**3GPP T****SG-RAN WG2 Meeting #113bis-e R2-210xxxx**

**Online, April 12 – 20, 2021**

**Agenda item: 8.12.3.2**

**Source: Qualcomm Incorporated**

**Title: Summary of [Post113bis-e][102][RedCap] RRM relaxations**

**WID/SID: FS\_NR\_redcap**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# Introduction

This document is for a post-meeting email discussion on RRM relaxation related issues that were unresolved at RAN2#113bis-e [20]. Per suggestion from the session chair, we will focus the discussions on the following aspects:

**1. Possible use of the Stationarity information in subscription information (e.g. any benefits to use this information - besides the measurement-based R17 stationarity criterion being specified - to trigger RRM relaxations? Where does the subscription info come from (UE or CN) and how is it used?)**

**2. Possible reuse of the R17 RRM relaxation criteria being specified for RRC Idle/Inactive also for RRM relaxations in RRC Connected (e.g. pros/cons, etc.)**

If possible, please provide reasons behind your views when commenting. That would help make the discussions more constructive.

The deadlines for this email discussion are the following:

* for companies' initial feedback: **Friday 2021-05-07 15:00 UTC**
* for rapporteur's summary: **Saturday 2021-05-08 00:00 UTC**
* for feedbacks on rapporteur’s summary: **Monday 2021-05-10 15:00 UTC**

# Contact information

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# Discussion

## Use of stationarity in subscription information

One of the unresolved issues with using subscription information for RRM relaxations is whether it offers additional benefits over a measurement-based relaxation criterion (e.g. Proposal 2 in [20]).

The proponents argued that RedCap UEs may have fixed locations in a number of use cases, e.g. video surveillance cameras, industrial wireless sensors, robots in a warehouse etc. Since radio links for those fixed-location UEs are relatively stable, their stationarity is worth leveraging for RRM relaxations [7][15]. It is a simpler, faster and more efficient way to trigger RRM relaxations than approaches relying solely on periodic RSRP/RSRQ measurements. For example, for UEs, it reduces the need for measurements. For networks, it is simpler to apply as it does not require finetuning of any thresholds [4][10]. It allows RAN4 to investigate further relaxations in RRM measurements that may generate more power savings [6].

On the other hand, the opponents were skeptical about whether there may be gains from using subscription information. A single unified solution applicable to all types of RedCap UEs (i.e., fixed, moving or temporary fixed) should be considered instead [5][19][18]. And there were concerns on its reliability too, as RSRP measurements of stationary UEs can still fluctuate over time [2][8][9].

In the following, we will continue our discussions on the benefits and concerns of using subscription information for RRM relaxations:

* Can subscription-information based relaxation trigger enable more power savings than measurement-based approach?
* Is stationarity in subscription information a simpler way for both UE and network to trigger RRM relaxations?
* Can subscription information be used reliably as a relaxation trigger?

**Question 1: Do you think relaxation criteria based on stationarity in subscription information can enable more power savings than measurement-based approaches?**

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| Company | Preference  (YES/NO) | Please provide your justifications/reasons |
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**Question 2: Do you think stationarity in subscription information can be a simpler way for both UE and network to trigger RRM relaxations (e.g. no need for measurements by UEs, no finetuning of thresholds by network)?**

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**Question 3: Do you think stationarity in subscription information can be used reliably as a relaxation trigger?**

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In the next two questions, let us tentatively assume that stationarity in UE’s subscription information is adopted as a relaxation criterion. We then discuss how it may be used in RRC Idle/Inactive and RRC Connected.

