU to transmit is not stored in the HARQ buffer) in the MAC PDU, according to the mapping restrictions as described in clause 5.4.3.1.2. The priority of an uplink grant for which no data for logical channels is multiplexed or can be multiplexed in the MAC PDU is lower than either the priority of an uplink grant for which data for any logical channels is multiplexed or can be multiplexed in the MAC PDU or the priority of the logical channel triggering an SR.

For the MAC entity configured with *lch-basedPrioritization*, if the corresponding PUSCH transmission of a configured uplink grant is cancelled by CI-RNTI as specified in clause 11.2A of TS 38.213 [6] or cancelled by a high PHY-priority PUCCH transmission as specified in clause 9 of TS 38.213 [6], this configured uplink grant is considered as a de-prioritized uplink grant. If this de-prioritized uplink grant is configured with *autonomousTx*, the *configuredGrantTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process of this de-prioritized uplink grant shall be stopped if it is running. If this de-prioritized uplink grant is configured with *autonomousTx*, the *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process of this de-prioritized uplink grant shall be stopped if it is running.

When the MAC entity is configured with *lch-basedPrioritization*, for each uplink grant delivered to the HARQ entity and whose associated PUSCH can be transmitted by lower layers, the MAC entity shall:

1> if this uplink grant is received in a Random Access Response (i.e. in a MAC RAR or fallback RAR), or addressed to Temporary C-RNTI, or is determined as specified in clause 5.1.2a for the transmission of the MSGA payload:

2> consider this uplink grant as a prioritized uplink grant.

1> else if this uplink grant is addressed to CS-RNTI with NDI = 1 or C-RNTI:

2> if there is no overlapping PUSCH duration of a configured uplink grant which was not already de-prioritized, in the same BWP, whose priority is higher than the priority of the uplink grant; and

2> if there is no overlapping PUCCH resource with an SR transmission which was not already de-prioritized and the simultaneous transmission of the SR and the uplink grant is not allowed by configuration of *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH* or *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH-SecondaryPUCCHgroup* or *simultaneousSR-PUSCH-diffPUCCH-Groups*, and the priority of the logical channel that triggered the SR is higher than the priority of the uplink grant:

3> consider this uplink grant as a prioritized uplink grant;

3> consider the other overlapping uplink grant(s), if any, as a de-prioritized uplink grant(s);

3> consider the other overlapping SR transmission(s), if any, as a de-prioritized SR transmission(s), except for the SR transmission(s) whose simultaneous transmission is allowed by configuration of *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH* or *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH-SecondaryPUCCHgroup* or *simultaneousSR-PUSCH-diffPUCCH-Groups*;

3> if the de-prioritized uplink grant(s) is a configured uplink grant configured with *autonomousTx* whose PUSCH has already started:

4> stop the *configuredGrantTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process of the de-prioritized uplink grant(s);

4> stop the *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process of the de-prioritized uplink grant(s).

1> else if this uplink grant is a configured uplink grant:

2> if there is no overlapping PUSCH duration of another configured uplink grant which was not already de-prioritized, in the same BWP, whose priority is higher than the priority of the uplink grant; and

2> if there is no overlapping PUSCH duration of an uplink grant addressed to CS-RNTI with NDI = 1 or C-RNTI which was not already de-prioritized, in the same BWP, whose priority is higher than or equal to the priority of the uplink grant; and

2> if there is no overlapping PUCCH resource with an SR transmission which was not already de-prioritized and the simultaneous transmission of the SR and the uplink grant is not allowed by configuration of *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH* or *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH-SecondaryPUCCHgroup* or *simultaneousSR-PUSCH-diffPUCCH-Groups*, and the priority of the logical channel that triggered the SR is higher than the priority of the uplink grant:

3> consider this uplink grant as a prioritized uplink grant;

3> consider the other overlapping uplink grant(s), if any, as a de-prioritized uplink grant(s);

3> if the de-prioritized uplink grant(s) is a configured uplink grant configured with *autonomousTx* whose PUSCH has already started:

4> stop the *configuredGrantTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process of the de-prioritized uplink grant(s);

4> stop the *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for the corresponding HARQ process of the de-prioritized uplink grant(s).

3> consider the other overlapping SR transmission(s), if any, as a de-prioritized SR transmission(s), except for the SR transmission(s) whose simultaneous transmission is allowed by configuration of *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH* or *simultaneousPUCCH-PUSCH-SecondaryPUCCHgroup* or *simultaneousSR-PUSCH-diffPUCCH-Groups*.

NOTE 6: If the MAC entity is configured with *lch-basedPrioritization* and if there is overlapping PUSCH duration of at least two configured uplink grants whose priorities are equal, the prioritized uplink grant is determined by UE implementation.

NOTE 7: If the MAC entity is not configured with *lch-basedPrioritization* and if there is overlapping PUSCH duration of at least two configured uplink grants, it is up to UE implementation to choose one of the configured uplink grants.

NOTE 8: If the MAC entity is configured with *lch-basedPrioritization*, the MAC entity does not take UCI multiplexing according to the procedure specified in TS 38.213 [6] into account when determining whether the PUSCH duration of an uplink grant overlaps with the PUCCH resource for an SR transmission.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< Change ends >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< Next change begins >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

## 5.XX Preallocated uplink grant

When the preallocated uplink grant configuration is released by RRC, the corresponding preallocated uplink grant shall be discarded.

NOTE X: Retransmissions for uplink transmissions using the preallocated uplink grant can continue after clearing the preallocated uplink grant.

Editor’s note: *Agreement:* - The pre-allocated grant is provided as type-1 CG

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< End of Changes >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

# Annex – Agreements

### RAN2#121bis-e Agreements

Come back to the proposal to broadcast the target cell’s servingCellConfigCommon (as common (C)HO signalling) after feedback from RAN3

Send al LS to RAN3 asking whether, in case target cell’s servingCellConfigCommon is broadcast in the source cell (as common (C)HO signalling), the target cell’s servingCellConfigCommon can be transferred to the source cell in the inter-gNB HO case in R18

Group handover related to P1~P4 from R2-2304736 is not supported in Rel-18.

In NTN RACH-less handover, NW either indicates NTA in the target cell is identical to the source cell, or the NTA explicitly provided by the NW is 0. RAN2 will not discuss the case where NTA does not equal to 0

From RAN2 perspective synchronization among source and target cells is not an issue in NTN RACH-less HO

Release pre-allocated UL grant after RACH-less HO completion

LTE approach (of confirming the HO completion) is reused for both pre-allocated grant and dynamic grant. FFS any enhancement to the confirmation of RACH-less HO completion, e.g. the NW does not send the UE Contention Resolution Identity MAC CE, and sends PDCCH/PDSCH addressed to C-RNTI

Remove “FFS how to perform RACH-less UL synchronization to NTN target cell”, RAN2 assumes the UL sync handling in the target cell is the same in RACH-based HO and RACH-less HO, except how to acquire NTA (FFS on the spec impact , if any)

t-Service in SIB19 can also be interpreted by Rel-18 UE in Connected mode to know that a satellite change or feeder link change happens

In hard switch unchanged PCI scenario (i.e. no handover), the UE needs to know the time the UE attempts to re-synchronize. (FFS whether a new “t-Start” / a t-gap is needed or whether t-Service can be reused (i.e. no other IE) if the gap is very short/zero).

### RAN2#121bis-e Agreements

Rel-18 NTN coverage enhancements work will focus on addressing the RAN2 impact (if any) from RAN1 agreements on PUCCH enhancements for MSG4 HARQ-ACK and DMRS bundling for PUSCH. No further enhancements are pursued in this release

In Rel-18 we don’t aim at RACH-less HO for NTN-TN mobility

For initial UL transmission in RACH-less HO, support pre-allocated grant in RACH-less HO command

NTN RACH-less HO is supported for Intra-satellite handover with the same feeder link. i.e., with same gateway/gNB;

NTN RACH-less HO can be supported for intra-satellite handover with different feeder links, i.e., with gateway/gNB switch, inter-satellite handover with gateway/gNB switch, and inter-satellite handover with same gateway/gNB.

