**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #124**

**Chicago, USA, 13th – 17th November 2023**

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| *CR-Form-v12.2* | | | | | | | | |
| **CHANGE REQUEST** | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | **38.300** | **CR** | **0685** | **rev** | **5** | **Current version:** | **17.6.0** |  |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| *For* [***HE******LP***](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:*** | Introducing support for Network-Controlled Repeaters to 38.300 | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Source to WG:*** | Ericsson | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Source to TSG:*** | R2 | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Work item code:*** | NR\_NetConRepeater | | | | |  | ***Date:*** | | | 2023-12-01 |
|  |  | | | |  | |  | | |  |
| ***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 can be 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)* | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Reason for change:*** | | Introduce the Network-Controlled Repeater feature to the specification | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Summary of change:*** | | * §3: Introducing related abbreviations and definitions. * §4: Introducing the general description * §7.1: UAC does not apply to NCR-MT * §8.1: Introducing NCR-RNTI * §9.2.1.1: Operation for cell selection * §12.1: DRB support for NCR-MT | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Consequences if not approved:*** | | If the CR is not agreed, NCR will not be supported in NR. | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Clauses affected:*** | | 3, 3.1, 3.2, 4, 4.X, 4.X.1, 4.X.2, 4.X.3, 7.4, 8, 8.1, 9.2, 9.2.1, 9.2.1.1, 12, 12.1 | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | **Y** | **N** |  | | | |  | | |
| ***Other specs*** | | **X** |  | Other core specifications | | | | TS 38.413 CR 0890 | | |
| ***affected:*** | |  | **X** | Test specifications | | | | TS 38.401 CR 0274 | | |
| ***(show related CRs)*** | |  | **X** | O&M Specifications | | | | TS 38.473 CR 1109 | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Other comments:*** | | * This CR is based on RAN2#122’s approved CR, in R2-2306606. * Revision 1: submitted to RAN2#123 with corrections, including:   + §4.X.1: Clarification on SRB and DRB establishment.   + Small editorial corrections * Revision 2 (endorsed in R2-2309053): considers RAN2#123 agreements, including:   + §3: definition of the NCR-Fwd backhaul link.   + §4.X.1: clarifying that the signal that NCR-Fwd is forwarding is associated to the cell that the NCR-MT is connected to via the control link.   + Small editorial corrections. * Revision 3: submitted to RAN2#123bis in R2-2310898 (no changes with respect to Revision 2). * Revision 4 (current): small editorial correction   + §3.1: Changing abbreviation to “NetCR” to avoid duplicate and some small editorial correction taking that into consideration.   + §3.2: Adding “NetCR-Fwd access link” definition   + §4.X.3: Small clarification that the NetCR-Fwd ceases amplifying-and-forwarding RF signals when the NetCR-MT in RRC\_INACTIVE determines degradation of the NetCR-Fwd backhaul link. * Revision 5 (current):   + Adding RAN3 agreements (in R2-2313981)   + Changing abbreviation again (in the form of NCR-x, e.g., NCR-node, NCR-Fwd, etc…) | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***This CR's revision history:*** | | See the “Other comments” field above. | | | | | | | | |

*START OF CHANGES*

# 3 Abbreviations and Definitions

## 3.1 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1], in TS 36.300 [2] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1] and TS 36.300 [2].

5GC 5G Core Network

5GS 5G System

5QI 5G QoS Identifier

A-CSI Aperiodic CSI

AGC Automatic Gain Control

AKA Authentication and Key Agreement

AMBR Aggregate Maximum Bit Rate

AMC Adaptive Modulation and Coding

AMF Access and Mobility Management Function

ARP Allocation and Retention Priority

BA Bandwidth Adaptation

BCCH Broadcast Control Channel

BCH Broadcast Channel

BFD Beam Failure Detection

BH Backhaul

BL Bandwidth reduced Low complexity

BPSK Binary Phase Shift Keying

C-RNTI Cell RNTI

CAG Closed Access Group

CAPC Channel Access Priority Class

CBRA Contention Based Random Access

CCE Control Channel Element

CD-SSB Cell Defining SSB

CFR Common Frequency Resource

CFRA Contention Free Random Access

CG Configured Grant

CHO Conditional Handover

CIoT Cellular Internet of Things

CLI Cross Link interference

CMAS Commercial Mobile Alert Service

CORESET Control Resource Set

CP Cyclic Prefix

CPA Conditional PSCell Addition

CPC Conditional PSCell Change

DAG Directed Acyclic Graph

DAPS Dual Active Protocol Stack

DFT Discrete Fourier Transform

DCI Downlink Control Information

DCP DCI with CRC scrambled by PS-RNTI

DL-AoD Downlink Angle-of-Departure

DL-SCH Downlink Shared Channel

DL-TDOA Downlink Time Difference Of Arrival

DMRS Demodulation Reference Signal

DRX Discontinuous Reception

E-CID Enhanced Cell-ID (positioning method)

