**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #116 electronic *R2-211xxxx***

**Online, November 1st – November 12th, 2021**

**Agenda Item: 9.2.3**

**Source: OPPO**

**Title: Report of [AT116-e][028][IoT-NTN] User Plane Impact (OPPO)**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# Introduction

This document is to report the outcome of the following email discussion at RAN2#116-e Meeting:

* [AT116-e][028][IoT-NTN] User Plane Impact (OPPO)

Scope: Ph1 Treat documents under 9.2.3. Identify easy agreements, potential agreements (need discussion), potential alternatives, blocking points, Open issues (Note should only capture Open Issues that must be resolved in the end). Pave the way for on-line Discussion.

Intended outcome: Report

Deadline: Ph1 Monday W2

# Discussion

Proposals from companies [1-10] will be discussed in the following sections.

## 2.1 MAC

### 2.1.1 RACH

In RAN2#115e meeting, RAN2 discussed how to adapt RACH timers (i.e. ra-ResponseWindow and mac-ContentionResolutionTimer) to IoT NTN, and made the following agreements:

Agreements:

* Start of ra-ResponseWindow is delayed by an offset. Postpone discussion on the offset value until further agreements regarding RACH are made in RAN1.
* If the start of the RA Response window is accurately compensated by UE-eNB RTT and no extension of repetition is required, there is no need to extend the ra-ResponseWindowSize for IoT NTN.
* Start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer is delayed by an offset, (assumed equal to UE-eNB RTT). This can be revisited if RAN1 decides something that requires to change this.
* If the start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer is accurately compensated by UE-eNB RTT and no extension of repetition is required, there is no need to extend the mac-ContentionResolutionTimer for IoT NTN.

Since UE-eNB RTT is assumed to be used as the offset for the start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer in IoT NTN, UE-eNB RTT should be known by the UE.

In RAN1#106e meeting, RAN1 has made the following agreements：

Conclusion:

For IoT NTN, no modifications are needed for the calculation in NR NTN for estimate of UE-eNB RTT.

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| Agreement:  The following agreements from NR NTN are re-used for IoT NTN as working assumption.   1. Timing Advance formula can be transposed to IoT-NTN with Ts used instead of Tc   The Timing Advance applied by an NR NTN UE in RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE and RRC\_CONNECTED is given by: |

In NR NTN, RAN1 has agreed the following:

Agreement:

* The estimate of UE-gNB RTT is equal to the sum of UE’s TA and K\_mac.

Based on above RAN1 agreements, in [6], it is proposed that the estimate of UE-eNB RTT is equal to the sum of UE’s TA and K\_mac, where the UE’s TA is given by . In [1], it is proposed that the K\_mac value is broadcasted by network.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2109505 | Proposal 1: The K\_mac value is broadcasted by network. | OPPO |
| R2-2110479 | Proposal 1: The estimate of UE-eNB RTT is equal to the sum of UE’s TA and K\_mac, where the UE’s TA is given by | Huawei, HiSilicon |

Since UE-eNB RTT would be used for adaptation of some MAC timers in IoT NTN, rapporteur thinks it would be good to confirm the following from RAN2’s perspective.

**Question 1: Do companies agree that the estimate of UE-eNB RTT is equal to the sum of UE’s TA and K\_mac, where the UE’s TA is given by , and K\_mac value is broadcasted by network?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Agree |  |
| Xiaomi | Agree |  |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

Unlike NR, for NB-IoT and eMTC, there is already an offset for the start of ra-ResponseWindow. For eMTC, the offset is fixed to 3 subframes, while for NB-IoT, the offset can be either 4 subframes or 41 subframes, depending on the NPRACH transmission duration. For different NTN deployment (e.g. GEO or LEO/MEO in different altitude), the UE-eNB RTT may vary from ~20ms to ~540ms. Therefore, the current NB-IoT offset value (e.g. 41ms) may be shorter or longer than UE-eNB RTT.

Regarding the offset value for the start of ra-ResponseWindow, there are the following two options based on the inputs from companies:

* Option 1: The offset is defined as max (current offset, UE-eNB RTT), where the current offset is fixed to 3 subframes for eMTC, and can be either 4 subframes or 41 subframes for NB-IoT as defined in TS36.321. [1]
* Option 2: The offset is defined as sum (current offset, UE-eNB RTT) and current offset is defined in TS36.321 as Option1. [6][8]

In [1], it is stated that the current offset (due to various transmission/reception gaps) starts from the last preamble repetition, and by the nature of propagation, the UE-eNB RTT also starts at the same time. Both time periods are actually the minumum time required for receiving the earliest PDCCH transmission. To take both time periods into account, it think it would be reasonable to use option 1 from UE’s perspective. While in [8], it is argued that for Option1, the eNB has no knowledge of the exact UE-eNB RTT before RACH, thus NW don’t know the value of max (current offset, UE-eNB RTT). If the UE delay the start of *ra-ResponseWindow* as suggested by option1, actually the NW don’t know when the UE will start monitor RAR. In both [6] and [8], it is suggested to follow the NR NTN agreement on the start of RAR window.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2109505 | Proposal 2: In IoT NTN, define the offset value for the start of ra-ResponseWindow as max (current offset, UE-eNB RTT). | OPPO |
| R2-2110479 | Proposal 2: In the MAC specification, delay the start of ra-ResponseWindowSize by the UE-eNB RTT, with the UE’s TA equal to T\_TA=(N\_TA+N\_(TA,UE-specific)+N\_(TA,common)+N\_(TA,offset) )×Ts with N\_TA=0. | Huawei, HiSilicon |
| R2-2110706 | Proposal 1: The offset to delay the start of ra-ResponseWindowSize is the sum (current offset, UE-eNB RTT), where the current offset is fixed to 3 subframes for eMTC, and can be either 4 subframes or 41 subframes for NB-IoT as defined in TS36.321. | Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell |

Rapporteur would like to ask the following question:

**Question 2: Regarding the offset value for the start of the ra-ResponseWindow, which is your preferred option?**

* **Option 1: The offset is defined as max (current offset, UE-eNB RTT), where the current offset is fixed to 3 subframes for eMTC, and can be either 4 subframes or 41 subframes for NB-IoT as defined in TS36.321.**
* **Option 2: The offset is defined as sum (current offset, UE-eNB RTT) and current offset is defined in TS36.321 as Option1.**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 2 |  |
| Xiaomi | Option 1 | Option 1 can reduce the unnecessary delay. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

Regarding the offset value for the start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer, the following agreement was made in RAN2#115e meeting.

* Start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer is delayed by an offset, (assumed equal to UE-eNB RTT). This can be revisited if RAN1 decides something that requires to change this.

It is proposed in [6] that in the MAC specification, delay the start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer by the UE-eNB RTT, with the UE’s TA equal to T\_TA=(N\_TA+N\_(TA,UE-specific)+N\_(TA,common)+N\_(TA,offset) )×Ts with N\_TA=0.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2110479 | Proposal 3: In the MAC specification, delay the start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer by the UE-eNB RTT. | Huawei, HiSilicon |

Given that RAN1 has reached agreement on estimation of UE-eNB RTT in IoT NTN, rapporteur would like to ask the following question:

**Question 3: Do companies confirm that the start of mac-ContentionResolutionTimer is delayed by UE-eNB RTT in IoT NTN?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Agree |  |
| Xiaomi | