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| 3GPP TR 38.875 V0.0.2 (2020-08) | |
| Technical Report | |
| 3rd Generation Partnership Project;  Technical Specification Group Radio Access Network;  Study on support of reduced capability NR devices  (Release 17) | |
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# Foreword

This Technical Report has been produced by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

The contents of the present document are subject to continuing work within the TSG and may change following formal TSG approval. Should the TSG modify the contents of the present document, it will be re-released by the TSG with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

Version x.y.z

where:

x the first digit:

1 presented to TSG for information;

2 presented to TSG for approval;

3 or greater indicates TSG approved document under change control.

y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.

z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the document.

In the present document, modal verbs have the following meanings:

**shall** indicates a mandatory requirement to do something

**shall not** indicates an interdiction (prohibition) to do something

The constructions "shall" and "shall not" are confined to the context of normative provisions, and do not appear in Technical Reports.

The constructions "must" and "must not" are not used as substitutes for "shall" and "shall not". Their use is avoided insofar as possible, and they are not used in a normative context except in a direct citation from an external, referenced, non-3GPP document, or so as to maintain continuity of style when extending or modifying the provisions of such a referenced document.

**should** indicates a recommendation to do something

**should not** indicates a recommendation not to do something

**may** indicates permission to do something

**need not** indicates permission not to do something

The construction "may not" is ambiguous and is not used in normative elements. The unambiguous constructions "might not" or "shall not" are used instead, depending upon the meaning intended.

**can** indicates that something is possible

**cannot** indicates that something is impossible

The constructions "can" and "cannot" are not substitutes for "may" and "need not".

**will** indicates that something is certain or expected to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**will not** indicates that something is certain or expected not to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**might** indicates a likelihood that something will happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**might not** indicates a likelihood that something will not happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

In addition:

**is** (or any other verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

**is not** (or any other negative verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

The constructions "is" and "is not" do not indicate requirements.

# 1 Scope

This document captures the findings from the study item "Study on support of reduced capability NR devices" [2].

The study includes identification and study of potential UE complexity reduction techniques and UE power saving and battery lifetime enhancements for reduced capability UEs in applicable use cases, functionality that will enable the performance degradation of such complexity reduction to be mitigated or limited, principles for how to define and constrain such reduced capabilities, and functionality that will allow devices with reduced capabilities to be explicitly identifiable to networks and networks operators and allow operators to restrict their access if desired.

The scope of the study includes support for all FR1/FR2 bands for FDD and TDD and coexistence with Rel-15/16 UEs. This study focuses on SA mode and single connectivity. The scope of the study does not include LPWA use cases.

# 2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non‑specific.

- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.

- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

[1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".

[2] 3GPP RP-193238: "New SID on support of reduced capability NR devices".

# 3 Definitions of terms, symbols and abbreviations

## 3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the terms given in TR 21.905 [1] 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].

**example:** text used to clarify abstract rules by applying them literally.

## 3.2 Symbols

For the purposes of the present document, the following symbols apply:

<symbol> <Explanation>

## 3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1] 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].

<ABBREVIATION> <Expansion>

# 4 Introduction

The usage scenarios that have been identified for 5G are *enhanced mobile broadband* (eMBB), *massive machine-type communication* (mMTC), and *Ultra-Reliable and Low Latency communication* (URLLC). Yet another identified area is *time sensitive communication* (TSC). In particular, mMTC, URLLC and TSC are associated with novel IoT use cases that are targeted in vertical industries. It is envisaged that eMBB, mMTC, URLLC and TSC use cases may all need to be supported in the same network.

In the 3GPP study on "*self-evaluation towards IMT-2020 submission*" it was confirmed that NB-IoT and LTE-M fulfil the IMT-2020 requirements for mMTC and can be certified as 5G technologies. For URLLC support, URLLC features were introduced in Release 15 for both LTE and NR, and NR URLLC is further enhanced in Release 16 within the enhanced URLLC (eURLLC) and Industrial IoT work items. Rel-16 also introduced support for Time-Sensitive Networking (TSN) and 5G integration for TSC use cases.