EHC Ethernet Header Compression

ePWS enhancements of Public Warning System

ETWS Earthquake and Tsunami Warning System

FS Feature Set

FSA ID Frequency Selection Area Identity

G-CS-RNTI Group Configured Scheduling RNTI

G-RNTI Group RNTI

GFBR Guaranteed Flow Bit Rate

GIN Group ID for Network selection

GNSS Global Navigation Satellite System

GSO Geosynchronous Orbit

H-SFN Hyper System Frame Number

HAPS High Altitude Platform Station

HRNN Human-Readable Network Name

IAB Integrated Access and Backhaul

IFRI Intra Frequency Reselection Indication

I-RNTI Inactive RNTI

INT-RNTI Interruption RNTI

KPAS Korean Public Alarm System

L2 Layer-2

L3 Layer-3

LDPC Low Density Parity Check

LEO Low Earth Orbit

MBS Multicast/Broadcast Services

MCE Measurement Collection Entity

MCCH MBS Control Channel

MDBV Maximum Data Burst Volume

MEO Medium Earth Orbit

MIB Master Information Block

MICO Mobile Initiated Connection Only

MFBR Maximum Flow Bit Rate

MMTEL Multimedia telephony

MNO Mobile Network Operator

MPE Maximum Permissible Exposure

MRB MBS Radio Bearer

MT Mobile Termination

MTCH MBS Traffic Channel

MTSI Multimedia Telephony Service for IMS

MU-MIMO Multi User MIMO

Multi-RTT Multi-Round Trip Time

MUSIM Multi-Universal Subscriber Identity Module

NB-IoT Narrow Band Internet of Things

NCD-SSB Non Cell Defining SSB

NCGI NR Cell Global Identifier

NCL Neighbour Cell List

NCR Neighbour Cell Relation

NCRT Neighbour Cell Relation Table

NGAP NG Application Protocol

NGSO Non-Geosynchronous Orbit

NID Network Identifier

NPN Non-Public Network

NR NR Radio Access

NSAG Network Slice AS Group

NTN Non-Terrestrial Network

P-MPR Power Management Maximum Power Reduction

P-RNTI Paging RNTI

PCH Paging Channel

PCI Physical Cell Identifier

PDC Propagation Delay Compensation

PDCCH Physical Downlink Control Channel

PDSCH Physical Downlink Shared Channel

PEI Paging Early Indication

PH Paging Hyperframe

PLMN Public Land Mobile Network

PNI-NPN Public Network Integrated NPN

PO Paging Occasion

PRACH Physical Random Access Channel

PRB Physical Resource Block

PRG Precoding Resource block Group

PRS Positioning Reference Signal

PS-RNTI Power Saving RNTI

PSS Primary Synchronisation Signal

PTM Point to Multipoint

PTP Point to Point

PTW Paging Time Window

PUCCH Physical Uplink Control Channel

PUSCH Physical Uplink Shared Channel

PWS Public Warning System

QAM Quadrature Amplitude Modulation

QFI QoS Flow ID

QMC QoE Measurement Collection

QoE Quality of Experience

QPSK Quadrature Phase Shift Keying

RA Random Access

RA-RNTI Random Access RNTI

RACH Random Access Channel

RANAC RAN-based Notification Area Code

REG Resource Element Group

RIM Remote Interference Management

RLM Radio Link Monitoring

RMSI Remaining Minimum SI

RNA RAN-based Notification Area

RNAU RAN-based Notification Area Update

RNTI Radio Network Temporary Identifier

RQA Reflective QoS Attribute

RQoS Reflective Quality of Service

RS Reference Signal

RSRP Reference Signal Received Power

RSRQ Reference Signal Received Quality

RSSI Received Signal Strength Indicator

RSTD Reference Signal Time Difference

RTT Round Trip Time

SCS SubCarrier Spacing

SD Slice Differentiator

SDAP Service Data Adaptation Protocol

SDT Small Data Transmission

SD-RSRP Sidelink Discovery RSRP

SFI-RNTI Slot Format Indication RNTI

SHR Successful Handover Report

SIB System Information Block

SI-RNTI System Information RNTI

SLA Service Level Agreement

SL-RSRP Sidelink RSRP

SMC Security Mode Command

SMF Session Management Function

SMTC SS/PBCH block Measurement Timing Configuration

S-NSSAI Single Network Slice Selection Assistance Information

SNPN Stand-alone Non-Public Network

SNPN ID Stand-alone Non-Public Network Identity

SPS Semi-Persistent Scheduling

SR Scheduling Request

SRAP Sidelink Relay Adaptation Protocol

SRS Sounding Reference Signal

SRVCC Single Radio Voice Call Continuity

SS Synchronization Signal

SSB SS/PBCH block

SSS Secondary Synchronisation Signal

SSSG Search Space Set Group

SST Slice/Service Type

SU-MIMO Single User MIMO

SUL Supplementary Uplink

TA Timing Advance

TB Transport Block

TCE Trace Collection Entity

TNL Transport Network Layer

TPC Transmit Power Control

TRP Transmit/Receive Point

TRS Tracking Reference Signal

U2N UE-to-Network

UCI Uplink Control Information

UDC Uplink Data Compression

UE-Slice-MBR UE Slice Maximum Bit Rate

UL-AoA Uplink Angles of Arrival

UL-RTOA Uplink Relative Time of Arrival

UL-SCH Uplink Shared Channel

UPF User Plane Function

URLLC Ultra-Reliable and Low Latency Communications

VR Virtual Reality

V2X Vehicle-to-Everything

Xn-C Xn-Control plane

Xn-U Xn-User plane

XnAP Xn Application Protocol

## 3.2 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1], in TS 36.300 [2] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1] and TS 36.300 [2].