RAN2 confirms the general UE procedure for NTN RACH-less HO

* receive a RACH-less HO command which can include pre-allocated grant optionally. FFS N\_TA is optional. (RRC)
* start timer T304 for the target cell (RRC)
* perform DL and UL synchronization, and start timer T430. FFS how to perform RACH-less UL synchronization to NTN target cell. (RRC, MAC)
* start time alignment timer (MAC)
* monitor target cell PDCCH for dynamic grant if pre-allocated grant is not configured in RACH-less HO command (MAC, PHY)
* send initial UL transmission including RRCReconfigurationComplete message using the available UL grant (RRC, MAC, PHY)
* consider RACH-less HO is completed upon receiving NW confirmation. FFS how to confirm RACH-less HO is successfully completed. (RRC, MAC)
* stop timer T304 for the target cell. (RRC)
	+ FFS whether to release UL grant if pre-allocated after RACH-less HO completion
	+ FFS RACH-less HO failure handling, e.g. whether UE fallback to RACH-based HO to the target cell
	+ FFS procedure for RACH-less HO combined with PCI unchanged or CHO if supported

The pre-allocated grant is provided as type-1 CG

Send an LS to RAN1 informing RAN2 agreements on NTN RACH-less HO and check RAN1 views on the following aspects:

* whether the pre-allocated grant is provided with association to SSBs; if so, whether a RSRP threshold is configured for SSB selection.
* to monitor target cell PDCCH for dynamic grant for initial UL transmission, whether beam indication can be provided in RACH-less HO command.
* power control for initial UL transmission

At least for pre-allocated grant, for the confirmation of RACH-less HO completion we reuse of LTE approach, i.e., UE Contention Resolution Identity MAC CE is used but UE ignores the content of this field. FFS if anything else is needed for dynamic grant

Consider to support combining RACH-less HO with time-based CHO for NTN, taking into account the 1) validity of pre-allocated grant and potential waste of reserved resource; 2) when/how to provide dynamic grant in PDCCH.

### RAN2#121e Agreements

RAN2 will work on a solution that ensures that location verification can be completed within a period of approximately 1 minute maximum and 30 seconds preferably.

For network verified UE location, the verification procedure can only be triggered by the CN.

Network initiated verification procedure can be triggered by the NW when the UE is in RRC Connected. FFS whether the NTN UE can perform/report measurements also when in Inactive state.

RAN2 will not specify an AS mechanism to prevent UEs not supporting the required RAT dependent positioning methods to access the network

RAN2 assumes that, as a baseline, legacy signalling procedure of location service can be reused for the purpose of network verified UE location in NTN.

RAN2 assumes that in general the mirror point issue can be resolved by properly configuring neighbor cell measurement to UE, for example, measurement of two neighbor cells in the opposite side of a satellite beam. FFS if there are any cases that require anything in the specs

TN coverage area information will be associated to the frequency information.

RAN2 adopts explicit description of geographical TN area, and focuses on the following options for further discussion, taking the signalling overhead into account (FFS on the accuracy of the information):

* Option 1: The corresponding geographical area information is provided by network with location coordinates of area center and radius.
* Option 2: a boundary line is provided by network in the format of a list of location coordinates, additionally an indication can be used to indicate which side is the TN side
* Option 6: for each TN area, a list of locations is provided by network, and the corresponding close shape could be illustrated by a polygon connecting these points within the list.

As a baseline, broadcast signalling is used to provide the information on the TN coverage area for UEs supporting NTN.

Also based on the signalling overhead of the broadcast solution, RAN2 will further consider the option that UE-specific update can be optionally be provided via dedicated signalling, overriding the broadcast configuration (FFS if via RRC or higher layers. FFS on the validity time, if provided by RRC)

We don’t introduce additional cell reselection prioritization rules for NTN vs TN in Rel-18 (e.g. per service type, per mobility state, or per UE type) on top of what specified in Rel-17

In R18, for earth-moving system, satellite with steerable beam is not considered as part of mobility enhancement in NTN.

