3GPP RAN WG2 Meeting #123bis R2-231xxxx

Xiamen, China, October 9th – 13th, 2023

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| *CR-Form-v12.2* |
| **CHANGE REQUEST** |
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|  | **38.321** | **CR** | **Draft** | **rev** | **-** | **Current version:** | **17.6.0** |  |
|  |
| *For* [*HELP*](http://www.3gpp.org/3G_Specs/CRs.htm#_blank)*on using this form: comprehensive instructions can be found at* [*http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests*](http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests)*.* |
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| ***Proposed change affects:*** | UICC apps |  | ME | **x** | Radio Access Network | **X** | Core Network |  |

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| ***Title:***  | Stage-3 running CR for TS 38.321 for Rel-18 NTN |
|  |  |
| ***Source to WG:*** | InterDigital  |
| ***Source to TSG:*** | RAN2 |
|  |  |
| ***Work item code:*** | NR\_NTN\_enh-Core |  | ***Date:*** | 2023-10-27 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Category:*** | **B** |  | ***Release:*** | Rel-18 |
|  | *Use one of the following categories:****F*** *(correction)****A*** *(mirror corresponding to a change in an earlier release)****B*** *(addition of feature),* ***C*** *(functional modification of feature)****D*** *(editorial modification)*Detailed explanations of the above categories canbe found in 3GPP [TR 21.900](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/21900.htm). | *Use one of the following releases:Rel-8 (Release 8)Rel-9 (Release 9)Rel-10 (Release 10)Rel-11 (Release 11)…Rel-16 (Release 16)Rel-17 (Release 17)Rel-18 (Release 18)Rel-19 (Release 19)* |
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| ***Reason for change:*** |  Introduction of Release-18 support for Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) |
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| ***Summary of change:*** | This running CR captures agreements made for NR to support Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) for Release-18 up to and including the RAN2 123bis meeting. |
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| ***Consequences if not approved:*** |  No support for Release-18 enhancements for NTN in NR |
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| ***Clauses affected:*** | 5.2, 5.8.2, 5.3.1, 5.4.1, 5.XX |
|  |  |
|  | **Y** | **N** |  |  |
| ***Other specs*** | **X** |  |  Other core specifications  | TS 38.300 CR ...  |
| ***affected:*** |  | **X** |  Test specifications | TS 38.304 CR ...  |
| ***(show related CRs)*** |  | **X** |  O&M Specifications | TS 38.306 CR ... TS 38.331 CR ... |
|  |  |
| ***Other comments:*** |  |
|  |  |
| ***This CR's revision history:*** | R2-2303732: Initial running CRR2-2305933: running CR including agreements up to RAN2#121bisR2-2306955: running CR including agreements up to RAN2#122R2-2309345: running CR including agreements up to RAN2#123 |

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

## 5.2 Maintenance of Uplink Time Alignment

Editor’s note: *timeAlignmentTimer* handling is currently FFS for unchanged PCI

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

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

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

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

The MAC entity shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

2> else:

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

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

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

3> apply the Timing Advance Command for this TAG;

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

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

3> apply the Timing Advance Command for this TAG;

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

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

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

4> stop *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG.

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

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

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

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

4> stop *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with this TAG;

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

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

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

2> else:

3> ignore the received Timing Advance Command.

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

2> apply the Timing Advance Command for PTAG;

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

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

2> if CG-SDT procedure is ongoing:

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

2> else:

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

1> when the MAC entity is configured with *rach-LessHO*:

2> set the NTA value (as defined in TS 38.211 [8]) to the value indicated by *targetNTA* in *rach-LessHO* for PTAG;

2> start the *timeAlignmentTimer* associated with PTAG.

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

2> stop the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2> start the *TimeAlignmentTimer* associated with PTAG.

1> when a *timeAlignmentTimer* expires:

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

3> flush all HARQ buffers for all Serving Cells;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3> flush all HARQ buffers;

3> notify RRC to release PUCCH, if configured;

3> notify RRC to release SRS, if configured;

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

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

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

1> when the *inactivePosSRS-TimeAlignmentTimer* expires:

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

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

2> clear any configured uplink grants;

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

3> consider ongoing CG-SDT procedure as terminated;

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

2> flush all HARQ buffers;

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

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

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

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## 5.3 DL-SCH data transfer

### 5.3.1 DL Assignment reception

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

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

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

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

3> consider the NDI to have been toggled.