**BH RLC channel**: an RLC channel between two nodes, which is used to transport backhaul packets**.**

**Boundary IAB-node:** as defined in TS 38.401 [4].

**Broadcast MRB**:A radio bearer configured for MBS broadcast delivery.

**CAG Cell**:a PLMN cell broadcasting at least one Closed Access Group identity.

**CAG Member Cell**:for a UE, a CAG cell broadcasting the identity of the selected PLMN, registered PLMN or equivalent PLMN, and for that PLMN, a CAG identifier belonging to the Allowed CAG list of the UE for that PLMN.

**CAG-only cell**: a CAG cell that is only available for normal service for CAG UEs.

**Cell-Defining SSB**: an SSB with an RMSI associated.

**Child node**: IAB-DU's and IAB-donor-DU's next hop neighbour node; the child node is also an IAB-node.

**Conditional Handover (CHO**): a handover procedure that is executed only when execution condition(s) are met.

**CORESET#0**: the control resource set for at least SIB1 scheduling, can be configured either via MIB or via dedicated RRC signalling.

**DAPS Handover**: a handover procedure that maintains the source gNB connection after reception of RRC message for handover and until releasing the source cell after successful random access to the target gNB.

**Direct Path**: a type of UE-to-Network transmission path, where data is transmitted between a UE and the network without sidelink relaying.

**Downstream**: direction toward child node or UE in IAB-topology.

**Early Data Forwarding**: data forwarding that is initiated before the UE executes the handover.

**Earth-centered, earth-fixed**: a global geodetic reference system for the Earth intended for practical applications of mapping, charting, geopositioning and navigation, as specified in NIMA TR 8350.2 [51].

**Feeder link**: wireless link between the NTN Gateway and the NTN payload.

**Geosynchronous Orbit**: earth-centered orbit at approximately 35786 kilometres above Earth's surface and synchronised with Earth's rotation. A geostationary orbit is a non-inclined geosynchronous orbit, i.e. in the Earth's equator plane.

**Group ID for Network Selection**: an identifier used during SNPN selection to enhance the likelihood of selecting a preferred SNPN that supports a Default Credentials Server or a Credentials Holder, as specified in TS 23.501 [3].

**gNB**: node providing NR user plane and control plane protocol terminations towards the UE, and connected via the NG interface to the 5GC.

**High Altitude Platform Station**: airborne vehicle embarking the NTN payload placed at an altitude between 8 and 50 km.

**IAB-donor**:gNB that provides network access to UEs via a network of backhaul and access links.

**IAB-donor-CU**: as defined in TS 38.401 [4].

**IAB-donor-DU**:as defined in TS 38.401 [4].

**IAB-DU**: gNB-DU functionality supported by the IAB-node to terminate the NR access interface to UEs and next-hop IAB-nodes, and to terminate the F1 protocol to the gNB-CU functionality, as defined in TS 38.401 [4], on the IAB-donor.

**IAB-MT**: IAB-node function that terminates the Uu interface to the parent node using the procedures and behaviours specified for UEs unless stated otherwise. IAB-MT function used in 38-series of 3GPP Specifications corresponds to IAB-UE function defined in TS 23.501 [3].

**IAB-node**: RAN node that supports NR access links to UEs and NR backhaul links to parent nodes and child nodes. The IAB-node does not support backhauling via LTE.

**IAB topology**: the unison of all IAB-nodes and IAB-donor-DUs whose F1 and/or RRC connections are terminated at the same IAB-donor-CU.

**Indirect Path**: a type of UE-to-Network transmission path, where data is forwarded via a U2N Relay UE between a U2N Remote UE and the network.

**Inter-donor partial migration:** migration of an IAB-MT to a parent node underneath a different IAB-donor-CU while the collocated IAB-DU and its descendant IAB-node(s), if any, are terminated at the initial IAB-donor-CU. The procedure renders the said IAB-node as a boundary IAB-node.

**Intra-system Handover**:handover that does not involve a CN change (EPC or 5GC).

**Inter-system Handover**:handover that involves a CN change (EPC or 5GC).

**Late Data Forwarding**: data forwarding that is initiated after the source NG-RAN node knows that the UE has successfully accessed a target NG-RAN node.