In RRC Idle/Inactive, since network does not have direct/immediate control of UEs’ RRM measurements, UEs may trigger RRM relaxation autonomously based configured criteria, if enabled by network. There may be four options for using stationarity in subscription information:

* Option 1: Relaxation is enabled by broadcast. Network advertises in system information whether UEs with stationarity provisioned in their subscription may relax its RRM measurements. There is no signaling exchanged between network and UE in this case, i.e. UE checks its subscription information and determine whether it is eligible (i.e. it is stationary according to its subscription) to apply the RRM relaxation methods enabled by network.
* Option 2: Relaxation is enabled by dedicated signaling. For example, when releasing UE’s RRC connection, AMF indicates UE’s stationarity to RAN (e.g. in the UE Context Release Command message). RAN then enable RRM relaxation for the UE in the RRC Release message. The UE can apply the enabled RRM relaxation method once it is in RRC Idle/Inactive.
* Option 3: Both Option 1 and 2 can be supported.
* Option 4: Other methods, if any.

**Question 4: Among the 4 options described above for using subscription information for relaxations in RRC Idle/Inactive, which one do you support?**

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In the next question, let us tentatively assume that stationary UEs may relax its RRM measurements in RRC Connected. In past discussions as well as in contributions, two options have been proposed/mentioned:

* Option 1: During UE’s connection establishment, core network provides UE’s stationarity to RAN. RAN then uses this information to enable relaxation for the UE (e.g. [1]).
* Option 2: During UE’s connection establishment, UE may indicate its stationarity to RAN in UE radio capability signaling. RAN then uses this information to enable RRM relaxation for the UE (e.g. [16]). In this procedure, RAN has the option of validating UE’s claim by checking UE’s subscription information with core network.

In both Option 1 and 2, there can be different ways for network to enable relaxations for stationary UEs. For example, network may directly provide a relaxed measurement configuration for a stationary UE. Or in case RAN4 decide that relaxation methods can be different depend on whether a stationary UE is at cell center or cell edge, RAN may provide two sets of measurement configurations and some RSRP/RSRQ based threshold for UE to choose which measurement configuration to apply.

There may be other ways for UE and network to use stationarity in subscription information to apply relaxations in RRC Connected. For completeness, the third option in the following is also included in the discussion:

* Option 3: Other methods, if any.

**Question 5: Among the 3 options described above for using stationarity in subscription information in RRC Connected, which one do you support?**

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## Possible reuse of relaxation criteria in RRC Idle/Inactive for RRC Connected

In the offline discussion at RAN2#113bis-e [20], companies had different views on RRM relaxations for stationary UEs in RRC Connected. Among 16 companies that participated in the discussion,

* 8 companies stated that relaxations in RRC Connected can be left to network implementation.
* 8 companies argued that it is beneficial to have criteria-triggered relaxations in RRC Connected, which can be based on the R17 relaxation criteria being specified for RRC Idle/Inactive. One of the justifications was that having UEs trigger relaxations themselves based on configured criteria can be a more power efficient solution than approaches based on network implementation, as the latter may require UE to send periodic measurement reports for network to evaluate its stationarity.

Companies are invited to comment on whether having UE trigger relaxations themselves can offer more benefits (e.g. less reporting, more power savings, etc) than network implementations.

**Question 6: In RRC Connected, can solutions in which stationary UE triggering relaxations themselves based on configured criteria offer more benefits than network implementations?**

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In the same offline discussion [20], among companies that supported UEs triggering relaxations themselves, most companies supported reusing R17 RRM relaxation criteria being specified for RRC Idle/Inactive for RRM relaxations in RRC Connected. They argued that there are no fundamental differences in the relaxation criteria for neighbor-cell measurements in the two RRC states (although it can be FFS whether signaling and thresholds may be different for them). Hence it is desirable to reuse the criteria to maximize the commonality between the two designs and avoid redundant work.

Companies are invited to choose whether to support reusing R17 relaxation criteria being specified for RRC Idle/Inactive for relaxations in RRC Connected, if we assume criteria-triggered relaxations in RRC Connected are adopted (Note: Regardless whether you voted ‘YES’ or ‘NO’ in Question 5, a ‘NO’ to Question 6 means that you prefer developing new relaxation criteria for RRC Connected different from those for RRC Idle/Inactive).

**Question 7: If criteria-triggered relaxations in RRC Connected are adopted, would you support reusing the R17 RRM relaxation criteria being specified for RRC Idle/Inactive for relaxations in RRC Connected?**

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