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

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

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

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

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

2> if the MAC entity is configured with *rach-LessHO*:

3> if the downlink assignment has been received on the PDCCH for the MAC entity's C-RNTI after the first PUSCH transmission to the Serving Cell; and

3> if the downlink assignment is for a new transmission:

4> indicate to upper layer the successful completion of RACH-less handover.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3> if PDCCH contents indicate SPS deactivation:

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

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

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

3> else if PDCCH content indicates SPS activation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 5.4 UL-SCH data transfer

### 5.4.1 UL Grant reception

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2> if the MAC entity is configured with *rach-LessHO*:

3> if the uplink grant has been received on the PDCCH for the MAC entity's C-RNTI after the first PUSCH transmission to the Serving Cell; and

3> if the uplink grant is for a new transmission on the same HARQ process used for the first PUSCH transmission to the Serving Cell:

4> indicate to upper layer the successful completion of RACH-less handover.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4> trigger configured uplink grant confirmation.

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

4> trigger configured uplink grant confirmation;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4> consider the NDI bit to have been toggled;

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

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

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

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

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

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

4> consider the NDI bit to have been toggled;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 5.8.2 Uplink

There are two types of transmission without dynamic grant:

- configured grant Type 1 where an uplink grant is provided by RRC, and stored as configured uplink grant;

- configured grant Type 2 where an uplink grant is provided by PDCCH, and stored or cleared as configured uplink grant based on L1 signalling indicating configured uplink grant activation or deactivation.

Type 1 and Type 2 are configured by RRC for a Serving Cell per BWP. Multiple configurations can be active simultaneously in the same BWP. For Type 2, activation and deactivation are independent among the Serving Cells. For the same BWP, the MAC entity can be configured with both Type 1 and Type 2.

Only configured grant Type 1 can be configured for CG-SDT. CG-SDT can only be configured on initial BWP.

RRC configures the following parameters when the configured grant Type 1 is configured:

- *cs-RNTI*: CS-RNTI for retransmission;

- *cg-SDT-CS-RNTI*: CS-RNTI for CG-SDT retransmission;

- *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB*: an RSRP threshold configured for SSB selection for CG-SDT;

- *ntn-RSRP-ThresholdSSB*: an RSRP threshold configured for SSB selection for RACH-less handover;

- *periodicity*: periodicity of the configured grant Type 1;

- *timeDomainOffset*: Offset of a resource with respect to SFN = *timeReferenceSFN* in time domain;

- *timeDomainAllocation*: Allocation of configured uplink grant in time domain which contains *startSymbolAndLength* (i.e. *SLIV* in TS 38.214 [7]) or *startSymbol* (i.e. *S* in TS 38.214 [7]);

- *nrofHARQ-Processes*: the number of HARQ processes for configured grant;

- *harq-ProcID-Offset*: offset of HARQ process for configured grant configured with *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for operation with shared spectrum channel access;

- *harq-ProcID-Offset2*: offset of HARQ process for configured grant not configured with *cg-RetransmissionTimer*;

- *timeReferenceSFN*: SFN used for determination of the offset of a resource in time domain. The UE uses the closest SFN with the indicated number preceding the reception of the configured grant configuration.

RRC configures the following parameters when the configured grant Type 2 is configured:

- *cs-RNTI*: CS-RNTI for activation, deactivation, and retransmission;

- *periodicity*: periodicity of the configured grant Type 2;

- *nrofHARQ-Processes*: the number of HARQ processes for configured grant;

- *harq-ProcID-Offset*: offset of HARQ process for configured grant configured with *cg-RetransmissionTimer* for operation with shared spectrum channel access;

- *harq-ProcID-Offset2*: offset of HARQ process for configured grant not configured with *cg-RetransmissionTimer*.

RRC configures the following parameter when retransmissions on configured uplink grant is configured:

- *cg-RetransmissionTimer*: the duration after a configured grant (re)transmission of a HARQ process when the UE shall not autonomously retransmit that HARQ process;

- *cg-SDT-RetransmissionTimer*: the duration after a configured grant (re)transmission of a HARQ process of the initial CG-SDT transmission with CCCH message when the UE shall not autonomously retransmit the HARQ process.

Upon configuration of a configured grant Type 1 for a BWP of a Serving Cell by upper layers, the MAC entity shall:

1> store the uplink grant provided by upper layers as a configured uplink grant for the indicated BWP of the Serving Cell;

1> initialise or re-initialise the configured uplink grant to start in the symbol according to *timeDomainOffset*, *timeReferenceSFN*, and *S* (derived from *SLIV* or provided by *startSymbol* as specified in TS 38.214 [7]), and to reoccur with *periodicity*.