**Mapped Cell ID**: in NTN, it corresponds to a fixed geographical area.

**MBS Radio Bearer**: A radio bearer configured for MBS delivery.

**MSG1**: preamble transmission of the random access procedure for 4-step random access (RA) type.

**MSG3**: first scheduled transmission of the random access procedure.

**MSGA**:preamble and payload transmissions of the random access procedure for 2-step RA type.

**MSGB**:response to MSGA in the 2-step random access procedure. MSGB may consist of response(s) for contention resolution, fallback indication(s), and backoff indication.

**Multicast/Broadcast Service**: A point-to-multipoint service as defined in TS 23.247 [45].

**Multicast MRB**:A radio bearer configured for MBS multicast delivery.

**Multi-hop backhauling**: using a chain of NR backhaul links between an IAB-node and an IAB-donor.

**NCR-Fwd**: Network-Controlled Repeater node function, which performs amplifying-and-forwarding of UL/DL RF signals between gNB and UE. The behavior of the NCR-Fwd is controlled according to the side control information received by the NCR-MT from a gNB.

**NCR-Fwd access link**: link used for transmissions between the NCR-Fwd and UEs.

**NCR-Fwd backhaul link**: link used for backhauling between the NCR-Fwd and gNB.

**NCR-MT**: NCR-node entity which communicates with a gNB via a control link to receive side control information. The control link is based on NR Uu interface.

**NCR-node**: RAN node comprising NCR-MT and NCR-Fwd.

**ng-eNB**: node providing E-UTRA user plane and control plane protocol terminations towards the UE, and connected via the NG interface to the 5GC.

**NG-C**: control plane interface between NG-RAN and 5GC.

**NG-U**: user plane interface between NG-RAN and 5GC.

**NG-RAN node**: either a gNB or an ng-eNB.

**Non-CAG Cell**: a PLMN cell which does not broadcast any Closed Access Group identity.

**Non-Geosynchronous orbit**: earth-centered orbit with an orbital period that does not match Earth's rotation on its axis. This includes Low and Medium Earth Orbit (LEO and MEO). LEO operates at altitudes between 300 km and 1500 km and MEO at altitudes between 7000 km and 25000 km, approximately.

**Non-terrestrial network**: an NG-RAN consisting of gNBs, which provide non-terrestrial NR access to UEs by means of an NTN payload embarked on an airborne or space-borne NTN vehicle and an NTN Gateway.

**NR backhaul link**: NR link used for backhauling between an IAB-node and an IAB-donor, and between IAB-nodes in case of a multi-hop backhauling.

**NR sidelink communication**: AS functionality enabling at least V2X communication as defined in TS 23.287 [40] and the ProSe communication (including ProSe non-Relay and UE-to-Network Relay communication) as defined in TS 23.304 [48], between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**NR sidelink discovery**: AS functionality enabling ProSe non-Relay Discovery and ProSe UE-to-Network Relay discovery for Proximity based Services as defined in TS 23.304 [48] between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**NTN Gateway**: an earth station located at the surface of the earth, providing connectivity to the NTN payload using the feeder link. An NTN Gateway is a TNL node.

**NTN payload**: a network node, embarked on board a satellite or high altitude platform station, providing connectivity functions, between the service link and the feeder link. In the current version of this specification, the NTN payload is a TNL node.

**Numerology**: corresponds to one subcarrier spacing in the frequency domain. By scaling a reference subcarrier spacing by an integer *N*, different numerologies can be defined.

**Parent node**: IAB-MT's next hop neighbour node; the parent node can be IAB-node or IAB-donor-DU

**PC5 Relay RLC channel**: an RLC channel between L2 U2N Remote UE and L2 U2N Relay UE, which is used to transport packets over PC5 for L2 UE-to-Network Relay**.**

**PLMN Cell**: a cell of the PLMN.

**RedCap UE**: a UE with reduced capabilities as specified in clause 4.2.21.1 in TS 38.306 [11].

**Relay discovery**: AS functionality enabling 5G ProSe UE-to-Network Relay Discovery as defined in TS 23.304 [48], using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**Satellite**:a space-borne vehicle orbiting the Earth embarking the NTN payload.

**Service link**:wireless link between the NTN payload and UE.

**Sidelink Discovery RSRP:** RSRP measurements on PC5 link related to NR sidelink discovery.

**Sidelink RSRP:** RSRP measurements on PC5 link related to NR sidelink communication.

**SNPN Access Mode**: mode of operation whereby a UE only accesses SNPNs.

**SNPN-only cell**: a cell that is only available for normal service for SNPN subscribers.

**SNPN Identity**: the identity of Stand-alone NPN defined by the pair (PLMN ID, NID).

**Transmit/Receive Point**:part of the gNB transmitting and receiving radio signals to/from UE according to physical layer properties and parameters inherent to that element.

**U2N Relay UE**: a UE that provides functionality to support connectivity to the network for U2N Remote UE(s).

**U2N Remote UE**: a UE that communicates with the network via a U2N Relay UE.

**Upstream**: direction toward parent node in IAB-topology.

**Uu Relay RLC channel**: an RLC channel between L2 U2N Relay UE and gNB, which is used to transport packets over Uu for L2 UE-to-Network Relay**.**

**V2X sidelink communication**: AS functionality enabling V2X communication as defined in TS 23.285 [41], between nearby UEs, using E-UTRA technology but not traversing any network node.

