**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2#124 R2-231xxxx**

**Chicago, USA, November 13 – 17, 2023**

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| *CR-Form-v12.2* | | | | | | | | |
| **CHANGE REQUEST** | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **38.300** | **CR** | **-** | **rev** | **-** | **Current version:** | **17.6.0** |  |
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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:*** | Introduction of NR further mobility enhancements in TS 38.300 | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Source to WG:*** | MediaTek Inc., vivo | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Source to TSG:*** | R2 | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Work item code:*** | NR\_Mob\_enh2-Core | | | | |  | ***Date:*** | | | 2023-11-23 |
|  |  | | | |  | |  | | |  |
| ***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 can be 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-16 (Release 16) Rel-17 (Release 17) Rel-18 (Release 18) Rel-19 (Release 19)* | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Reason for change:*** | | This CR introduces the support of Rel-18 further NR mobility enhancements, including L1/L2 Triggered Mobility (LTM). | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Summary of change:*** | | In order to introduce the further NR mobility enhancements, following procedures and changes are introduced in the stage-2 specification.   1. Add definitions and abbreviations for LTM 2. Changes in the overview of mobility in RRC\_CONNECTED, random access procedure, radio link failure, and activation/deactivation mechanism 3. Add introduction of LTM including general description, CP handling and UP handling 4. Add mobility latency time chart in Annex | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Consequences if not approved:*** | | Rel-18 further NR mobility enhancements (including LTM) are not supported by TS 38.300. | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Clauses affected:*** | | 3.1, 3.2, 9.2.3, 9.2.6, 9.2.7, 10.6, Annex X(new) | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | **Y** | **N** |  | | | |  | | |
| ***Other specs*** | | **X** |  | Other core specifications | | | | TS/TR ... CR ... | | |
| ***affected:*** | |  | **N** | Test specifications | | | | TS/TR ... CR ... | | |
| ***(show related CRs)*** | |  | **N** | O&M Specifications | | | | TS/TR ... CR ... | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Other comments:*** | |  | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***This CR's revision history:*** | |  | | | | | | | | |

*Start of change*

## 3.1 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1], in TS 36.300 [2] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1] and TS 36.300 [2].

5GC 5G Core Network

5GS 5G System

5QI 5G QoS Identifier

A-CSI Aperiodic CSI

AGC Automatic Gain Control

AKA Authentication and Key Agreement

AMBR Aggregate Maximum Bit Rate

AMC Adaptive Modulation and Coding

AMF Access and Mobility Management Function

ARP Allocation and Retention Priority

BA Bandwidth Adaptation

BCCH Broadcast Control Channel

BCH Broadcast Channel

BFD Beam Failure Detection

BH Backhaul

BL Bandwidth reduced Low complexity

BPSK Binary Phase Shift Keying

C-RNTI Cell RNTI

CAG Closed Access Group

CAPC Channel Access Priority Class

CBRA Contention Based Random Access

CCE Control Channel Element

CD-SSB Cell Defining SSB

CFR Common Frequency Resource

CFRA Contention Free Random Access

CG Configured Grant

CHO Conditional Handover

CIoT Cellular Internet of Things

CLI Cross Link interference

CMAS Commercial Mobile Alert Service

CORESET Control Resource Set

CP Cyclic Prefix

CPA Conditional PSCell Addition

CPC Conditional PSCell Change

DAG Directed Acyclic Graph

DAPS Dual Active Protocol Stack

DFT Discrete Fourier Transform

DCI Downlink Control Information

DCP DCI with CRC scrambled by PS-RNTI

DL-AoD Downlink Angle-of-Departure

DL-SCH Downlink Shared Channel

DL-TDOA Downlink Time Difference Of Arrival

DMRS Demodulation Reference Signal

DRX Discontinuous Reception

E-CID Enhanced Cell-ID (positioning method)