After an uplink grant is configured for a configured grant Type 1, the MAC entity shall consider sequentially that the Nth (N >= 0) uplink grant occurs in the symbol for which:

 [(SFN × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*)
 + (slot number in the frame × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*) + symbol number in the slot] =
 (*timeReferenceSFN* × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*
 + *timeDomainOffset* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot* + S + N × *periodicity*)
 modulo (1024 × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*)

For an uplink grant configured for configured grant Type 1 for CG-SDT on the selected uplink carrier as in clause 5.27, when CG-SDT is triggered and not terminated, for each configured uplink grant valid according to TS 38.214 [7] for which the above formula is satisfied, the MAC entity shall:

1> if, after initial transmission for CG-SDT with CCCH message has been performed according to clause 5.4.1, PDCCH addressed to the MAC entity's C-RNTI has not been received:

2> if the SSB corresponding to the configured UL grant has the same SSB index as the SSB selected for initial transmission for CG-SDT with CCCH message (i.e., retransmission of initial transmission of CG-SDT):

3> select this SSB;

3> indicate the SSB index corresponding to the configured uplink grant to the lower layer;

3> consider this configured uplink grant as valid.

1> else if at least one SSB configured for CG-SDT with SS-RSRP above *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB* is available:

2> if at least one SSB corresponding to the configured uplink grant with SS-RSRP above the *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB* is available:

3> if this is the initial transmission of CG-SDT with CCCH message after the CG-SDT procedure is initiated as in clause 5.27 (i.e., initial transmission for CG-SDT):

4> select an SSB with SS-RSRP above *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB* amongst the SSB(s) associated with the configured uplink grant.

3> else if PDCCH addressed to C-RNTI has been received after the initial transmission of CG-SDT with CCCH message (i.e., subsequent new transmission for CG-SDT):

4> if SS-RSRP of the SSB selected for the previous transmission for CG-SDT is above *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB* and this SSB is associated with this configured uplink grant:

5> select this SSB.

4> else if SS-RSRP of the SSB selected for the previous transmission for CG-SDT is not above *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB*:

5> select an SSB with SS-RSRP above *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB* amongst the SSB(s) associated with the configured uplink grant.

3> if SSB is selected above:

4> indicate the SSB index to the lower layer;

4> consider this configured uplink grant as valid.

1> else:

2> consider this configured uplink grant as not valid.

2> if PDCCH addressed to C-RNTI after the initial transmission of the CG-SDT with CCCH message has been received:

3> if there is data available for transmission for at least one RB configured for SDT:

4> initiate Random Access procedure in clause 5.1.

NOTE 1: When the UE determines if there is an SSB with SS-RSRP above *cg-SDT-RSRP-ThresholdSSB*, the UE uses the latest unfiltered L1-RSRP measurement.

For an uplink grant configured for configured grant Type 1 for RACH-less handover, when *rach-lessHO* is configured and the first PUSCH transmission to the Serving Cell has not been performed, for each configured uplink grant valid according to TS 38.214 [7] for which the above formula is satisfied, the MAC entity shall:

1> if at least one SSB corresponding to the configured uplink grant with SS-RSRP above *ntn-RSRP-ThresholdSSB* is available:

2> select an SSB with SS-RSRP above *ntn-RSRP-ThresholdSSB* amongst the SSB(s) associated with the configured uplink grant;

2> indicate the selected SSB index to the lower layer;

2> consider this configured uplink grant as valid.

1> else:

2> consider this configured uplink grant as not valid;

2> initiate Random Access procedure in clause 5.1.

NOTE X: When the UE determines if there is an SSB with SS-RSRP above *ntn-RSRP-ThresholdSSB*, the UE uses the latest unfiltered L1-RSRP measurement.

After an uplink grant is configured for a configured grant Type 2, the MAC entity shall consider sequentially that the Nth (N >= 0) uplink grant occurs in the symbol for which:

 [(SFN × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*)
 + (slot number in the frame × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*) + symbol number in the slot] =
 [(SFNstart time × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*
 + slotstart time × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot* + symbolstart time) + N × *periodicity*]
 modulo (1024 × *numberOfSlotsPerFrame* × *numberOfSymbolsPerSlot*)

where SFNstart time, slotstart time, and symbolstart time are the SFN, slot, and symbol, respectively, of the first transmission opportunity of PUSCH where the configured uplink grant was (re-)initialised.

If *cg-nrofPUSCH-InSlot* or *cg-nrofSlots* is configured for a configured grant Type 1 or Type 2, the MAC entity shall consider the uplink grants occur in those additional PUSCH allocations as specified in clause 6.1.2.3 of TS 38.214 [7].

