3GPP TSG-RAN WG2#123-bis R2-23XXXXX

Xiamen, China, 9 – 13 October, 2023

Agenda Item: x.xx.x

Source: Huawei, HiSilicon

Title: Report of [POST123][312][NES] Running CR 38.331 (Huawei)

Document for: Discussion and decision

# 1 Introduction

This document is the report of the following discussion:

* [POST123][312][NES] Running CR 38.331 (Huawei)

Scope: Review running CR and discuss issue configuration per serving cell or MAC entity

Outcome: CR to be submitted to next meeting

Deadline: long

The intention of this discussion is to provide a running RRC CR for NES and discuss the issue of cell DTX/DRX configuration per serving cell or MAC entity.

**Please provide your comments by: Friday September 22nd, 2023, 1000 UTC**

Companies providing input to this email discussion are requested to leave contact information below.

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# 2 Discussion on the per serving cell or MAC entity configuration issue

During the RAN2#123 meeting it was discussed whether Cell DTX/DRX configuration status is per MAC entity or per Serving Cell, which has implications on the 38.331 and 38.321 specifications [3]. The main impact of these configuration options is for UEs operating in CA, which have more than one serving cell. RAN1 has already agreed that the activation/deactivation is per serving cell, which was also confirmed by RAN2.The only remaining issue is what is the granularity of the configuration.

There was a following SI phase agreement:

5 Cell DTX/DRX can be configured per serving cell and can be applicable for different cells in CA. No additional RAN2 impacts or enhancements are foreseen.

And we also have a WI phase agreement:

1. Pattern configuration for cell DRX/DTX is common for Rel-18 UEs in the cell.

In the per MAC entity option, which is similar to how C-DRX is configured, all serving cells of a UE should have the same cell DTX/DRX parameters to align with the one C-DRX configuration. In this option the activation status, which is set on a per cell basis, would need signalling which conveys also information to which of the serving cells the activation/deactivation status applies. This mode is simpler from the UE implementation perspective but has limitations in the NW configuration and it may be difficult to apply separate activation status across serving cells.

For the per serving cell option, different serving cells can have different cell DTX/DRX parameters. This brings flexibility of NW implementation but complexity of UE implementation, which would need to maintain separate cell DTX/DRX configurations for each of its serving cells in CA. In this scenario it would be easier to convey the activation status as the configuration would be per cell and each serving cell could have a different cell DTX/DRX state.

In your answer please also highlight the issues that will arise if the other option is chosen, e.g. UE complexity for per cell configuration or difficult NW configuration for per MAC entity, etc.