EHC Ethernet Header Compression

ePWS enhancements of Public Warning System

ETWS Earthquake and Tsunami Warning System

FS Feature Set

FSA ID Frequency Selection Area Identity

G-CS-RNTI Group Configured Scheduling RNTI

G-RNTI Group RNTI

GFBR Guaranteed Flow Bit Rate

GIN Group ID for Network selection

GNSS Global Navigation Satellite System

GSO Geosynchronous Orbit

H-SFN Hyper System Frame Number

HAPS High Altitude Platform Station

HRNN Human-Readable Network Name

IAB Integrated Access and Backhaul

IFRI Intra Frequency Reselection Indication

I-RNTI Inactive RNTI

INT-RNTI Interruption RNTI

KPAS Korean Public Alarm System

L2 Layer-2

L3 Layer-3

LDPC Low Density Parity Check

LEO Low Earth Orbit

LTM L1/L2 Triggered Mobility

MBS Multicast/Broadcast Services

MCE Measurement Collection Entity

MCCH MBS Control Channel

MDBV Maximum Data Burst Volume

MEO Medium Earth Orbit

MIB Master Information Block

MICO Mobile Initiated Connection Only

MFBR Maximum Flow Bit Rate

MMTEL Multimedia telephony

MNO Mobile Network Operator

MPE Maximum Permissible Exposure

MRB MBS Radio Bearer

MT Mobile Termination

MTCH MBS Traffic Channel

MTSI Multimedia Telephony Service for IMS

MU-MIMO Multi User MIMO

Multi-RTT Multi-Round Trip Time

MUSIM Multi-Universal Subscriber Identity Module

NB-IoT Narrow Band Internet of Things

NCD-SSB Non Cell Defining SSB

NCGI NR Cell Global Identifier

NCL Neighbour Cell List

NCR Neighbour Cell Relation

NCRT Neighbour Cell Relation Table

NGAP NG Application Protocol

NGSO Non-Geosynchronous Orbit

NID Network Identifier

NPN Non-Public Network

NR NR Radio Access

NSAG Network Slice AS Group

NTN Non-Terrestrial Network

P-MPR Power Management Maximum Power Reduction

P-RNTI Paging RNTI

PCH Paging Channel

PCI Physical Cell Identifier

PDC Propagation Delay Compensation

PDCCH Physical Downlink Control Channel

PDSCH Physical Downlink Shared Channel

PEI Paging Early Indication

PH Paging Hyperframe

PLMN Public Land Mobile Network

PNI-NPN Public Network Integrated NPN

PO Paging Occasion

PRACH Physical Random Access Channel

PRB Physical Resource Block

PRG Precoding Resource block Group

PRS Positioning Reference Signal

PS-RNTI Power Saving RNTI

PSS Primary Synchronisation Signal

PTM Point to Multipoint

PTP Point to Point

PTW Paging Time Window

PUCCH Physical Uplink Control Channel

PUSCH Physical Uplink Shared Channel

PWS Public Warning System

QAM Quadrature Amplitude Modulation

QFI QoS Flow ID

QMC QoE Measurement Collection

QoE Quality of Experience

QPSK Quadrature Phase Shift Keying

RA Random Access

RA-RNTI Random Access RNTI

RACH Random Access Channel

RANAC RAN-based Notification Area Code

REG Resource Element Group

RIM Remote Interference Management

RLM Radio Link Monitoring

RMSI Remaining Minimum SI

RNA RAN-based Notification Area

RNAU RAN-based Notification Area Update

RNTI Radio Network Temporary Identifier

RQA Reflective QoS Attribute

RQoS Reflective Quality of Service

RS Reference Signal

RSRP Reference Signal Received Power

RSRQ Reference Signal Received Quality

RSSI Received Signal Strength Indicator

RSTD Reference Signal Time Difference

RTT Round Trip Time

SCS SubCarrier Spacing

SD Slice Differentiator

SDAP Service Data Adaptation Protocol

SDT Small Data Transmission

SD-RSRP Sidelink Discovery RSRP

SFI-RNTI Slot Format Indication RNTI

SHR Successful Handover Report

SIB System Information Block

SI-RNTI System Information RNTI

SLA Service Level Agreement

SL-RSRP Sidelink RSRP

SMC Security Mode Command

SMF Session Management Function

SMTC SS/PBCH block Measurement Timing Configuration

S-NSSAI Single Network Slice Selection Assistance Information

SNPN Stand-alone Non-Public Network

SNPN ID Stand-alone Non-Public Network Identity

SPS Semi-Persistent Scheduling

SR Scheduling Request

SRAP Sidelink Relay Adaptation Protocol

SRS Sounding Reference Signal

SRVCC Single Radio Voice Call Continuity

SS Synchronization Signal

SSB SS/PBCH block

SSS Secondary Synchronisation Signal

SSSG Search Space Set Group

SST Slice/Service Type

SU-MIMO Single User MIMO

SUL Supplementary Uplink

TA Timing Advance

TB Transport Block

TCE Trace Collection Entity

TNL Transport Network Layer

TPC Transmit Power Control

TRP Transmit/Receive Point

TRS Tracking Reference Signal

U2N UE-to-Network

UCI Uplink Control Information

UDC Uplink Data Compression

UE-Slice-MBR UE Slice Maximum Bit Rate

UL-AoA Uplink Angles of Arrival

UL-RTOA Uplink Relative Time of Arrival

UL-SCH Uplink Shared Channel

UPF User Plane Function

URLLC Ultra-Reliable and Low Latency Communications

VR Virtual Reality

V2X Vehicle-to-Everything

Xn-C Xn-Control plane

Xn-U Xn-User plane

XnAP Xn Application Protocol

*Next change*

## 3.2 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1], in TS 36.300 [2] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1] and TS 36.300 [2].

**BH RLC channel**: an RLC channel between two nodes, which is used to transport backhaul packets**.**

**Boundary IAB-node:** as defined in TS 38.401 [4].

**Broadcast MRB**:A radio bearer configured for MBS broadcast delivery.

**CAG Cell**:a PLMN cell broadcasting at least one Closed Access Group identity.

**CAG Member Cell**:for a UE, a CAG cell broadcasting the identity of the selected PLMN, registered PLMN or equivalent PLMN, and for that PLMN, a CAG identifier belonging to the Allowed CAG list of the UE for that PLMN.

**CAG-only cell**: a CAG cell that is only available for normal service for CAG UEs.

**Cell-Defining SSB**: an SSB with an RMSI associated.

**Child node**: IAB-DU's and IAB-donor-DU's next hop neighbour node; the child node is also an IAB-node.

**Conditional Handover (CHO**): a handover procedure that is executed only when execution condition(s) are met.

**CORESET#0**: the control resource set for at least SIB1 scheduling, can be configured either via MIB or via dedicated RRC signalling.

**DAPS Handover**: a handover procedure that maintains the source gNB connection after reception of RRC message for handover and until releasing the source cell after successful random access to the target gNB.

**Direct Path**: a type of UE-to-Network transmission path, where data is transmitted between a UE and the network without sidelink relaying.

**Downstream**: direction toward child node or UE in IAB-topology.

**Early Data Forwarding**: data forwarding that is initiated before the UE executes the handover.

**Earth-centered, earth-fixed**: a global geodetic reference system for the Earth intended for practical applications of mapping, charting, geopositioning and navigation, as specified in NIMA TR 8350.2 [51].

