**3GPP TSG RAN4 Meeting #116bis**  **R4-2514626**

**Prague, Czech Republic, 13th – 18th October, 2025**

**Agenda item:** 8.1

**Source:** Feature lead (Nokia)

**Title:** WF on 6G Spectrum

**Document for:** Agreement

# Introduction

In the current Study on 6G Radio (RP-250858) the following topics are listed under (5) 6GR core and performance requirements.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **UE RF requirement aspects including band and band combination** [RAN4]    * + UE RF requirement framework aiming at improvements and/or simplification compared to 5G NR      + Study how to improve 6G UE RF specification(s), including structure, drafting principles, and database for band combination      + Study UE RF capabilities considering different device types and implementations 2. Other aspects [RAN4]    * + Handling channel bandwidths which are not multiple of 5MHz      + **Definition of ‘frequency range(s)’** |

Furthermore, at RAN4#116 a plan for the 6G study in RAN4 was presented by the RAN4 chair as captured in [2]. One of the topics was “Spectrum” with a **scope listed as**:

* **Band/band combination definition and simplification**
* **Definition of frequency ranges**
* **Spectrum related regulatory survey**

This summary treats the items listed above.

# Topic #1: Definition of frequency ranges and bands

Under this topic RAN4 will discuss how to define frequency ranges and bands for 6G.

## Companies’ contributions summary

See R4-2514511 for company contributions and summary of these

## Open issues summary

The spectrum in focus is stated in the current Study on 6G Radio (RP-250858) description:

|  |
| --- |
| From a technology perspective, the study will address frequency ranges up to 52.6GHz, including at least the full range of FR1 (up to 7.125GHz), the range between FR1 and FR2-1 (including around ~7GHz), and FR2-1 (24.25 GHz – 52.6GHz).  NOTE: The following TRs will be taken into account:  [TR 38.921](https://portal.3gpp.org/desktopmodules/Specifications/SpecificationDetails.aspx?specificationId=3778) - Study on International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) parameters for 6.425 - 7.025 GHz, 7.025 - 7.125 GHz and 10.0 - 10.5 GHz  [TR 38.922](https://portal.3gpp.org/desktopmodules/Specifications/SpecificationDetails.aspx?specificationId=4300) - Study on International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) parameters for 4400 - 4800 MHz, 7125 - 8400 MHz and 14800 - 15350 MHz  NOTE: Frequency ranges beyond 52.6 GHz are not in scope of the work. |

During the RAN#109 meeting, there were initial discussions on the potential 6G frequency ranges, which were summarised in the following document (RP-252963). However, no conclusion was reached since this is for further RAN WG4 discussions. According to the moderator’s summary report, the following options were proposed by companies:

- extend FR1 to 8.4 GHz and define a separate mid-high band (8.4–24.25 GHz) with its own single numerology.

- extend FR1 to 8.4 GHz and merge 8.4–24.25 GHz into FR2, creating a unified FR2 family.

- define separate FR for 7.125 – 24.25 GHz.

At this RAN4 meeting, even more options have been brought forward, which all is further discussed during the RAN4 meeting.

### Sub-topic 1-1: TN and NTN Frequency Range harmonization

**Issue 1-1-1: TN and NTN Frequency Range Harmonization**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall define separate frequency ranges for TN and NTN for 6G
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall define the same frequency ranges for TN and NTN for 6G
* WF
  + RAN4 will initially focus the discussion on frequency ranges based on TN deployment.

### Sub-topic 1-2: Frequency Range framework

**Issue 1-2-0: Principle/criteria for frequency range definition/separation**

* Proposals: Candidate criteria for further consideration:
  + Regulatory framework
  + UE RF front-end architecture (whether antenna connector available or not)
  + Commonality of UE RF/RRM requirements
  + Numerology dependency
* WF
  + RAN4 acknowledge that a definition of frequency ranges depends on multiple criteria’s which may have different importance dependent on individual company views. As a starting point the following can be discussed, not precluding companies to also consider others:
    - Regulatory framework
    - UE RF front-end architecture (e.g. whether requirements can be verified conducted or not)
    - Commonality of UE RF/RRM requirements
    - Numerology dependency
    - Unification of TN and NTN operation
    - BS types and requirements
  + Companies are encouraged to share information on the criteria they are considering for their proposal on frequency range definition(s)

### Sub-topic 1-3: Frequency Range naming convention

**Issue 1-3-1: Early adaptation of the name “FR3”**

Different companies have for this meeting been using FR3 for different frequency ranges, so to avoid ambiguity, it is recommended to refer to a specific range, e.g. 8.4–24.25 GHz, or only already defined NR ranges as FR1, FR2-1 or FR2-2.