**Question 1:** *Do you prefer Cell DTX/DRX configuration to be per MAC entity or per Serving Cell?*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Company** | **Answer** | **Comments** |
| Vodafone | Not 100% sure | I feel (a bit different from my previous opinion) that it is more important that UE has an aligned configuration across the serving cells. What would be the motivation to have a possibility to provide the UE different configurations for different serving cells? On activation aspects, please see my comments below. |
| Xiaomi |  | This issue was discussed in last RAN2 meeting and no consensus at last. We prefer per MAC entity option.   * + In RAN1 discussion, two cell can share the same bit location in DCI, i.e., the cell DRX/DTX configuration can be same/common for the two cell, e.g., cell ¾.     So, it is possible to configure cell DRX/DTX in a cell group. If it is hard to decide the cell DTX/DRX in UE side is per MAC entity or per serving cell. We can compromise to cell group-based cell DRX/DTX configuration in UE side for progress. |
| Samsung | Per cell | We prefer per cell option for flexibility and to align with agreements made based on per cell configuration and activation.  Also, considering non-collocated (inter-site) CA scenarios, it would be reasonable to have per cell configuration. |
| vivo | per MAC entity | Since legacy C-DRX is per MAC entity, and there are new NW/UE behaviors defined for cell DTX/DRX non-active period, making Cell DTX/DRX config. per MAC entity is much easier for UE implementation. We do not observe the need of providing flexibility for the NW to configure different cell DTX/DRX patterns for the serving cells, and thus prefer the configuration to be per MAC entity. |
| ZTE | Per cell | The cell DTX/DRX functionality controls the reception of PDCCH and SPS, and the transmission of SR and CG. And the resource configuration of SPS, SR and CG is per cell. If the cell DTX/DRX is per MAC entity, it is hard for gNB to coordinate those resource in each Scell and Pcell. Hence, in sake of the flexibility in gNB, we suggest Cell DTX/DRX configuration to be per cell. |
| Qualcomm | MAC Entity | Cell DTX/DRX from an implementation standpoint would be implemented on top of UE C-DRX (which is per-mac entity except for a few parameters that are per C-DRX configuration with a maximum of two configurations). Thus, per MAC entity would be the straightforward extension. Concerns with per-serving cell are as follows:   * Completely changes PDCCH decoding from the previous releases into per-carrier PDCCH decoding, which is a very big change to current implementations, since the UE would need to track up to 8 different “effective ON durations” to track separate intersections & cycles of different cells with UE C-DRX ON duration. This complicates blind decoding a lot and opens up new issues regarding cross-carrier scheduling. This would also be very wasteful of UE power and complicates the feature needlessly. * RAN1 has agreed that “UE monitor DCI format 2\_X in one serving cell”, so the configurations, we assume, would be already limited to having similar periodicity and start offsets, since it doesn’t make sense for one cell to (de)activate another cell in the middle of non-active cycle, so coordination and tight coupling is already needed. I * Motivation: The target motivation of cell DTX/DRX is a cell with 10-30% utilization to save energy over time. It is not clear why a UE would connect to 2-8 cells each running their own Cell DTX/DRX algorithm, i.e., each having 10-30% utilization. To us, this is not a realistic deployment at all. One deployment that came up in the discussion is a capacity-boosting Scell that is not fully utilized with a fully utilized Pcell, at which case, the Cell DTX/DRX can be activated for this Scell alone. We do not see why Pcell and Scell or different Scells would run their own misaligned patterns. * SI agreement was made with full alignment assumption, at which case, it was less messy since the ON duration itself was guaranteed a clean pattern of PDCCH occasions. Now RAN2 has moved from full alignment to partial alignment, thus, messy configuration options that don’t have technical benefits should be avoided. |