**Feeder link**: wireless link between the NTN Gateway and the NTN payload.

**Geosynchronous Orbit**: earth-centered orbit at approximately 35786 kilometres above Earth's surface and synchronised with Earth's rotation. A geostationary orbit is a non-inclined geosynchronous orbit, i.e. in the Earth's equator plane.

**Group ID for Network Selection**: an identifier used during SNPN selection to enhance the likelihood of selecting a preferred SNPN that supports a Default Credentials Server or a Credentials Holder, as specified in TS 23.501 [3].

**gNB**: node providing NR user plane and control plane protocol terminations towards the UE, and connected via the NG interface to the 5GC.

**High Altitude Platform Station**: airborne vehicle embarking the NTN payload placed at an altitude between 8 and 50 km.

**IAB-donor**:gNB that provides network access to UEs via a network of backhaul and access links.

**IAB-donor-CU**: as defined in TS 38.401 [4].

**IAB-donor-DU**:as defined in TS 38.401 [4].

**IAB-DU**: gNB-DU functionality supported by the IAB-node to terminate the NR access interface to UEs and next-hop IAB-nodes, and to terminate the F1 protocol to the gNB-CU functionality, as defined in TS 38.401 [4], on the IAB-donor.

**IAB-MT**: IAB-node function that terminates the Uu interface to the parent node using the procedures and behaviours specified for UEs unless stated otherwise. IAB-MT function used in 38-series of 3GPP Specifications corresponds to IAB-UE function defined in TS 23.501 [3].

**IAB-node**: RAN node that supports NR access links to UEs and NR backhaul links to parent nodes and child nodes. The IAB-node does not support backhauling via LTE.

**IAB topology**: the unison of all IAB-nodes and IAB-donor-DUs whose F1 and/or RRC connections are terminated at the same IAB-donor-CU.

**Indirect Path**: a type of UE-to-Network transmission path, where data is forwarded via a U2N Relay UE between a U2N Remote UE and the network.

**Inter-donor partial migration:** migration of an IAB-MT to a parent node underneath a different IAB-donor-CU while the collocated IAB-DU and its descendant IAB-node(s), if any, are terminated at the initial IAB-donor-CU. The procedure renders the said IAB-node as a boundary IAB-node.

**Intra-system Handover**:handover that does not involve a CN change (EPC or 5GC).

**Inter-system Handover**:handover that involves a CN change (EPC or 5GC).

**Late Data Forwarding**: data forwarding that is initiated after the source NG-RAN node knows that the UE has successfully accessed a target NG-RAN node.

**L1/L2 Triggered Mobility**: a cell switch procedure that the network triggers via MAC CE based on L1 measurements.

**Mapped Cell ID**: in NTN, it corresponds to a fixed geographical area.

**MBS Radio Bearer**: A radio bearer configured for MBS delivery.

**MSG1**: preamble transmission of the random access procedure for 4-step random access (RA) type.

**MSG3**: first scheduled transmission of the random access procedure.

**MSGA**:preamble and payload transmissions of the random access procedure for 2-step RA type.

**MSGB**:response to MSGA in the 2-step random access procedure. MSGB may consist of response(s) for contention resolution, fallback indication(s), and backoff indication.

**Multicast/Broadcast Service**: A point-to-multipoint service as defined in TS 23.247 [45].

**Multicast MRB**:A radio bearer configured for MBS multicast delivery.

**Multi-hop backhauling**: using a chain of NR backhaul links between an IAB-node and an IAB-donor.

**ng-eNB**: node providing E-UTRA user plane and control plane protocol terminations towards the UE, and connected via the NG interface to the 5GC.

**NG-C**: control plane interface between NG-RAN and 5GC.

**NG-U**: user plane interface between NG-RAN and 5GC.

**NG-RAN node**: either a gNB or an ng-eNB.

**Non-CAG Cell**: a PLMN cell which does not broadcast any Closed Access Group identity.

**Non-Geosynchronous orbit**: earth-centered orbit with an orbital period that does not match Earth's rotation on its axis. This includes Low and Medium Earth Orbit (LEO and MEO). LEO operates at altitudes between 300 km and 1500 km and MEO at altitudes between 7000 km and 25000 km, approximately.

**Non-terrestrial network**: an NG-RAN consisting of gNBs, which provide non-terrestrial NR access to UEs by means of an NTN payload embarked on an airborne or space-borne NTN vehicle and an NTN Gateway.

**NR backhaul link**: NR link used for backhauling between an IAB-node and an IAB-donor, and between IAB-nodes in case of a multi-hop backhauling.

**NR sidelink communication**: AS functionality enabling at least V2X communication as defined in TS 23.287 [40] and the ProSe communication (including ProSe non-Relay and UE-to-Network Relay communication) as defined in TS 23.304 [48], between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**NR sidelink discovery**: AS functionality enabling ProSe non-Relay Discovery and ProSe UE-to-Network Relay discovery for Proximity based Services as defined in TS 23.304 [48] between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**NTN Gateway**: an earth station located at the surface of the earth, providing connectivity to the NTN payload using the feeder link. An NTN Gateway is a TNL node.

**NTN payload**: a network node, embarked on board a satellite or high altitude platform station, providing connectivity functions, between the service link and the feeder link. In the current version of this specification, the NTN payload is a TNL node.

**Numerology**: corresponds to one subcarrier spacing in the frequency domain. By scaling a reference subcarrier spacing by an integer *N*, different numerologies can be defined.

