**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #123bis R2-230xxxx**

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

**Title: [**DRAFT] Reply LS on security for selective SCG activation

**Response to:** R2-2307070 / S3-233200

**Release:** Rel-18

**Work Item:** NR\_mob\_enh2-Core

**Source:** Nokia (to be RAN2)

**To:** SA3

**Cc: [**RAN3]

**Contact Person:**

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**Send any reply LS to: 3GPP Liaisons Coordinator,** **mailto:3GPPLiaison@etsi.org**

**Attachments:** None

**1. Overall Description:**

RAN2 would like to thank SA3 on LS which provides the solution details for security key change for selective activation. RAN2 has provided the first LS Reply with initial RAN2 agreements on the signing procedure in [1].

RAN2 has further discussed on the RAN2 signaling aspects for the above solution and made the following agreements.

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| 1. Rel-18 Conditional-Reconfiguration Information element may include
* List of Group-ID (mapping to SN) and associated SK-counter values outside the candidate conditional configurations.
* The Group-ID parameter is included within each candidate conditional configuration(CondConfigAddMod) marked for subsequent CPAC.
1. UE include the selected SK-counter value in the MN RRC Reconfiguration Complete message when UE selects new SK-counter value as part of S-CPAC execution.

**Additional Note :** RAN2 assumes that, during inter-SN SCPAC execution, the UE selects the first unused SK counter and the target SN selects the first unused SN key so the target SN and the UE are expected to use the same key in typical scenarios. The SN needs to obtain the keys upon configuration of SCPAC as UL data transmission may start in parallel with the transmission of the RRC Reconfiguration Complete message. While RAN2 did not identify scenario where key mismatch can occur as per RAN2 understanding there is no way to detect the failure due to key mismatch at SN e.g. when user plane integrity protection is not used. Hence RAN2 concluded to include SK-counter in MN RRC Reconfiguration Complete message as indicated in Agreement 2. The network will use the received SK-counter value in the case of failure.1. For Pcell-change /PSCell-change /SCG Release scenarios, if the SCPAC configuration is maintained, UE also maintains the unused SK-counter values.
2. RAN2 Understanding: The NW configuration ensures that The SK-counter lists assigned for SCPAC configurations and the SK-counter value assigned for CPAC configurations are uniquely different. No specification changes are needed in this regard.
3. No specification changes are needed for UE behavior for the Scenario where free SK-Counter not available at the time of execution. This scenario can be avoided by NW configuration.
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RAN2 kindly request SA3 to consider the above RAN2 agreements for further SA3 work for the above solution. RAN2 also kindly request SA3 to provide feedback on the actions required at MN in case of mismatch in the selected SK-counter at UE and NW is identified.

**2. Actions:**

**To SA3 group.**

**ACTION:** RAN2 kindly asks SA3 to take the above information into account.

 **3. Date of Next TSG-RAN2 Meetings:**

3GPP TSG RAN WG2#124 13-17 November 2023 Chicago, US

**4. Reference**

[1] R2-2309246R2-Reply LS on security for selective SCG activation