*[Rapporteur’s summary and proposals]*

# 3 Running RRC CR for NES

The running RRC CR for NES is provided in the discussion folder. Small comments can be added as bubble comments in the draft CR, please don’t change the CR text. If more detailed suggestions on procedures or wording changes are proposed please use the table below to highlight them for clarity of the CR tdoc.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Company** | **Detailed comments** | **Rapporteur response** |
| Vodafone | As per agreement we made before, it is already captured that:  The IE *CellDTX-Config* is used to configure cell DTX related parameters. **Cell DTX is activated implicitly once configured by the network.**  Now, once L1 activation is agreed as activation procedure, we need to define how these 2 ways of activations are interworking.  According to the current stage, it seems to me that there is no room for L1 activation procedure as provided configuration is always activated once received. If we want to utilize L1 procedure, we need to have a bit in the configuration saying that it is configuration only and the activation will be triggered by L1. Following we would also need to discuss deactivation procedure. Please indicate if you agree with my statement.  Minor comment: We agreed Activation/deactivation is per serving cell. FFS if the configuration is per cell or per MAC entity, but looking into: *MAC-CellGroupConfig* The IE *MAC-CellGroupConfig* is used to configure MAC parameters for a cell group, including DRX and cell DTX/DRX.  Editor’s note: FFS whether the Cell DTX/DRX configuration and activation is per MAC entity or per serving cell. |  |
| Xiaomi | – *MAC-CellGroupConfig* The IE *MAC-CellGroupConfig* is used to configure MAC parameters for a cell group, including DRX and cell DTX/DRX.  Editor’s note: FFS whether the Cell DTX/DRX configuration and activation is per MAC entity or per serving cell.   1. RAN2 agreed that cell DTX/DRX A/D is per serving cell, FFS for cell DRX/DTX configuration. 2. RAN2 did not conclude the case for dual UE C-DRX, maybe two cell DTX/DRX are configured for FR1 and FR2 respectively. We also need a FFS for it. |  |
| Samsung | (1) Description of ‘*cellBarred* under *MIB’*   |  | | --- | | *MIB* field descriptions | | ***cellBarred***  Value *barred* means that the cell is barred, as defined in TS 38.304 [20]. This field is ignored by IAB-MT. This field is ignored for connectivity to NTN. |   - We need to specify that NES capable UE shall ignore the below barring field in MIB, similar to IAB and NTN.  Suggestion> to add ‘This field is ignored by NES capable UE, (if *cellBarredNES* is configured in SIB1)’  (2) Description of ‘*cellBarred* under *SIB1*   |  | | --- | | *SIB1* field descriptions | | ***cellBarredNES***  Value *barred* means that the cell is barred for a NES-capable UE, as defined in TS 38.304 [20]. Value *notBarred* means that the cell is allowed for NES-capable UEs. If not present, the NES-capable UEs shall follow the MIB *cellBarred* indication. This field is ignored by non-NES-capable UEs. |   - it is obvious that a non-NES-capable UE would ignore this field. Also, we would like to avoid discussing the definition of ‘non-NES-capable UE’.  Suggestion> to modify ‘This field is only applicable to NES-capable UEs’  (3) Description of ‘*jointCellDTXDRXconfig* under *CellDTX-Config*   |  | | --- | | *CellDTX-Config* field descriptions | | ***jointCellDTXDRXconfig***  If set to true, the UE shall also apply a cell DRX configuration with the same parameters as in CellDTX-Config. |   - May cause a confusion if a network configures different parameters for DTX and DRX, and also set this field true. We think it would be simpler just to have an indicator that indicates those two configurations are the same.  Suggestion> to modify as an indicator which informs that the cell DTX and DRX patterns are the same.  (4) MAC-CellGroupConfig – *MAC-CellGroupConfig* The IE *MAC-CellGroupConfig* is used to configure MAC parameters for a cell group, including DRX and cell DTX/DRX.  Editor’s note: FFS whether the Cell DTX/DRX configuration and activation is per MAC entity or per serving cell.  - Our understanding is that *cellDTX-Config* may be relocated to *ServingCellConfig*, depending on per cell vs per cell group configuration.  However, if companies have the same understanding, it’s fine for now. |  |
| vivo | (1) FD of ***jointCellDTXDRXconfig:***  According to R2#123 agreement: On-duration and Cycle parameters are common between cell DTX and DRX, when both are configured  We understand this is mandatory, and thus the field should not be optional. Otherwise, the absence of it means On-duration and Cycle parameters between cell DTX and DRX can be different, which is **not** aligned with R2 agreement.   1. For cell bar for NES-capable UE:   According to the current running 331 CR, the NES-capable UE only needs to read *cellBarredNES* in SIB1 when the *cellBarred* in the acquired *MIB* is set to *barred*. Then, the NES-capable UE needs to check in SIB1 whether it is allowed to camp. From our understanding, the easiest way is to use only one codepoint for *cellBarredNES* in SIB1, i.e.,  cellBarredNES-r18 ENUMERATED {true} OPTIONAL, -- Need R  When *cellBarredNES* is not present in SIB1, the NES-capable UE will consider the cell as barred. |  |