**Parent node**: IAB-MT's next hop neighbour node; the parent node can be IAB-node or IAB-donor-DU

**PC5 Relay RLC channel**: an RLC channel between L2 U2N Remote UE and L2 U2N Relay UE, which is used to transport packets over PC5 for L2 UE-to-Network Relay**.**

**PLMN Cell**: a cell of the PLMN.

**RACH-less LTM**: an LTM cell switch procedure where UE skips the random access procedure.

**RedCap UE**: a UE with reduced capabilities as specified in clause 4.2.21.1 in TS 38.306 [11].

**Relay discovery**: AS functionality enabling 5G ProSe UE-to-Network Relay Discovery as defined in TS 23.304 [48], using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**Satellite**:a space-borne vehicle orbiting the Earth embarking the NTN payload.

**Service link**:wireless link between the NTN payload and UE.

**Sidelink Discovery RSRP:** RSRP measurements on PC5 link related to NR sidelink discovery.

**Sidelink RSRP:** RSRP measurements on PC5 link related to NR sidelink communication.

**SNPN Access Mode**: mode of operation whereby a UE only accesses SNPNs.

**SNPN-only cell**: a cell that is only available for normal service for SNPN subscribers.

**SNPN Identity**: the identity of Stand-alone NPN defined by the pair (PLMN ID, NID).

**Subsequent LTM**: LTM cell switch procedures between candidate cells without RRC reconfiguration by the network in between.

**Transmit/Receive Point**:part of the gNB transmitting and receiving radio signals to/from UE according to physical layer properties and parameters inherent to that element.

**U2N Relay UE**: a UE that provides functionality to support connectivity to the network for U2N Remote UE(s).

**U2N Remote UE**: a UE that communicates with the network via a U2N Relay UE.

**Upstream**: direction toward parent node in IAB-topology.

**Uu Relay RLC channel**: an RLC channel between L2 U2N Relay UE and gNB, which is used to transport packets over Uu for L2 UE-to-Network Relay**.**

**V2X sidelink communication**: AS functionality enabling V2X communication as defined in TS 23.285 [41], between nearby UEs, using E-UTRA technology but not traversing any network node.

**Xn**: network interface between NG-RAN nodes.

*Next change*

### 9.2.3 Mobility in RRC\_CONNECTED

#### 9.2.3.1 Overview

Network controlled mobility applies to UEs in RRC\_CONNECTED and is categorized into two types of mobility: cell level mobility and beam level mobility. Beam level mobility includes intra-cell beam level mobility and inter-cell beam level mobility.

**Cell Level Mobility** requires explicit RRC signalling to be triggered, i.e. handover. For inter-gNB handover, the signalling procedures consist of at least the following elemental components illustrated in Figure 9.2.3.1-1:



Figure 9.2.3.1-1: Inter-gNB handover procedures

1. The source gNB initiates handover and issues a HANDOVER REQUEST over the Xn interface.

2. The target gNB performs admission control and provides the new RRC configuration as part of the HANDOVER REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGE.

3. The source gNB provides the RRC configuration to the UE by forwarding the *RRCReconfiguration* message received in the HANDOVER REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGE. The *RRCReconfiguration* message includes at least cell ID and all information required to access the target cell so that the UE can access the target cell without reading system information. For some cases, the information required for contention-based and contention-free random access can be included in the *RRCReconfiguration* message. The access information to the target cell may include beam specific information, if any.

4. The UE moves the RRC connection to the target gNB and replies with the *RRCReconfigurationComplete*.

NOTE 1: User Data can also be sent in step 4 if the grant allows.

In case of DAPS handover, the UE continues the downlink user data reception from the source gNB until releasing the source cell and continues the uplink user data transmission to the source gNB until successful random access procedure to the target gNB.

Only source and target PCell are used during DAPS handover. CA, DC, SUL, multi-TRP, EHC, CHO, UDC, NR sidelink configurations, V2X sidelink configurations are released by the source gNB before the handover command is sent to the UE and are not configured by the target gNB until the DAPS handover has completed (i.e. at earliest in the same message that releases the source PCell).

The handover mechanism triggered by RRC requires the UE at least to reset the MAC entity and re-establish RLC, except for DAPS handover, where upon reception of the handover command, the UE:

- Creates a MAC entity for target;

- Establishes the RLC entity and an associated DTCH logical channel for target for each DRB configured with DAPS;

- For each DRB configured with DAPS, reconfigures the PDCP entity with separate security and ROHC functions for source and target and associates them with the RLC entities configured by source and target respectively;

- Retains the rest of the source configurations until release of the source.

The cell switch mechanism triggered by MAC, (i.e., LTM cell switch) requires the UE at least to reset the MAC entity. RLC handling depends on the network configuration.

NOTE 2: Void.

NOTE 3: Void.

RRC managed handovers with and without PDCP entity re-establishment are both supported. For DRBs using RLC AM mode, PDCP can either be re-established together with a security key change or initiate a data recovery procedure without a key change. For DRBs using RLC UM mode, PDCP can either be re-established together with a security key change or remain as it is without a key change. For SRBs, PDCP can either remain as it is, discard its stored PDCP PDUs/SDUs without a key change or be re-established together with a security key change.

Data forwarding, in-sequence delivery and duplication avoidance at handover can be guaranteed when the target gNB uses the same DRB configuration as the source gNB.

Timer based handover failure procedure is supported in NR. RRC connection re-establishment procedure is used for recovering from handover failure except in certain CHO,DAPS handover or LTM cell switch scenarios:

- When DAPS handover fails, the UE falls back to the source cell configuration, resumes the connection with the source cell, and reports DAPS handover failure via the source without triggering RRC connection re-establishment if the source link has not been released.

- When initial CHO execution attempt fails or HO fails, the UE performs cell selection, and if the selected cell is a CHO candidate and if network configured the UE to try CHO after handover/CHO failure, then the UE attempts CHO execution once, otherwise re-establishment is performed.