NOTE 2: In case of unaligned SFN across carriers in a cell group, the SFN of the concerned Serving Cell is used to calculate the occurrences of configured uplink grants.

When the configured uplink grant is released by upper layers, all the corresponding configurations shall be released and all corresponding uplink grants shall be cleared.

The MAC entity shall:

1> if at least one configured uplink grant confirmation has been triggered and not cancelled; and

1> if the MAC entity has UL resources allocated for new transmission:

2> if, in this MAC entity, at least one configured uplink grant is configured by *configuredGrantConfigToAddModList*:

3> instruct the Multiplexing and Assembly procedure to generate a Multiple Entry Configured Grant Confirmation MAC CE as defined in clause 6.1.3.31.

2> else:

3> instruct the Multiplexing and Assembly procedure to generate a Configured Grant Confirmation MAC CE as defined in clause 6.1.3.7.

2> cancel all triggered configured uplink grant confirmation(s).

For a configured grant Type 2, the MAC entity shall clear the configured uplink grant(s) immediately after first transmission of Configured Grant Confirmation MAC CE or Multiple Entry Configured Grant Confirmation MAC CE which confirms the configured uplink grant deactivation.

Retransmissions use:

- repetition of configured uplink grants; or

- received uplink grants addressed to CS-RNTI; or

- configured uplink grants with *cg-RetransmissionTimer* or *cg-SDT-RetransmissionTimer* configured.

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

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

## 5.XX RACH-less initial UL transmission

The initial uplink transmission in a RACH-less handover procedure can be performed either using a dynamic uplink grant or a configured uplink grant Type 1 preallocated by RRC, if configured.

When *rach-LessHO* is configured, the MAC entity shall:

1> if *cg-NTN-RACH-less-Configuration* is configured:

2> select a configured uplink grant for initial uplink transmission according to clause 5.8.2.

1> else:

2> if *tci-StateID* is configured in *rach-lessHO*:

3> indicate to lower layers the TCI state information included in *tci-StateID*.

2> monitor the PDCCH as specified in TS 38.213 [6].

Editor’s note: *Editor*: Details related to beam information in *rach-lessHO* (i.e., whether it is mandatorily provided in dynamic grant case, whether it is an SSB index) to be confirmed in RAN2#124 and coordinated with RRC CR.

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

# Annex – Agreements

### RAN2#123bis Agreements

RAN2 continues to focus on a solution to address PUCCH repetition for Msg4 HARQ-ACK in Msg3 only for random access procedure triggered by RRC connection establishment, RRC connection re-establishment or RRC connection resume, i.e. to CCCH/CCCH1 (in the future we can consider random access during RRC connected, depending on RAN1)

No explicit NW indication to enable/disable PUCCH repetition for Msg4 HARQ-ACK besides the needed signalling for number of repetition, RSRP configuration in SIB (meaning that if these parameters are signalled, PUCCH repetition for Msg4 HARQ-ACK is enabled)

The maximum number of TN coverage area information is 32 (5 bits)

RAN2 will not specify restrictions on TN coverage description (i.e., description of TN coverage is left to NW implementation). The signalled TN coverage can describe areas not currently covered by the satellite cell footprint (FFS how to reflect this in the specification)

TN coverage information can be broadcast by both (quasi)earth-fixed and earth-moving cells

The working assumption “We do not introduce new triggers making the UE reacquire the TN coverage information from SI” in Rel-18 is confirmed

The new SIB including the TN coverage information is not an essential SIB for NTN. An NTN-capable UE does not need to consider the cell barred if it is unable to acquire the SIB when scheduled.

Legacy SI update procedure will be used when the network updates the TN coverage information (can further check for moving cell case)

For location-based CHO for earth-moving cells, re-use the procedure from cell reselection as baseline to derive the candidate cell’s reference location as the cell moves (FFS on how to signal the needed parameters, e.g. ephemeris and Epoch time)

Upon T304 expiry, the UE does not fallback to RACH-based HO.

Preallocated UL grant must be configured with an associated RSRP threshold.

UE relies on T304 and RRC Re-establishment procedure to address RACH-less HO failure in Rel-18 NTN (as in LTE). No new NTN-specific enhancements are introduced. If TAT expires, the UE follows the legacy procedures, regardless of the RACH-less HO configuration. RAN2 understands that the NW can ensure a proper configuration for TAT and T304 values (up to NW implementation, no need to capture this in the specs).