| ZTE | 1. The field description of celldrx-onDurationTimer,   According to the agreement “*On-duration and Cycle parameters are common between cell DTX and DRX, when both are configured. FFS if we have different start offset configuration for cell DTX and cell DRX*”, in order to save the signaling overhead, we suggest to configure only celldtx-onDurationTimer when both of CellDRX-Config and CellDTX-Config is configured. In a word, if celldrx-onDurationTimer is absent, the value of celldrx-onDurationTimer is same as the value of celldtx-onDurationTimer.  Hence, we suggest to modify the description as below:  ***celldrx-onDurationTimer***  Value in multiples of 1/32 ms (subMilliSeconds) or in ms (milliSecond). For the latter, value *ms1* corresponds to 1 ms, value *ms2* corresponds to 2 ms, and so on.  If this field is absent, the value of celldrx-onDurationTimer is same as the value of celldtx-onDurationTimer when both of CellDRX-Config and CellDTX-Config are configured.   1. The field description of *cellBarredNES* seems not consistent with our understanding, because NES-capable UE may support other features. e.g. If a NES-capable UE is also a redCap UE, even if cellBarredNES is not present, the UE should further follow the cellBarredRedCap1Rx, cellBarredRedCap2Rx etc.   For RedCap UE, the existing principle is that RedCap UE would consider the cell as barred if any of the cellbarred in MIB, cellBarredRedCap1Rx, cellBarredRedCap2Rx in SIB1 is set to barred.  And we understand the same principle also applies when the *cellBarredNES* is introduced and the expected interpretation for the following setting would be as follows (this is a screenshot while the table is copied at the end of this document) :    Which means, for NES-capable UE, only the *cellBarred* in MIB can be ignored, NES-capable UE still need to check other cell bar indication for other features, e.g. RedCap, if it is also a RedCap UE.  To achieve the above understanding, we propose the following change in 331:   |  | | --- | | ***cellBarredNES***  Value *barred* means that the cell is barred for a NES-capable UE, as defined in TS 38.304 [20]. Value *notBarred* means that the cell is allowed for NES-capable UEs. If ~~not~~ present, the NES-capable UEs shall ~~follow~~ ignore the MIB *cellBarred* indication. This field is ignored by non-NES-capable UEs. | |  |
| Qualcomm | We should modify Cell DTX as follows.  ***celldtx-CycleStartOffset***  *celldtx-Cycle* in ms and *celldrx-StartOffset* in multiples of 1 ms. *celldtx-Cycle* is an integer multiple of drx-longCycle or vice versa.  We want to incorporate this last meeting agreement: “Understanding is that alignment means that the cell DTX/DRX and C-DRX periodicity should be multiple of each other”  As clarified in alignment agreement, this is not a free value. It is tightly coupled to C-DRX cycle value. As we mentioned in the meeting, the importance of that is that UE implementation needs the assumption of consistent PDCCH occasions between cycle; this would be the difference between a straightforward implementation that obtains a clean ON duration with a constant “effective ON duration” (now derived as an intersection between C-DRX ON duration and Cell DTX active time”) and a cycle-by-cycle varying effective ON duration.  The field values also must be defined as multiples of UE C-DRX long cycle values and not free “ms” values to avoid erroneous configurations that misalign cycles. |  |
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| Cell barred in MIB | Cell barred for RedCap | Legacy UE (except RedCap UE ) | RedCap UE | Cell barred NES | NES UE | NES + RedCap UE |
| barred | barred | Access not allowed | Access not allowed | barred | Access not allowed | Access not allowed |
| Not barred | Access allowed | Access not allowed |
| barred | Not barred | Access not allowed | Access not allowed | barred | Access not allowed | Access not allowed |
| Not barred | Access allowed | Access allowed |

# 4 Conclusion

Based on the discussion in the previous sections we propose the following:

**Proposal 1** abc

**Proposal 2** def

# 5 References

1. RP-223540, “New WID: Network energy savings for NR”, Huawei
2. 3GPP TR 38.864 V1.0.0, “Study on network energy savings for NR (Release 18)”
3. R2-2308963, “Report from Session on NES, UAV, Rel-15-17 UP, Rel-17 Small Data, IIoT/URLLC, and RACH partitioning”, Session Chair (InterDigital)