1. One important objective of 5G is to enable connected industries. 5G connectivity can serve as catalyst for next wave of industrial transformation and digitalization, which improve flexibility, enhance productivity and efficiency, reduce maintenance cost, and improve operational safety. Devices in such environment include e.g. pressure sensors, humidity sensors, thermometers, motion sensors, accelerometers, actuators, etc. It is desirable to connect these sensors and actuators to 5G radio access and core networks. The massive industrial wireless sensor network (IWSN) use cases and requirements described in TR 22.804, TS 22.104, TR 22.832 and TS 22.261 include not only URLLC services with very high requirements, but also relatively low-end services with the requirement of small device form factors, and/or being completely wireless with a battery life of several years. The requirements for these services are higher than LPWA (i.e. LTE-M/NB-IoT) but lower than URLCC and eMBB.

2. Similar to connected industries, 5G connectivity can serve as catalyst for the next wave smart city innovations. As an example, TR 22.804 describes smart city use case and requirements for that. The smart city vertical covers data collection and processing to more efficiently monitor and control city resources, and to provide services to city residents. Especially, the deployment of surveillance cameras is an essential part of the smart city but also of factories and industries.

3. Finally, wearables use case includes smart watches, rings, eHealth related devices, and medical monitoring devices etc. One characteristic for the use case is that the device is small in size.

As a baseline, the requirements for these three use cases are:

Generic requirements:

- Device complexity: Main motivation for the new device type is to lower the device cost and complexity as compared to high-end eMBB and URLLC devices of Rel-15/Rel-16. This is especially the case for industrial sensors.

- Device size: Requirement for most use cases is that the standard enables a device design with compact form factor.

- Deployment scenarios: System should support all FR1/FR2 bands for FDD and TDD.

Use case specific requirements:

1. Industrial wireless sensors: Reference use cases and requirements are described in TR 22.832 and TS 22.104: Communication service availability is 99.99% and end-to-end latency less than 100 ms. The reference bit rate is less than 2 Mbps (potentially asymmetric e.g. UL heavy traffic) for all use cases and the device is stationary. The battery should last at least few years. For safety related sensors, latency requirement is lower, 5-10 ms (TR 22.804)

2. Video Surveillance: As described in TR 22.804, reference economic video bitrate would be 2-4 Mbps, latency < 500 ms, reliability 99%-99.9%. High-end video e.g. for farming would require 7.5-25 Mbps. It is noted that traffic pattern is dominated by UL transmissions.

3. Wearables: Reference bitrate for smart wearable application can be 5-50 Mbps in DL and 2-5 Mbps in UL and peak bit rate of the device higher, up to 150 Mbps for downlink and up to 50 Mbps for uplink. Battery of the device should last multiple days (up to 1-2 weeks).

The intention is to study a UE feature and parameter list with lower end capabilities, relative to Release 16 eMBB and URLLC NR to serve the three use cases mentioned above.

# 5 Study objectives

The study includes the following objectives:

1) Identify and study potential UE complexity reduction features, including [RAN1, RAN2]:

- Potential features:

- Reduced number of UE RX/TX antennas

- UE bandwidth reduction

- Half-duplex FDD

- Relaxed UE processing time

- Relaxed UE processing capability

- Notes:

- Rel-15 SSB bandwidth should be reused and L1 changes minimized.

- The work defined above should not overlap with LPWA use cases.

- The lowest data rate and bandwidth capability considered should be no less than an LTE Category 1bis modem.

- The study includes evaluations of the impact to coverage, network capacity and spectral efficiency.

2) Study UE power saving and battery lifetime enhancement for reduced capability UEs in applicable use cases (e.g. delay tolerant) [RAN2, RAN1]:

- Reduced PDCCH monitoring by smaller numbers of blind decodes and CCE limits [RAN1].