- When initial LTM execution attempt fails or HO fails, the UE performs cell selection and if the selected cell is an LTM candidate cell and if network configured the UE to try LTM after LTM execution failure, then the UE attempts LTM execution once, otherwise re-establishment is performed.

DAPS handover for FR2 to FR2 case is not supported in this release of the specification.

The handover of the IAB-MT in SA mode follows the same procedure as described for the UE. After the backhaul has been established, the handover of the IAB-MT is part of the intra-CU topology adaptation procedure defined in TS 38.401 [4]. Modifications to the configuration of BAP sublayer and higher protocol layers above the BAP sublayer are described in TS 38.401 [4].

**Beam Level Mobility** does not require explicit RRC signalling to be triggered. Beam level mobility can be within a cell, or between cells, the latter is referred to as inter-cell beam management (ICBM). For ICBM, a UE can receive or transmit UE dedicated channels/signals via a TRP associated with a PCI different from the PCI of a serving cell, while non-UE-dedicated channels/signals can only be received via a TRP associated with a PCI of the serving cell. The gNB provides via RRC signalling the UE with measurement configuration containing configurations of SSB/CSI resources and resource sets, reports and trigger states for triggering channel and interference measurements and reports. In case of ICBM, a measurement configuration includes SSB resources associated with PCIs different from the PCI of a serving cell. Beam Level Mobility is then dealt with at lower layers by means of physical layer and MAC layer control signalling, and RRC is not required to know which beam is being used at a given point in time.

SSB-based Beam Level Mobility is based on the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP and can only be configured for the initial DL BWPs and for DL BWPs containing the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP. For other DL BWPs, Beam Level Mobility can only be performed based on CSI-RS.

*Next change*

#### 9.2.3.x L1/L2-Triggered Mobility

##### 9.2.3.x.1 General

LTM is a procedure in which a gNB receives L1 measurement report(s) from a UE, and on their basis the gNB changes UE serving cell by a cell switch command signalled via a MAC CE. The cell switch command indicates an LTM candidate configuration that the gNB previously prepared and provided to the UE through RRC signalling. Then the UE switches to the target configuration according to the cell switch command. The LTM procedure can be used to reduce the mobility latency as described in Annex X.

When configured by the network, it is possible to activate TCI states of one or multiple cells that are different from the current serving cell. For instance, the TCI states of the LTM candidate cells can be activated in advance before any of those cells become the serving cell. This allows the UE to be DL synchronized with those cells, thereby facilitating a faster cell switch to one of those cells when cell switch is triggered.

When configured by the network, it is possible to initiate UL TA acquisition (called early TA) procedure of one or multiple cells that are different from the current serving cells. If the cell has the same NTA as the current serving cells or NTA=0, early TA acquisition procedure is not required. The network may request the UE to perform early TA acquisition of a candidate cell before a cell switch. The early TA acquisition procedure is triggered by PDCCH order as specified in clause 9.2.6 or realized through UE-based TA measurement as configured by RRC. In the former case, the gNB to which the candidate cell belongs calculates the TA value and sends it to the gNB to which the serving cell belongs. The serving cell sends the TA value in the LTM cell switch command MAC CE when triggering LTM cell switch. In the latter case, the UE performs TA measurement for the candidate cells after being configured by RRC but the exact time the UE performs TA measurement is up to UE implementation. The UE applies the TA value measured by itself and performs RACH-less LTM upon receiving the cell switch command. The network may also send a TA value in the LTM cell switch command MAC CE without early TA acquisition.

Depending on the availability of a valid TA value, the UE performs either a RACH-less LTM or RACH-based LTM cell switch. If the TA value is provided in the cell switch command, the UE applies the TA value as instructed by the network. In the case where UE-based TA measurement is configured, but no TA value is provided in the cell switch command, the UE applies the TA value by itself if available. Meanwhile, the UE performs RACH-less LTM cell switch upon receiving the cell switch command. If no valid TA value is available, the UE performs RACH-based LTM cell switch.

Regardless of whether the UE is configured for UE-based TA measurement for a certain candidate cell, it will still follow the PDCCH order, which includes requesting a random access procedure towards the candidate cells. This also applies to the candidate cells for which the UE is capable of deriving TA values by itself. Additionally, regardless of whether the UE has already performed a random access procedure towards the candidate cells, it will still follow the UE-based measurement configuration if configured by the network.

For RACH-less LTM, the UE accesses the target cell using either a configured grant or a dynamic grant. The configured grant is provided in the LTM candidate configuration, and the UE selects the configured grant occasion associated with the beam indicated in the cell switch command. Upon initiation of LTM cell switch to the target cell, the UE starts to monitor PDCCH on the target cell for dynamic scheduling. Before RACH-less LTM procedure completion, the UE shall not trigger random access procedure if it does not have a valid PUCCH resource for triggered SRs.

The following principles apply to LTM:

- Security key is maintained upon an LTM cell switch;

- Subsequent LTM is supported.

LTM supports both intra-gNB-DU and intra-gNB-CU inter-gNB-DU mobility. LTM supports both intra-frequency and inter-frequency mobility, including mobility to inter-frequency cell that is not a current serving cell. LTM is supported only for licensed spectrum. The following scenarios are supported:

- PCell change in non-CA scenario and non-DC scenario;

- PCell and SCell(s) change in CA scenario;

- Dual connectivity scenario, PCell and MCG SCell(s) change and intra-SN PSCell and SCG SCell(s) change without MN involvement. LTM for simultaneous PCell and PSCell change is not supported.

While the UE has stored LTM candidate configurations the UE can also execute any L3 handover command sent by the network.

##### 9.2.3.x.2 C-Plane Handling

Cell switch command is conveyed in a MAC CE, which contains the necessary information to perform the LTM cell switch.