* WF
  + RAN4 encourage companies to be precise when referring to proposed frequency ranges by only using defined NR ranges as FR1, FR2-1 or FR2-2 or write the definition with frequency point(s) when referring to a proposal.
    - Note this is not related to the discussion of a band around 7 and 15 GHz

**Issue 1-3-2: Name it “Frequency Range” (FR) or something else for 6G**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall continue to use “Frequency Range” (FR) in 6G
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall consider a different name as e.g. “Carrier Frequency Group” or “Frequency Group Numbering”.
* WF
  + Postpone the discussion on naming for frequency ranges in 6G to after an agreement on whether and how they are defined.

### Sub-topic 1-4: Band naming convention

**Issue 1-4-1: 6G Bands Naming Convention**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall not consider individual bands for 6G but utilize only frequency ranges/groups
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall re-use the prefix concept from NR for 6G bands,
    - a) “s” is to be used in front of the band number
    - b) “t” is to be used in front of the band number
* **Agreement:**
* RAN4 shall re-use the prefix concept from NR for 6G
  + Note: this agreement has no implication or limitation on the RAN1 and potential RAN4 discussion of UL and DL decoupling.
* WF
  + Postpone the discussion on naming for the prefix of the 6G bands to next meeting to allow companies to consider their view.

# Topic #2: Band combination definition and simplification

Under this topic, RAN4 will discuss how to define band combinations and simplify these in 6G.

## Companies’ contributions summary

See R4-2514511 for company contributions and summary of these

## Open issues summary

This topic addresses the simplification of band definitions and combinations in 6G, focusing on the challenges posed by numerous frequency bands and carrier aggregation (CA) combinations.

Since the topic of spectrum aggregation methods for 6G is discussed under agenda 8.4, this will not be addressed under this topic. Only, aspects to band combination simplification in the sense of the procedures etc. around this is treated under this topic

The aspects of combination simplification have also been addressed during the NR timeframe:

During Rel-18 timeframe RAN4 has conducted a SI on Study on simplification of band combination specification as captured in [TR 38.846](https://portal.3gpp.org/desktopmodules/Specifications/SpecificationDetails.aspx?specificationId=4057) which party resulted in the first RAN 4 Permanent Reference Document ([PRD01](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/tsg_ran/WG4_Radio/PRD/PRD01%20version%200.3.0%2C%20Rules%20guidelines%20and%20ways%20of%20working%20for%20introduction%20of%20band%20combinations.docx))

### Sub-topic 2-1: Band combination types

Since other WGs and RAN4 discussions are to study and conclude on the possible deployment scenarios for 6G, the focus should be kept on carrier aggregation as a general term. The discussion on the specific types of spectrum aggregation resulting in different band combinations should be deferred to relevant WGs and/or agendas

**Issue 2-1-1: Band combination types**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall not discuss the mechanism for different types of spectrum aggregation under this agenda item.
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall discuss the mechanism for different types of spectrum aggregation in parallel under this agenda item.
* WF:
  + RAN4 shall discuss the mechanism for different types of spectrum aggregation under the 6G general RF and UE RF agenda

### Sub-topic 2-5: ∆TIB and ∆RIB in 6G

The ∆TIB and ∆RIB defined per specific band combination roots in the first introduction of CA in LTE times. Therefore, some companies are now questioning whether there is really still a need for these in 6G. Additionally, there have been multiple attempts to align and clarify the rules for defining the ∆TIB and ∆RIB values, but there is still no unified way specified. This is wanted to be addressed by other companies.