**Xn**: network interface between NG-RAN nodes.

# 4 Overall Architecture and Functional Split

## 4.X Network-Controlled Repeaters

### 4.X.1 Architecture

A Network-Controlled Repeater node, referred to as NCR-node, is an RF repeater that enables wireless amplifying-and-forwarding functionality in NG-RAN. The NCR-node is capable of receiving and applying side control information from a gNB with additional functionality to support Network-Controlled Repeater.

The NCR-node comprises a NCR-MT and a NCR-Fwd. The NCR-MT is an entity supporting a subset of the UE functionality that communicates with the gNB to receive side control information via a control link based on the NR Uu interface. The NCR-Fwd is the function performing amplifying-and-forwarding of signals between gNB and UE via the NCR-Fwd backhaul link and NCR-Fwd access link, respectively. The NCR-Fwd can support multiple beams towards the UE. The behavior of the NCR-Fwd is controlled according to the side control information received from the gNB. The NCR-node is modelled as depicted in Figure 4.X-1.



Figure 4.X-1: Conceptual model of network-controlled repeater.

A NCR-MT establishes SRBs and, optionally, DRB(s) with a gNB. The establishment of DRB(s) can be used to transport OAM traffic.

The signal that NCR-Fwd forwards is associated to the cell that the NCR-MT is connected to via the control link. Whether the NCR-Fwd can forward other signals is up to implementation.

### 4.X.2 Capabilities

Carrier Aggregation (CA), Multi-Radio Dual Connectivity (MR-DC), handover and its related features (e.g., CHO, DAPS, CPAC, etc.) are not supported by NCR-MT, as defined together with other limitations in TS 38.306 [11].

### 4.X.3 Signalling procedures

NR RRC signalling is utilized to configure the NCR-MT to receive side control information from a gNB, which is used by the NCR-Fwd to determine whether and how to amplify-and-forward RF signals. If the side control configuration is removed, the NCR-Fwd ceases its amplifying-and-forwarding function.

When the NCR-MT is in RRC\_CONNECTED state, the NCR-Fwd may amplify-and-forward RF signals based on the side control information received from the gNB. The NCR-MT does not support RRM measurements in RRC\_CONNECTED.

When the NCR-MT transitions from RRC\_CONNECTED state to RRC\_INACTIVE state, the NCR-Fwd may continue to amplify-and-forward RF signals in accordance with the last side control information received from the gNB. When the NCR-MT is in RRC\_INACTIVE state, the NCR-Fwd ceases to amplify-and-forward RF signals if no suitable cell is detected, or if the NCR-MT selects a different cell than the last serving cell on which side control configuration was received.

When a NCR-MT in RRC\_INACTIVE state determines degradation of the NCR-Fwd backhaul link beam, then the NCR-Fwd should cease amplifying-and-forwarding RF signals, and the NCR-MT should attempt to resume its RRC connection (with cause value ‘mo-Signalling’). The criteria to evaluate backhaul beam degradation are left to the NCR-node implementation.

When the NCR-MT transitions from RRC\_CONNECTED state to RRC\_IDLE, the NCR-Fwd ceases any amplifying-and-forwarding of RF signals. How a NCR-MT transitions back from RRC\_IDLE state to RRC\_CONNECTED state is left to NCR-node or network implementation.

A NCR-MT can detect RLF on the control link as specified in TS 38.331 clause 5.3.10 [12]. When RLF is detected, the NCR-MT performs the RRC re-establishment procedure as specified in TS 38.331 [12]. During the RRC re-establishment procedure, the NCR-Fwd ceases to amplify-and-forward RF signals.

After successfully performing the RRC re-establishment procedure, the NCR-MT waits for the new side control configuration for the NCR-Fwd to resume the amplifying-and-forwarding of RF signals.

A NCR-MT can also perform Beam Failure Detection (BFD) and Beam Failure Recovery (BFR) as described in clause 9.2.8. Once the NCR-MT detects beam failure in the control link, the NCR-Fwd should cease amplifying-and-forwarding RF signals until BFR is completed.

### 4.X.4 OAM aspects

The transport connection between the NCR-node and its OAM may be provided by the NCR-MT’s PDU session. A Network-Controlled Repeater may be configured with a list of allowed gNB cell(s) that the NCR-MT is allowed to connect with, and/or a list of forbidden gNB cell(s) that the NCR-MT is not allowed to connect with.

The information on the physical beam(s) used by NCR-Fwd for access link may be provided by OAM to the gNB and the Network-Controlled Repeater for operation. How to characterize and provide the physical beams of NCR-Fwd is up to implementation.

### 4.X.5 Network-controlled repeater management

Network-Controlled Repeater identification is performed in RAN, and Network-Control Repeater authorization is performed in 5GC. The general procedure of the Network-Controlled Repeater management is illustrated in Figure 4.X.5-1:

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**Figure 4.X.5-1: Network-Controlled Repeater management.**

Step 1: The gNB broadcasts the Network-Controlled Repeater supported information via system information.