- Extended DRX for RRC Inactive and/or Idle [RAN2]

- RRM relaxation for stationary devices [RAN2]

3) Study functionality that will enable the performance degradation of such complexity reduction to be mitigated or limited, including [RAN1]:

- Coverage recovery to compensate for potential coverage reduction due to the device complexity reduction.

- For FR1, coverage analysis for wearables can include consideration of potential reduced antenna efficiency due to device size limitations as part of the antenna gains. The extent of additional recovery of coverage loss due to reduced antenna efficiency is to be limited to 3 dB.

- The study includes evaluations of the impact to network capacity and spectral efficiency.

- Note: Potential overlap with coverage enhancements study is discussed and resolved in RAN#87 or later.

4) Study standardization framework and principles for how to define and constrain such reduced capabilities – considering definition of a limited set of one or more device types and considering how to ensure those device types are only used for the intended use cases [RAN2, RAN1].

5) Study functionality that will allow devices with reduced capabilities to be explicitly identifiable to networks and network operators, and allow operators to restrict their access, if desired [RAN2, RAN1].

Additional notes:

- Coexistence with Rel-15 and Rel-16 UE should be ensured.

- This SI should focus on SA mode and single connectivity.

# 6 Evaluation methodology

## 6.1 Evaluation methodology for UE complexity reduction

## 6.2 Evaluation methodology for UE power saving

## 6.3 Evaluation methodology for coverage recovery

## 6.4 Evaluation methodology for performance impacts

# 7 UE complexity reduction features

## 7.1 Introduction to UE complexity reduction features

## 7.2 Reduced number of UE Rx/Tx antennas

### 7.2.1 Description of feature

### 7.2.2 Analysis of UE complexity reduction

### 7.2.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 7.2.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 7.2.5 Analysis of specification impacts

## 7.3 UE bandwidth reduction

### 7.3.1 Description of feature

### 7.3.2 Analysis of UE complexity reduction

### 7.3.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 7.3.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 7.3.5 Analysis of specification impacts

## 7.4 Half-duplex FDD operation

### 7.4.1 Description of feature

### 7.4.2 Analysis of UE complexity reduction

### 7.4.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 7.4.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 7.4.5 Analysis of specification impacts

## 7.5 Relaxed UE processing time

### 7.5.1 Description of feature

### 7.5.2 Analysis of UE complexity reduction

### 7.5.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 7.5.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 7.5.5 Analysis of specification impacts

## 7.6 Relaxed UE processing capability

### 7.6.1 Description of feature

### 7.6.2 Analysis of UE complexity reduction

### 7.6.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 7.6.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 7.6.5 Analysis of specification impacts

## 7.7 Combinations of UE complexity reduction features

### 7.7.1 Description of feature combinations

### 7.7.2 Analysis of UE complexity reduction

### 7.7.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 7.7.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 7.7.5 Analysis of specification impacts

# 8 UE power saving features

## 8.1 Introduction to UE power saving features

## 8.2 Reduced PDCCH monitoring

### 8.2.1 Description of feature

### 8.2.2 Analysis of UE power saving

### 8.2.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 8.2.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 8.2.5 Analysis of specification impacts

## 8.3 Extended DRX for RRC Inactive and/or Idle

### 8.3.1 Description of feature

In LTE / EPC, the UE may be configured with and extended DRX (eDRX) cycle. The UE may operate in extended DRX only if the UE is configured by upper layers and the cell indicates support for eDRX in System Information. In RRC\_IDLE the eDRX cycle has maximum value of 2621.44 seconds (43.69 minutes) (for NB-IoT the maximum is 10485.76 seconds or 2.91 hours). Hyper SFN (H-SFN) is broadcasted by the cell and increments by one when SFN wraps around. Paging Hyperframe (PH) refers to the H-SFN in which the UE starts monitoring paging DRX during a Paging Time Window (PTW).