A serving cell reference location and a distance threshold/radius will be broadcast for earth-moving cell. FFS on whether the R17 IEs are reused or not. FFS on whether additional information needs to be broadcast to inform the UE how the reference location moves over time or if this can be derived from other information (e.g. Epoch time and ephemeris).

For cell selection/reselection, location-based measurement initiation is supported in earth-moving cell

For earth-moving cell, the location-based cell measurement rules of quasi-fixed cell is reused, i.e., for cell reselection in earth-moving cell, UE initiates measurements when its location to serving cell reference location is larger than the configured distance threshold.

Continue in the next meeting, to show the possible signalling gain of the proposal to have some common (C)HO configuration. FFS the number of cells that could be signalled. FFS whether broadcast or groupcast signalling could be used.

For location-based CHO for earth-moving cells we follow the solution being investigated for cell reselection to allow the UE to derive the serving cell’s reference locations as the cells move. FFS whether the same mechanism can also be used for the candidate cell’s reference location

Support RACH-less Handover in Rel-18.

RACH-less Handover in NR NTN is a L3 mobility procedure (FFS if this is combined with the unchanged PCI approach, if supported) and uses the LTE’s RACH-less Handover procedure as a baseline. FFS on TA acquisition

In NTN RACH-less handover, network indicates (implicitly or explicitly) whether NTA in the target cell is identical to the source cell or explicitly provided by the NW.

Support dynamic grant from the target cell for RACH-less PUSCH transmission to reduce random access congestion in the target cell. FFS whether to limit the solution to same feeder link/gateway scenario

Working Assumption: In quasi-earth fixed cell case, for hard satellite switch in the same SSB frequency and same gNB (no key change), satellite switching without PCI changing (not requiring L3 mobility) is supported

### RAN2#120 Agreements

From RAN2 perspective we don’t consider msg3 repetition enhancements in R18 NR NTN (apart from msg3 for CFRA, if decided by RAN1)

RAN2 will consider enhancements to enable initial blind Msg3 retransmission grant reception in Rel-18 NTN

RAN2 doesn’t consider using shorter PDCP SN for VoNR in NTN.

Using RLC TM mode for VoNR in NTN is not supported.

RAN2 doesn’t consider MAC enhancement to reduce MAC header size for VoNR in NTN.

RAN2 will not specify signalling whereby the RAN knows the UE’s frame aggregation information in a voice packet

From RAN2 point of view, assuming the NW may allow the UEs access to services before verifying the UE reported location, the latency of the NW verification can be handled by the NW.

RAN2 agrees the re-use of the LCS framework of the LMF for the network verification of UE reported location information in NTN.

RAN2 will work on the details of radio protocol aspects of the verification procedure based on the solution investigated by RAN1

RAN2 will first continue the investigation on the details of the TN coverage data (e.g. accuracy requirements for describing where TN network(s) is/are available) and UE storage overhead before deciding how to send the information to the UE.

Continue the discussion on whether to introduce explicit indication to identify TN cells from inter-frequency list and inter-RAT frequency list (FFS on the granularity) or whether we rely on implicit information.

### RAN2#119bis-e Agreements

RAN2 thinks a UE may use application layer frame aggregation by implementation (no RAN2 spec impacts). (RAN2 can further discuss whether RAN needs to know whether UE is using frame aggregation in the voice packet)

RAN2 understands that it is up to network implementation to decide whether to configure SDAP header and integrity protection for a VoNR DRB to reduce the protocol overhead (no RAN2 spec impacts)

RAN2 assumes that the network is able to compute possible UE locations independently from the GNSS location reported by UE

RAN2 assumes that the UE location verification procedure can be triggered by the CN and it is up to the CN to decide when to trigger the procedure