Step 6: When a Network-Controlled Repeater is trying to access the network as a Network-Controlled Repeater, the Network-Controlled Repeater indication is sent to the serving gNB.

Step 7: The serving gNB selects an appropriate AMF for the Network-Controlled Repeater.

Step 9: AMF provides Network-Controlled Repeater authorization information to the gNB.

Other steps refer to the signalling flow as defined in 9.2.1.3.

<< 1st change Ends >>

<< 2nd change >>

## 7.4 Access Control

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

One unified access control framework as specified in TS 22.261 [19] applies to all UE states (RRC\_IDLE, RRC\_INACTIVE and RRC\_CONNECTED) for NR. NG-RAN broadcasts barring control information associated with Access Categories and Access Identities (in case of network sharing, the barring control information can be set individually for each PLMN). The UE determines whether an access attempt is authorized based on the barring information broadcast for the selected PLMN, and the selected Access Category and Access Identity(ies) for the access attempt:

- For NAS triggered requests, NAS determines the Access Category and Access Identity(ies);

- For AS triggered requests, RRC determines the Access Category while NAS determines the Access Identity(ies).

The gNB handles access attempts with establishment causes "emergency", "mps-PriorityAccess" and "mcs-PriorityAccess" (i.e. Emergency calls, MPS, MCS subscribers) with high priority and responds with RRC Reject to these access attempts only in extreme network load conditions that may threaten the gNB stability.

Unified access control does not apply to IAB-MTs or NCR-MTs.

<< 2nd change Ends >>

<< 3rd change >>

# 8 NG Identities

## 8.1 UE Identities

In this clause, the identities used by NR connected to 5GC are listed. For scheduling at cell level, the following identities are used:

- C-RNTI: unique UE identification used as an identifier of the RRC Connection and for scheduling;

- CG-SDT-CS-RNTI: unique UE identification used for Configured Grant-based SDT in the uplink;

- CI-RNTI: identification of cancellation in the uplink;

- CS-RNTI: unique UE identification used for Semi-Persistent Scheduling in the downlink or configured grant in the uplink;

- INT-RNTI: identification of pre-emption in the downlink;

- MCS-C-RNTI: unique UE identification used for indicating an alternative MCS table for PDSCH and PUSCH;

- P-RNTI: identification of Paging and System Information change notification in the downlink;

- SI-RNTI: identification of Broadcast and System Information in the downlink;

- SP-CSI-RNTI: unique UE identification used for semi-persistent CSI reporting on PUSCH.

For power and slot format control, the following identities are used:

- SFI-RNTI: identification of slot format;

- TPC-PUCCH-RNTI: unique UE identification to control the power of PUCCH;

- TPC-PUSCH-RNTI: unique UE identification to control the power of PUSCH;

- TPC-SRS-RNTI: unique UE identification to control the power of SRS.

During the random access procedure, the following identities are also used:

- RA-RNTI: identification of the Random Access Response in the downlink;

- MSGB-RNTI: identification of the Random Access Response for 2-step RA type in the downlink;

- Temporary C-RNTI: UE identification temporarily used for scheduling during the random access procedure;

- Random value for contention resolution: UE identification temporarily used for contention resolution purposes during the random access procedure.

For NR connected to 5GC, the following UE identity is used at NG-RAN level:

- I-RNTI: used to identify the UE context in RRC\_INACTIVE.

For UE power saving purpose, the following identities are used:

- PS-RNTI: used to determine if the UE needs to monitor PDCCH on the next occurrence of the connected mode DRX on-duration;

- PEI-RNTI: used to determine if the UE needs to monitor the associated PO.

For IAB the following identity is used:

- AI-RNTI: identification of the DCI carrying availability indication for soft symbols of an IAB-DU.

For Network-Controlled Repeater the following identity is used:

- NCR-RNTI: identification of the DCI carrying side control information.

For MBS, the following identities are used:

- G-RNTI: Identifies dynamically scheduled PTM transmissions of MTCH(s);

- G-CS-RNTI: Identifies configured scheduled PTM transmissions of MTCH(s) scheduled with configured grant;

- MCCH-RNTI: Identifies transmissions of MCCH and MCCH change notification.

For sidelink, the following identities are used:

- SL-RNTI: unique UE identification used for NR sidelink communication scheduling;

- SL-CS-RNTI: unique UE identification used for configured sidelink grant for NR sidelink communication;

- SL Semi-Persistent Scheduling V-RNTI: unique UE identification used for semi-persistent scheduling for V2X sidelink communication.