The overall procedure for LTM is shown in Figure 9.2.3.x.2-1 below. Subsequent LTM is done by repeating the early synchronization, LTM cell switch execution, and LTM cell switch completion steps without releasing other LTM candidate configurations after each LTM cell switch completion. The general procedure over the air interface is applicable to SCG LTM. Further details of SCG LTM can be found in TS 37.340 [21].



Figure 9.2.3.x.2-1. Signaling procedure for LTM

The procedure for LTM is as follows:

1. The UE sends a *MeasurementReport* message to the gNB. The gNB decides to configure LTM and initiates LTM preparation.

2. The gNB transmits an *RRCReconfiguration* message to the UE including the LTM candidate configurations.

3. The UE stores the LTM candidate configurations and transmits an *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the gNB.

4a. The UE performs DL synchronization with the candidate cell(s) before receiving the cell switch command.

4b. When UE-based TA measurement is configured, UE acquires the TA value(s) of the candidate cell(s) by measurement. UE performs early TA acquisition with the candidate cell(s) as requested by the network before receiving the cell switch command as specified in clause 9.2.6. This is done via CFRA triggered by a PDCCH order from the source cell, following which the UE sends preamble towards the indicated candidate cell. In order to minimize the data interruption of the source cell due to CFRA towards the candidate cell(s), the UE doesn’t receive random access response from the network for the purpose of TA value acquisition and the TA value of the candidate cell is indicated in the cell switch command. The UE doesn’t maintain the TA timer for the candidate cell and relies on network implementation to guarantee the TA validity.

5. The UE performs L1 measurements on the configured candidate cell(s) and transmits L1 measurement reports to the gNB. L1 measurement should be performed as long as RRC reconfiguration (step 2) is applicable.

6. The gNB decides to execute cell switch to a target cell and transmits a MAC CE triggering cell switch by including the candidate configuration index of the target cell. The UE switches to the target cell and applies the configuration indicated by candidate configuration index.

7. The UE performs the random access procedure towards the target cell, if UE does not have valid TA of the target cell as specified in clause 6.1.3.xy of TS 38.321[6].

8. The UE completes the LTM cell switch procedure by sending *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to target cell. If the UE has performed a RA procedure in step 7 the UE considers that LTM cell switch execution is successfully completed when the random access procedure is successfully completed. For RACH-less LTM, the UE considers that LTM cell switch execution is successfully completed when the UE determines that the network has successfully received its first UL data.

The steps 4-8 can be performed multiple times for subsequent LTM using the LTM candidate configuration(s) provided in step 2.

The procedure over the air interface described in Figure x is applicable to both intra-gNB-DU LTM and inter-gNB-DU LTM. The overall LTM procedures over F1-C interface are captured in TS38.401[4].

##### 9.2.3.x.3 U-Plane Handling

After receiving an LTM cell switch command MAC CE, the UE performs MAC reset. Whether the UE performs RLC re-establishment and PDCP data recovery during cell switch is explicitly controlled by the network through RRC signalling.

*Next change*

### 9.2.6 Random Access Procedure

The random access procedure is triggered by a number of events:

- Initial access from RRC\_IDLE;

- RRC Connection Re-establishment procedure;

- DL or UL data arrival, during RRC\_CONNECTED or during RRC\_INACTIVE while SDT procedure (see clause 18.0) is ongoing, when UL synchronisation status is "non-synchronised";

- UL data arrival, during RRC\_CONNECTED or during RRC\_INACTIVE while SDT procedure is ongoing, when there are no PUCCH resources for SR available;

- SR failure;

- Request by RRC upon synchronous reconfiguration (e.g. handover);

- RRC Connection Resume procedure from RRC\_INACTIVE;

- To establish time alignment for a secondary TAG;

- Request for Other SI (see clause 7.3);

- Beam failure recovery;

- Consistent UL LBT failure on SpCell;

- SDT in RRC\_INACTIVE (see clause 18);

- Positioning purpose during RRC\_CONNECTED requiring random access procedure, e.g., when timing advance is needed for UE positioning;

- Early UL synchronization with an LTM candidate cell;

- RACH-based LTM cell switch.

Two types of random access procedure are supported: 4-step RA type with MSG1 and 2-step RA type with MSGA. Both types of RA procedure support contention-based random access (CBRA) and contention-free random access (CFRA) as shown on Figure 9.2.6-1 below.

The UE selects the type of random access at initiation of the random access procedure based on network configuration:

- when CFRA resources are not configured, an RSRP threshold is used by the UE to select between 2-step RA type and 4-step RA type;

- when CFRA resources for 4-step RA type are configured, UE performs random access with 4-step RA type;

- when CFRA resources for 2-step RA type are configured, UE performs random access with 2-step RA type.

The network does not configure CFRA resources for 4-step and 2-step RA types at the same time for a Bandwidth Part (BWP). CFRA with 2-step RA type is only supported for handover.

The MSG1 of the 4-step RA type consists of a preamble on PRACH. After MSG1 transmission, the UE monitors for a response from the network within a configured window. For CFRA, dedicated preamble for MSG1 transmission is assigned by the network and upon receiving random access response from the network, the UE ends the random access procedure as shown in Figure 9.2.6-1(c). For CBRA, upon reception of the random access response, the UE sends MSG3 using the UL grant scheduled in the response and monitors contention resolution as shown in Figure 9.2.6-1(a). If contention resolution is not successful after MSG3 (re)transmission(s), the UE goes back to MSG1 transmission.