RAN2 should consider in priority the NGSO case with earth moving and earth fixed beams for the definition of the UE location verification procedure

Multi-connectivity involving multiple NTN NG-RAN nodes or NTN NG-RAN node and TN NG-RAN node is not part of the Rel-18 study on UE location verification

RAN2 assumes that the verification of the consistency (within 5-10 km) between the actual reported UE location with the UE location(s) computed by the network is up to the 5GC. (this doesn’t mean that RAN2 has nothing to do for this WI objective)

For NTN-NTN cell reselection with earth moving cell, RAN2 will consider providing parameters of serving cell to UE, for UE to estimate when the serving cell stops providing coverage at the present UE location (FFS whether this will be an optional UE feature) (this does not exclude any time-based or location-based approach) (other solutions can also be considered)

To enhance NTN-TN cell reselection, means are defined for a UE to differentiate when camping in an area only covered by NTN network (earth-moving or earth-fixed) vs an area where TN network(s) is/are also available.

System information is the basic means for providing necessary parameters to assist UE to estimate when the serving cell stops providing coverage at the present UE location.

UE is not required to perform neighbour cell measurements for TN neighbour cells in an area where there is no TN network coverage.

The method of detecting the transmission energy or SIB presence to determine the NTN coverage when a UE currently camps on a TN cell is not pursued.

In Earth-moving cell, the reference location and distance threshold of serving cell are provided by network for UE to estimate when the serving cell stops providing coverage at the present UE location. FFS how the reference location and/or distance threshold are provided to the UE

RAN2 can further consider whether some information in the handover command that can be common to all UEs, can be delivered to UEs in common signalling and if there is real benefit (in terms of signalling overhead reduction) in this

Send an LS to RAN1 (cc RAN4) listing the scenarios (intra-satellite, inter-satellite with same or different feeder links) and check with RAN1 in which scenarios RACH-less is possible (with no indication of RAN2 preference)

Continue the discussion (in future meeting) on group HO / “UE specific pre-configuration of the target cell + group HO” indication in the next meeting, also on the possible real benefits

RAN2 confirms that at least for the moving cell case the next serving cells can be largely predicted in NTN (at least for UEs not at the cell edge) thanks to the existence of predefined satellite orbits and negligible UE’s mobility in comparison to satellite’s motion (we can further discuss at the next meeting whether this applies to idle mode UEs as well)

RAN2 continues the discussion (e.g. at RAN2#120) on the solution with keeping the same PCI after switching of the satellites. Clarify at least the following:

* RAN1 impact
* The need to perform UL beam switching and/or RA
* Applicability to hard or soft satellite switching

### RAN2#119-e Agreements

RAN2 understands that, based on the WID, only solutions that address the NTN specific characteristics (e.g. related to propagation delays, coverage loss, satellite movement) should be considered. But the identified solutions could then also be applicable to other cases (TN networks). In any case this will be discussed case by case (this understanding is not meant to change the WID description)

The UE location information is considered verified if the reported GNSS position is consistent with the network based assessment to within 5-10 km (similar to terrestrial network macro cell size) (it is assumed that there is no RAN2 spec impact due to this)

RAN2 should consider, as starting point, the re-use of the LCS framework of the LMF network for the network verification procedure. Send an LS to SA2 indicating RAN2 assumption on this

The network verification of the UE reported location may combine one or several 3GPP defined RAT dependent positioning methods (e.g. Multi RTT, DL/UL-TDOA, DL-AoA, NR E-CID, etc.).

RAN2 to work on a solution so that measurements for TN’s coverage are performed only when relevant (FFS what relevant means).

RAN2 to work on assistance information that can be provided to NTN UEs for the above.

Cell reselection enhancements (for both NTN-NTN and NTN-TN mobility) are considered for both Earth-moving and (quasi-)Earth-fixed scenarios, at least via the use of system information for broadcasting necessary parameters (dedicated signalling is not precluded). FFS whether the same or different solutions are used for Earth-moving and (quasi-)Earth-fixed scenarios