<< 3rd change Ends >>

<< 4th change >>

## 9.2 Intra-NR

### 9.2.1 Mobility in RRC\_IDLE

#### 9.2.1.1 Cell Selection

The principles of PLMN selection in NR are based on the 3GPP PLMN selection principles. Cell selection is required on transition from RM-DEREGISTERED to RM-REGISTERED, from CM-IDLE to CM-CONNECTED and from CM-CONNECTED to CM-IDLE and is based on the following principles:

- The UE NAS layer identifies a selected PLMN and equivalent PLMNs;

- Cell selection is always based on CD-SSBs located on the synchronization raster (see clause 5.2.4):

- The UE searches the NR frequency bands and for each carrier frequency identifies the strongest cell as per the CD-SSB. It then reads cell system information broadcast to identify its PLMN(s):

- The UE may search each carrier in turn ("initial cell selection") or make use of stored information to shorten the search ("stored information cell selection").

- The UE seeks to identify a suitable cell; if it is not able to identify a suitable cell it seeks to identify an acceptable cell. When a suitable cell is found or if only an acceptable cell is found it camps on that cell and commence the cell reselection procedure:

- A suitable cell is one for which the measured cell attributes satisfy the cell selection criteria; the cell PLMN is the selected PLMN, registered or an equivalent PLMN; the cell is not barred or reserved and the cell is not part of a tracking area which is in the list of "forbidden tracking areas for roaming";

- An acceptable cell is one for which the measured cell attributes satisfy the cell selection criteria and the cell is not barred.

- The IAB-MT and NCR-MT apply the cell selection procedure as described for the UE with the following differences:

- The IAB-MT and NCR-MT ignore cell-barring or cell-reservation indications contained in cell system information broadcast;

- The IAB-MT only considers a cell as a candidate for cell selection if the cell system information broadcast indicates IAB support for the selected PLMN or the selected SNPN, and the NCR-MT only considers a cell as a candidate for cell selection if the cell system information broadcast indicates Network-Controlled Repeater support.

Transition to RRC\_IDLE:

On transition from RRC\_CONNECTED or RRC\_INACTIVE to RRC\_IDLE, a UE should camp on a cell as result of cell selection according to the frequency be assigned by RRC in the state transition message if any.

Recovery from out of coverage:

The UE should attempt to find a suitable cell in the manner described for stored information or initial cell selection above. If no suitable cell is found on any frequency or RAT, the UE should attempt to find an acceptable cell.

In multi-beam operations, the cell quality is derived amongst the beams corresponding to the same cell (see clause 9.2.4).

<< 4th change Ends >>

<< 5th change >>

# 12 QoS

## 12.1 Overview

The **5G QoS model** is based on QoS Flows (see TS 23.501 [3]) and supports both QoS Flows that require guaranteed flow bit rate (GBR QoS Flows) and QoS Flows that do not require guaranteed flow bit rate (non-GBR QoS Flows). At NAS level (see TS 23.501 [3]), the QoS flow is thus the finest granularity of QoS differentiation in a PDU session. A QoS flow is identified within a PDU session by a QoS Flow ID (QFI) carried in an encapsulation header over NG-U.

The **QoS architecture** in NG-RAN, both for NR connected to 5GC and for E-UTRA connected to 5GC, is depicted in the Figure 12-1 and described in the following:

- For each UE, 5GC establishes one or more PDU Sessions;

- Except for NB-IoT, IAB-MT in SA mode, and NCR-MT, for each UE, the NG-RAN establishes at least one Data Radio Bearers (DRB) together with the PDU Session and additional DRB(s) for QoS flow(s) of that PDU session can be subsequently configured (it is up to NG-RAN when to do so);

- If NB-IoT UE supports NG-U data transfer, the NG-RAN may establish Data Radio Bearers (DRB) together with the PDU Session and one PDU session maps to only one DRB;

- The NG-RAN maps packets belonging to different PDU sessions to different DRBs;

- NAS level packet filters in the UE and in the 5GC associate UL and DL packets with QoS Flows;

- AS-level mapping rules in the UE and in the NG-RAN associate UL and DL QoS Flows with DRBs.



Figure 12-1: QoS architecture

NG-RAN and 5GC ensure quality of service (e.g. reliability and target delay) by mapping packets to appropriate QoS Flows and DRBs. Hence there is a 2-step mapping of IP-flows to QoS flows (NAS) and from QoS flows to DRBs (Access Stratum).

At **NAS level**, a QoS flow is characterised by a QoS profile provided by 5GC to NG-RAN and QoS rule(s) provided by 5GC to the UE. The QoS profile is used by NG-RAN to determine the treatment on the radio interface while the QoS rules dictates the mapping between uplink User Plane traffic and QoS flows to the UE. A QoS flow may either be GBR or Non-GBR depending on its profile. The QoS profile of a QoS flow contains QoS parameters, for instance (see TS 23.501 [3]):

- For each QoS flow:

- A 5G QoS Identifier (5QI);

- An Allocation and Retention Priority (ARP).

- In case of a GBR QoS flow only:

- Guaranteed Flow Bit Rate (GFBR) for both uplink and downlink;

- Maximum Flow Bit Rate (MFBR) for both uplink and downlink;

- Maximum Packet Loss Rate for both uplink and downlink;

- Delay Critical Resource Type;

- Notification Control.