As for RACH-less LTM, for RACH-less NTN, the UE determines successful reception of its first UL data based on receiving a PDCCH addressing the UE’s C-RNTI in the target cell scheduling a new transmission as first UL transmission. Can be either DL assignment or UL grant addressed to same HARQ process for the “new transmission”. RAN understands this does not exclude the possibility to use a Contention Resolution MAC CE but this will not be used as a determination of the RACH less HO completion

We follow the LTE baseline for when UE starts the PTAG timeAlignmentTimer in NTN RACH-less HO (option 1 in R2-2311318)

Combination of RACH-less HO with time-based CHO is supported in Rel-18 NTN for both Configured and Dynamic Grant. For the Dynamic Grant case this should be configured by the NW only when the is no risk of confusion about which beam to use (up to NW implementation).

We don’t consider the impact on Rel-17 UEs behavior (or Rel-18 UEs not supporting unchanged PCI) when defining the Rel-18 unchanged PCI solution

Network provides the sync information of target satellite in advance to UE before satellite switching, via broadcast signalling

RAN2 confirms satellite switching with unchanged PCI is only applicable on quasi-earth fixed system

Only 1 target satellite information (i.e. NTN-config) of serving cell is provided in SIB19. FFS on exact signalling

SMTC configuration of target satellite needs further discussion:

 FFS on whether and how to provide the SMTC configuration of target satellite.

 FFS on how to handle the SMTC adjustment.

We support soft satellite switching in Rel-18

There will be an indication (FFS if explicit or implicit) whether hard switch or soft switch is used.

At least soft satellite switching, network provides SSB information of target satellite to UE. FFS on the details: options include e.g. indicating a time offset/information or indicating a different SSB index for the target satellite (FFS for Hard satellite switch)

In soft satellite switching, UE can start synchronizing with target satellite before T-service of source satellite.

We introduce a T-start which indicates the earliest occasion when the UE can start synchronizing with target satellite (actual signalling is FFS). In soft switch scenario, T-start of target satellite is earlier than T-service of source satellite (FFS if T-start is also used for hard satellite switch)

For soft satellite switching, the exact time when the UE starts synchronizing with target satellite (between T-start and T-service) is up to UE implementation

UE is not required to connect to source satellite when the UE switches to target satellite.

### RAN2#123 Agreements

RAN2 confirms that the request/capability of PUCCH repetition for Msg4 HARQ-ACK via Msg3 higher layer signaling is feasible (can rediscuss if we cannot converge on a specific solution).

An explicit indication will be introduced to enable the unchanged PCI switch

The unchanged PCI mechanism can be applied to the case where the coverage gap is zero or negligible (where there is no need to introduce t-gap or t-start). FFS whether we need to support scenarios that require the introduction of t-gap or t-start

PCI unchanged procedure can be performed without performing RACH

In the unchanged PCI case, the UE considers UL synchronization timer expired at t-Service (current cell stop time) to stop any UL operation. FFS on timeAlignmentTimer handling.

In the unchanged PCI case, for RACH-based solution, the UE may trigger RACH immediately after DL synchronizing with the new satellite

The UE specific Koffset, if configured, is not used after t-Service and the UE uses the cell specifc Koffset until the UE receives new differential Koffset MAC CE.

Single beam can be indicated in HO command to monitor target cell PDCCH for dynamic grant for initial UL transmission

The pre-allocated grant is provided with association to SSBs

The mapping between type-1 CG and SSBs in CG-SDT can be the baseline of how to configure pre-allocated grant mapped to SSBs (can rediscuss in case of different input from RAN1)

UE selects an SSB associated to the pre-allocated grant with RSRP above a configured threshold, use the selected SSB and the corresponding UL grant occasions for the initial UL transmission

ta-Report can be included in ServingCellConfigCommon in the RACH-less HO command

RAN2 understands that if pre-allocated grant is not configured and dynamic grant is used for first UL transmission, if UL HARQ mode is configured, HARQ mode A is recommended for the HARQ process (this is anyway up to NW implementation and there is no Stage2 and Stage3 spec impact)

The MAC entity applies the N\_TA (value 0 or same as source cell) configured in the RACH-less HO command for the PTAG. FFS on when timerAlignmentTimer associated with this TAG starts

If no SSB mapping to pre-allocated grant has RSRP above the threshold, fallback to RACH HO (with new SSB selection), while T304 is running

### RAN2#121bis-e Agreements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### RAN2#121bis-e Agreements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### RAN2#121e Agreements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Support RACH-less Handover in Rel-18.

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

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

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

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

### RAN2#120 Agreements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### RAN2#119bis-e Agreements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### RAN2#119-e Agreements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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