The MSGA of the 2-step RA type includes a preamble on PRACH and a payload on PUSCH. After MSGA transmission, the UE monitors for a response from the network within a configured window. For CFRA, dedicated preamble and PUSCH resource are configured for MSGA transmission and upon receiving the network response, the UE ends the random access procedure as shown in Figure 9.2.6-1(d). For CBRA, if contention resolution is successful upon receiving the network response, the UE ends the random access procedure as shown in Figure 9.2.6-1(b); while if fallback indication is received in MSGB, the UE performs MSG3 transmission using the UL grant scheduled in the fallback indication and monitors contention resolution as shown in Figure 9.2.6-2. If contention resolution is not successful after MSG3 (re)transmission(s), the UE goes back to MSGA transmission.

If the random access procedure with 2-step RA type is not completed after a number of MSGA transmissions, the UE can be configured to switch to CBRA with 4-step RA type.

For the random access procedure towards an LTM candidate cell for early UL TA acquisition, CFRA triggered by a PDCCH order is used. The UE sends MSG1 towards the cell without monitoring for a response from it as shown in Figure 9.2.6-1 (e). To support UE power ramping, the UE may perform MSG1 retransmission as indicated by the network.

 

(a) CBRA with 4-step RA type (b) CBRA with 2-step RA type

 

(c) CFRA with 4-step RA type (d) CFRA with 2-step RA type



(e) CFRA without network response with 4-step RA type

Figure 9.2.6-1: Random Access Procedures



Figure 9.2.6-2: Fallback for CBRA with 2-step RA type

For random access in a cell configured with SUL, the network can explicitly signal which carrier to use (UL or SUL). Otherwise, the UE selects the SUL carrier if and only if the measured quality of the DL is lower than a broadcast threshold. UE performs carrier selection before selecting between 2-step and 4-step RA type. The RSRP threshold for selecting between 2-step and 4-step RA type can be configured separately for UL and SUL. Once started, all uplink transmissions of the random access procedure remain on the selected carrier.

The network can associate a set of RACH resources with feature(s) applicable to a Random Access procedure: Network Slicing (see clause 16.3), RedCap (see clause 16.13), SDT (see clause 18), and NR coverage enhancement (see clause 19). A set of RACH resources associated with a feature is only valid for random access procedures applicable to at least that feature; and a set of RACH resources associated with several features is only valid for random access procedures having at least all of these features. The UE selects the set(s) of applicable RACH resources, after uplink carrier (i.e. NUL or SUL) and BWP selection and before selecting the RA type.

When CA is configured, random access procedure with 2-step RA type is only performed on PCell while contention resolution can be cross-scheduled by the PCell.

When CA is configured, for random access procedure with 4-step RA type, the first three steps of CBRA always occur on the PCell while contention resolution (step 4) can be cross-scheduled by the PCell. The three steps of a CFRA started on the PCell remain on the PCell. CFRA on SCell can only be initiated by the gNB to establish timing advance for a secondary TAG: the procedure is initiated by the gNB with a PDCCH order (step 0) that is sent on an activated SCell of the secondary TAG, preamble transmission (step 1) takes place on the SCell, and Random Access Response (step 2) takes place on PCell.

*Next change*

### 9.2.7 Radio Link Failure

In RRC\_CONNECTED, the UE performs Radio Link Monitoring (RLM) in the active BWP based on reference signals (SSB/CSI-RS) and signal quality thresholds configured by the network. SSB-based RLM is based on the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP and can be configured for the initial DL BWP and for DL BWPs containing the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP. Besides, SSB-based RLM can be also performed based on the non-cell defining SSB, if configured for RedCap UEs. For other DL BWPs, RLM can only be performed based on CSI-RS. In case of DAPS handover, the UE continues the detection of radio link failure at the source cell until the successful completion of the random access procedure to the target cell.

The UE declares Radio Link Failure (RLF) when one of the following criteria are met:

- Expiry of a radio problem timer started after indication of radio problems from the physical layer (if radio problems are recovered before the timer is expired, the UE stops the timer); or

- Expiry of a timer started upon triggering a measurement report for a measurement identity for which the timer has been configured while another radio problem timer is running; or

- Random access procedure failure; or

- RLC failure; or

- Detection of consistent uplink LBT failures for operation with shared spectrum channel access as described in 5.6.1; or

- For IAB-MT, the reception of a BH RLF indication received from its parent node.

After RLF is declared, the UE:

- stays in RRC\_CONNECTED;

- in case of DAPS handover, for RLF in the source cell:

- stops any data transmission or reception via the source link and releases the source link, but maintains the source RRC configuration;

- if handover failure is then declared at the target cell, the UE:

- selects a suitable cell and then initiates RRC re-establishment;

- enters RRC\_IDLE if a suitable cell was not found within a certain time after handover failure was declared.

- in case of CHO, for RLF in the source cell:

- selects a suitable cell and if the selected cell is a CHO candidate and if network configured the UE to try CHO after RLF then the UE attempts CHO execution once, otherwise re-establishment is performed;

- enters RRC\_IDLE if a suitable cell was not found within a certain time after RLF was declared.

- in case of MCG LTM, for RLF in the source cell:

- selects a suitable cell and if the selected cell is an LTM candidate cell and if network configured the UE to try LTM after RLF then the UE attempts LTM execution once, otherwise re-establishment is performed;

- enters RRC\_IDLE if a suitable cell was not found within a certain time after RLF was declared.

- otherwise, for RLF in the serving cell or in case of DAPS handover, for RLF in the target cell before releasing the source cell:

- selects a suitable cell and then initiates RRC re-establishment;

- enters RRC\_IDLE if a suitable cell was not found within a certain time after RLF was declared.

When RLF occurs at the IAB BH link, the same mechanisms and procedures are applied as for the access link. This includes BH RLF detection and RLF recovery.