NOTE: The Maximum Packet Loss Rate (UL, DL) is only provided for a GBR QoS flow belonging to voice media.

- In case of Non-GBR QoS only:

- Reflective QoS Attribute (RQA): the RQA, when included, indicates that some (not necessarily all) traffic carried on this QoS flow is subject to reflective quality of service (RQoS) at NAS;

- Additional QoS Flow Information.

The QoS parameter Notification Control indicates whether notifications are requested from the RAN when the GFBR can no longer (or again) be fulfilled for a QoS Flow. If, for a given GBR QoS Flow, notification control is enabled and the RAN determines that the GFBR cannot be guaranteed, RAN shall send a notification towards SMF and keep the QoS Flow (i.e. while the NG-RAN is not delivering the requested GFBR for this QoS Flow), unless specific conditions at the NG-RAN require the release of the NG-RAN resources for this GBR QoS Flow, e.g. due to Radio link failure or RAN internal congestion. When applicable, NG-RAN sends a new notification, informing SMF that the GFBR can be guaranteed again.

If Alternative QoS parameters Sets are received with the Notification Control parameter, the NG-RAN may also include in the notification a reference corresponding to the QoS Parameter Set which it can currently fulfil as specified in TS 23.501 [3]. The target NG-RAN node may include in the notification control indication the reference to the QoS Parameter Set which it can currently fulfil over Xn to the source NG-RAN node during handover.

In addition, an Aggregate Maximum Bit Rate is associated to each PDU session (Session-AMBR), to each UE (UE-AMBR) and to each slice per UE (UE-Slice-MBR). The Session-AMBR limits the aggregate bit rate that can be expected to be provided across all Non-GBR QoS Flows for a specific PDU Session and is ensured by the UPF. The UE-AMBR limits the aggregate bit rate that can be expected to be provided across all Non-GBR QoS Flows of a UE and is ensured by the RAN (see clause 10.5.1). The UE-Slice-MBR limits the aggregate bit rate that can be expected to be provided across all GBR and Non-GBR QoS Flows corresponding to PDU Sessions of the UE for the same slice (S-NSSAI) as specified in TS 23.501 [3] and is ensured by the RAN (see clause 10.5.1).

The 5QI is associated to QoS characteristics giving guidelines for setting node specific parameters for each QoS Flow. Standardized or pre-configured 5G QoS characteristics are derived from the 5QI value and are not explicitly signalled. Signalled QoS characteristics are included as part of the QoS profile. The QoS characteristics consist for instance of (see TS 23.501 [3]):

- Priority level;

- Packet Delay Budget (including Core Network Packet Delay Budget);

- Packet Error Rate;

- Averaging window;

- Maximum Data Burst Volume.

At **Access Stratum** level, the data radio bearer (DRB) defines the packet treatment on the radio interface (Uu). A DRB serves packets with the same packet forwarding treatment. The QoS flow to DRB mapping by NG-RAN is based on QFI and the associated QoS profiles (i.e. QoS parameters and QoS characteristics). Separate DRBs may be established for QoS flows requiring different packet forwarding treatment, or several QoS Flows belonging to the same PDU session can be multiplexed in the same DRB.

In the uplink, the mapping of QoS Flows to DRBs is controlled by mapping rules which are signalled in two different ways:

- Reflective mapping: for each DRB, the UE monitors the QFI(s) of the downlink packets and applies the same mapping in the uplink; that is, for a DRB, the UE maps the uplink packets belonging to the QoS flows(s) corresponding to the QFI(s) and PDU Session observed in the downlink packets for that DRB. To enable this reflective mapping, the NG-RAN marks downlink packets over Uu with QFI.

- Explicit Configuration: QoS flow to DRB mapping rules can be explicitly signalled by RRC.

The UE always applies the latest update of the mapping rules regardless of whether it is performed via reflecting mapping or explicit configuration.

When a QoS flow to DRB mapping rule is updated, the UE sends an end marker on the old bearer.

In the downlink, the QFI is signalled by NG-RAN over Uu for the purpose of RQoS and if neither NG-RAN, nor the NAS (as indicated by the RQA) intend to use reflective mapping for the QoS flow(s) carried in a DRB, no QFI is signalled for that DRB over Uu. In the uplink, NG-RAN can configure the UE to signal QFI over Uu.

For each PDU session, a default DRB may be configured: if an incoming UL packet matches neither an RRC configured nor a reflective mapping rule, the UE then maps that packet to the default DRB of the PDU session. For non-GBR QoS flows, the 5GC may send to the NG-RAN the Additional QoS Flow Information parameter associated with certain QoS flows to indicate that traffic is likely to appear more often on them compared to other non-GBR QoS flows established on the same PDU session.

Within each PDU session, it is up to NG-RAN how to map multiple QoS flows to a DRB. The NG-RAN may map a GBR flow and a non-GBR flow, or more than one GBR flow to the same DRB, but mechanisms to optimise these cases are not within the scope of standardization.

<< 5th change Ends >>

*END OF CHANGES*