**Issue 2-5-1: ∆TIB in 6G**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall not consider ∆TIB for 6G
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall study if ∆TIB is needed, defined for 6G
  + Option 3: RAN4 shall continue to define ∆TIB for 6G but unify and specify how a value is determined.
* WF:
  + RAN4 shall discuss ∆TIB requirements under the 6G general RF and UE RF agenda
    - It is not precluded to discuss band combination related structure/use of the ∆TIB requirements under this agenda, i.e. simplification of its use.

**Issue 2-5-2: ∆RIB in 6G**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall not consider ∆RIB for 6G
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall study if ∆RIB is needed, defined for 6G
  + Option 3: RAN4 shall continue to define ∆RIB for 6G but unify and specify how a value is determined.
* WF:
  + RAN4 shall discuss ∆RIB requirements under the 6G general RF and UE RF agenda
    - It is not precluded to discuss band combination related structure/use of the ∆TIB requirements under this agenda, i.e. simplification of its use.

### Sub-topic 2-6: REFSENS exceptions (MSD) in 6G

A great amount of effort has been spent by RAN4 to address REFSENS exceptions (MSD) concerns within the NR timeframe. Some progress has been made to simplify procedures and requirements, but still, multiple companies are proposing to further develop this work within the 6G timeframe. The current consensus seems to be that something has to be improved here, and the difference in opinion seems to be whether to proceed along the same path as taken in NR or to completely change the MSD concept. This is from some companies' perspective related to the Band Group Concept.

**Issue 2-6-1: REFSENS exceptions (MSD) basis**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall study which REFSENS exception (MSD) types are needed and consider if all currently defined for NR are needed in 6G
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall use REFSENS exception (MSD) types defined for NR, but study how to simplify specifying the exact values
  + Option 3: RAN4 shall discuss REFSENS exception (MSD) as part of the Band Group Concept.
* WF:
  + RAN4 shall discuss REFSENS exceptions (MSD) under the 6G general RF and UE RF agenda

# Topic #3: Spectrum related regulatory survey

Under this topic, RAN4 will discuss spectrum related regulatory topics for 6G.

## Companies’ contributions summary

See R4-2514511 for company contributions and summary of these

## Open issues summary

This topic addresses the impact of evolving regulatory requirements on the definition and management of frequency bands for 6G. The discussions include the implications of WRC outcomes and the need for ongoing studies to ensure compliance with regional regulations. The unresolved regulatory framework for the 7-24 GHz frequency range, with critical decisions from WRC-27 scheduled post-6G study conclusion, means there are some assumptions that need to be made to progress the standardization work.

### Sub-topic 3-2: SAR/PD(power density) on RF in frequency > 7 GHz

One company points out that there is a need to also study SAR/MPR/PD for new spectrum above 7 GHz.

**Issue 3-2-1: SAR/MPE for spectrum above 7 GHz**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall study SAR/MPE for the spectrum above 7 GHz
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall not study SAR/MPE for spectrum above 7 GHz before the regulatory framework is resolved, i.e. at least after WRC-27
  + Option 3: There is no need for RAN4 to study SAR/MPE for the spectrum above 7 GHz
* WF:
  + RAN4 shall not discuss solutions for SAR/PD(power density) under this agenda
    - This does not preclude regulatory input on the topic.

### Sub-topic 3-3: Micro-Cells deployment in a 7125 – 8400MHz band

One company proposed to study Micro-Cells deployment in a 7125 – 8400MHz band. The intention seems to be related to the sharing mechanism. Since this seems related to co-existence studies, it may be beneficial to have this discussion there.

**Issue 3-3-1: Micro-Cells deployment in a 7125 – 8400MHz band**

* Proposals
  + Option 1: RAN4 shall discuss Micro-Cells deployment in a 7125 – 8400MHz band under this agenda.
  + Option 2: RAN4 shall discuss Micro-Cells deployment in a 7125 – 8400MHz band under the co-existence agenda (8.5).
* WF:
  + RAN4 shall not discuss specific deployments as a feature under this agenda
    - This does not preclude input under this agenda on regulatory aspects