The IAB-DU can transmit a BH RLF detection indication to its child nodes in the following cases:

- The collocated IAB-MT initiates RRC re-establishment;

- The collocated IAB-MT is dual-connected, detects BH RLF on a BH link, and cannot perform UL re-routing for any traffic. This includes the scenario of an IAB-node operating in EN-DC or NR-DC, which uses only one link for backhauling and has BH RLF on this BH link;

- The collocated IAB-MT has received a BH RLF detection indication from a parent node, and there is no remaining backhaul link that is unaffected by the BH RLF condition indicated.

Upon reception of the BH RLF detection indication, the child node may perform local rerouting for upstream traffic, if possible, over an available BH link.

If the IAB-DU has transmitted a BH RLF detection indication to a child node due to an RLF condition on the collocated IAB-MT's parent link, and the collocated IAB-MT's subsequent RLF recovery is successful, the IAB-DU may transmit a BH RLF recovery indication to this child node.

If the IAB-DU has transmitted a BH RLF detection indication to a child node due to the reception of a BH RLF detection indication by the collocated IAB-MT, and the collocated IAB-MT receives a BH RLF recovery indication, the IAB-DU may also transmit a BH RLF recovery indication to this child node.

Upon reception of the BH RLF recovery indication, the child node reverts the actions triggered by the reception of the previous BH RLF detection indication.

In case the RRC re-establishment procedure fails, the IAB-node may transmit a BH RLF indication to its child nodes. The BH RLF detection indication, BH RLF recovery indication and BH RLF indication are transmitted as BAP Control PDUs.

*Next change*

## 10.6 Activation/Deactivation Mechanism

To enable reasonable UE battery consumption when CA is configured, an activation/deactivation mechanism of Cells is supported. When an SCell is deactivated, the UE does not need to receive the corresponding PDCCH or PDSCH, cannot transmit in the corresponding uplink, nor is it required to perform CQI measurements. Conversely, when an SCell is active, the UE shall receive PDSCH and PDCCH (if the UE is configured to monitor PDCCH from this SCell) and is expected to be able to perform CQI measurements. NG-RAN ensures that while PUCCH SCell (a Secondary Cell configured with PUCCH) is deactivated, SCells of secondary PUCCH group (a group of SCells whose PUCCH signalling is associated with the PUCCH on the PUCCH SCell) should not be activated. NG-RAN ensures that SCells mapped to PUCCH SCell are deactivated before the PUCCH SCell is changed or removed.

When reconfiguring the set of serving cells:

- SCells added to the set are initially activated or deactivated;

- SCells which remain in the set (either unchanged or reconfigured) do not change their activation status (*activated* or *deactivated*).

At handover, LTM cell switch execution or connection resume from RRC\_INACTIVE:

- SCells are activated or deactivated.

To enable reasonable UE battery consumption when BA is configured, only one UL BWP for each uplink carrier and one DL BWP or only one DL/UL BWP pair can be active at a time in an active serving cell, all other BWPs that the UE is configured with being deactivated. On deactivated BWPs, the UE does not monitor the PDCCH, does not transmit on PUCCH, PRACH and UL-SCH.

To enable fast SCell activation when CA is configured, one dormant BWP can be configured for an SCell. If the active BWP of the activated SCell is a dormant BWP, the UE stops monitoring PDCCH and transmitting SRS/PUSCH/PUCCH on the SCell but continues performing CSI measurements, AGC and beam management, if configured. A DCI is used to control entering/leaving the dormant BWP for one or more SCell(s) or one or more SCell group(s).

The dormant BWP is one of the UE's dedicated BWPs configured by network via dedicated RRC signalling. The SpCell and PUCCH SCell cannot be configured with a dormant BWP.

To enable fast SCell activation when CA is configured, aperiodic CSI-RS for tracking for fast SCell activation can be configured for an SCell to assist AGC and time/frequency synchronization. A MAC CE is used to trigger activation of one or more SCell(s) and trigger the aperiodic CSI-RS for tracking for fast SCell activation for a (set of) deactivated SCell(s).

*Next change*

Annex X (informative):

# X.1 Components of Mobility Latency

HO interruption time for L1/L2-based inter-cell mobility is the time from UE receives the cell switch command to UE performs the first DL/UL reception/transmission on the indicated beam of the target cell.

For Rel-18, RAN2 assumed the latency of the mobility procedure is characterized by the terms illustrated in Figure X.1-1.



Figure X.1-1: Components of Mobility Latency

Each component of mobility latency is described in the table below, the values of which are specified in TS 38.133[13].

Table X.1-1: Components of Mobility Latency

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Component | Meaning |
| TRRC | Processing time for *RRCReconfiguration* carrying candidate configurations |
| Tcmd | Time for processing L1/L2-command (HARQ and parsing) |
| TLTM-RRC-processing | Early ASN.1 decoding and validity/compliance check |
| TLTM-Processing | UE processing including applying target cell parameters and L1/L2 change |
| Tfirst-RS | Time for fine tracking and acquiring full timing information |
| TRS-proc | Time for SSB processing |
| TLTM-IU | Interruption uncertainty in acquiring the first UL transmission |
| TRAR | Time for RAR delay |
| Tfirst-data | Time for UE performs the first DL/UL reception/ transmission on the indicated beam of the target cell, after RAR |

For Rel-18, RAN2 assumed that the latency of the RACH-based and RACH-less LTM procedure is characterized by the terms illustrated in Figure X.1-2 and Figure X.1-3. The overall mobility latency of LTM can be largely reduced by early synchronization procedure.

Figure X.1-2: Mobility Latency for RACH-based LTM



Figure X.1-3: Mobility Latency for RACH-less LTM

*End change*