For RedCap UEs in NR, extended DRX cycles can be introduced at least up to 10.24 s for both RRC\_IDLE and RRC\_INACTIVE. If extension beyond 10.24 s is specified, similar mechanism as in LTE is expected to be feasible including use of H-SFN, PH and PTW.

### 8.3.2 Analysis of UE power saving

### 8.3.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 8.3.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 8.3.5 Analysis of specification impacts

## 8.4 RRM relaxation for stationary devices

### 8.4.1 Description of feature

### 8.4.2 Analysis of UE power saving

### 8.4.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 8.4.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 8.4.5 Analysis of specification impacts

# 9 Coverage recovery features

## 9.1 Introduction to coverage recovery features

## 9.2 Coverage recovery feature X

### 9.2.1 Description of feature

### 9.2.2 Analysis of coverage recovery

### 9.2.3 Analysis of performance impacts

### 9.2.4 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 9.2.5 Analysis of specification impacts

# 10 Definition and constraining of reduced capabilities

## 10.1 Definition of reduced capabilities

### 10.1.1 Description of feature

As a baseline, the existing UE capabilities framework is used to indicate the capabilities of reduced capability UEs. In NR, the UE capabilities do not rely on UE categories, which is a concept used in LTE/E-UTRAN, and UE categories associated to fixed peak data rates are only defined for marketing purposes and not signalled to the network. The network determines the UL and DL data rate supported by a UE from the supported band combinations and from the baseband capabilities. The UE reports its UE radio access capabilities which are static at least when the network requests.

Different device types for RedCap UEs should be introduced only where essential to for example control UE accesses and differentiate them from legacy UEs and UEs which are not RedCap UEs. The number of different UE types should be minimised.

Editor’s note: The details and numbers of device types is FFS and discussion should be coordinated between RAN1/RAN2.

### 10.1.2 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 10.1.3 Analysis of specification impacts

## 10.2 Constraining of reduced capabilities

### 10.2.1 Description of feature

### 10.2.2 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 10.2.3 Analysis of specification impacts

# 11 UE identification and access restrictions

## 11.1 UE identification

### 11.1.1 Description of feature

### 11.1.2 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 11.1.3 Analysis of specification impacts

## 11.2 Access restrictions

### 11.2.1 Description of feature

NG-RAN supports overload and access control functionality such as RACH back off, RRC Connection Reject, RRC Connection Release and UE based access barring mechanisms.

For RedCap UEs, an indication in broadcast system information can be used to indicate whether a RedCap UE can camp on the cell or not.

Unified access control framework is specified in TS 22.261 and it applies to all UEs in RRC\_IDLE, RRC\_CONNECTED and RRC\_INACTIVE for NR. This mechanism can also apply to RedCap UEs to control RedCap UEs accesses to the network.

### Editor’s note: FFS on details of above, e.g. explicit or implicit indication in SI, details of UE access identifier and/or access categories for reduced capability UEs.11.2.2 Analysis of coexistence with legacy UEs

### 11.2.3 Analysis of specification impacts

# 12 Conclusions

Annex <A>:  
<Title>

# A.1 <Heading>

Annex <Y>:  
Bibliography

The following material, though not specifically referenced in the body of the present document (or not publicly available), gives supporting information.

<Publication>: "<Title>".

Annex <Z>:  
Change history

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| **Change history** | | | | | | | |
| **Date** | **Meeting** | **TDoc** | **CR** | **Rev** | **Cat** | **Subject/Comment** | **New version** |
| 2020-06 | RAN1#101-e | R1-2004962 |  |  |  | Skeleton | 0.0.1 |
| 2020-08 | RAN1#102-e | R1-2005233 |  |  |  | Updated skeleton with endorsed clauses 4 & 5 (R1-2005233) and RAN2-led changes (agreed in R2-2007366) | 0.0.2 |