**3GPP TSG-RAN5 Meeting #107 draft\_*R5-25xxxx***

**Malta, 19th - 23rd May 2025**

Agenda Item: 4.2.4

Source: Ericsson, CATT, CMCC

Title: 6G Spec Modernization discussion

Document for: Information

# 1 Introduction

During TSG#108 meetings, a new Study Item has been approved for ‘Modernization of Specification Format and Procedures for 6G’ and a ‘Way of Working’ agreed. The SI has the following objectives:

* Objective 1: Assessment of existing specification formats and working methods, and requirements for any improvements.
  + Advantages of current tools
  + Shortcomings, pain-points, and potential benefits
  + Requirements Identification
* Objective 2 (After TSG#109): Taking into account the outcome of objective 1, consider new formats, including but not necessarily limited to plain text format such as Markdown or LaTeX, or another format.
* Objective 3 (After TSG#109): Taking into account the outcome of objective 1, consider use of Git and ETSI FORGE database to store specifications and manage version control. Other alternatives are not precluded.

As part of the study, trial TSs and CRs will be created, to evaluate the considered formats and processes and their applicability to the different working groups across 3GPP.

Findings, conclusions, and recommendations will be recorded in TR 21.802.

In parallel, in various RAN groups the discussion on the future of 3GPP specification was triggered and tests are currently ongoing. RAN5 also have an ongoing offline discussion on the dedicated email thread.

To ensure the RAN5 relevant aspects are considered, RAN5 leadership team decided to form a group of RAN5 representatives to actively participate in the conference calls throughout the activity.

In this document we provide status update for the 6G spec modernization activity. We also highlight RAN5 aspects related to this activity.

# 2 6GSM way of working

### 2.1 Conference calls and timeline

To progress the work in between the TSG meetings, formal conference calls are scheduled. During the joint TSG SA/RAN/CT plenary session the progress will be shared. At the end of each plenary session latest draft version of TR 21.802 will be shared and agreed. Target completion is TSG #111 (March 2026).

**Planned conference calls (13:00-15:00 UTC)**

#0 Thu 3rd July – Information session, recorded.

#1 Online, from: **2025-08-06 13:00** to **2025-08-06 15:00**

#2 Online, from: **2025-09-03 13:00** to **2025-09-03 15:00**

**[TSG#109]**

#3 Online, from: **2025-10-09 13:00** to **2025-10-09 15:00**

#4 Online, from: **2025-11-10 13:00** to **2025-11-10 15:00**

**[TSG#110] (TR v1.0.0)**

#5 Online, from: **2026-01-15 13:00** to **2026-01-15 15:00**

#6 Online, from: **2026-02-25 13:00** to **2026-02-25 15:00**

**[TSG#111] (TR v2.0.0)**

Additional training/tutorial calls will be held as required. All calls are accessible via the 3GU platform.

### 2.2 TR 21.802

During the conference calls pCRs to TR 21.802 will be discussed and eventually endorsed. All the endorsed pCRs will be incorporated to next editorial version (0.0.z) increment of TR 21.802.

Initial content of the TR 21.802 is presented in the Annex A.1. The skeleton was formally approved during CC#1. Initial content to the assessment of the current tool was also discussed.

### 2.3 Status after Conference Call #1

On 6 Aug, CC#1 was held focusing on Objective 1 — assessing the advantages and disadvantages of the current 3GPP specification solution. For each agenda item, a limit of one document per company was applied.

RAN5 aspects were introduced via individual company CRs. Some papers were merged without live presentation, but many were discussed in detail. A number of pCRs were selected as the basis for further email discussions. The aim was to consolidate all agreed input into a single pCR per agenda item in Clause 4 of TR 21.802.

Email discussion period ends at 17:00 UTC 12 Aug. The final review period (ROUND 1) begins at 17:00 UTC tomorrow/Wed. **More information here if needed…**

# 3 RAN5 requirements

From the offline email discussions, RAN5 identified the following requirements:

* Machine-readable format (e.g., PICS)
* Tables in JSON format (test configuration tables)
* Support for specification attachments in ZIP format (e.g., 38.903)
* Automation capability (e.g., RRM TT)
* Maintain only the newest version of the specification (most RAN5 specs)
* Use of intermediate revisions
* Ability to combine CRs into “Jumbo” CRs
* Extractable definitions for cross-spec and external use (e.g., ASN.1)
* Easy maintenance and cross-referencing of extra-large tables (e.g., 38.523-2)
* Automated alignment of bands/band configurations between RAN4 and RAN5 (e.g., Excel in PRD21)

Most of the identified advantages, disadvantages, and requirements are common across all 3GPP groups. Based on the current review, the RAN5-specific requirements appear to be well covered in the overall discussion. Nevertheless, RAN5 participation will remain important in upcoming calls on Objectives 2 and 3 to ensure RAN5 interests are fully addressed.

# 4 RAN5 Considerations and Next Steps

While most tool-related advantages, disadvantages, and requirements are common across 3GPP groups, the RAN5-specific needs identified so far appear to be well addressed. The immediate focus for RAN5 will be to actively contribute to the upcoming discussions on Objectives 2 and 3, ensuring that the group’s unique technical and procedural aspects are not only acknowledged but also embedded in the final outcomes.

# A Annexes

### A.1 Initial content of TR 21.802 (skeleton)

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.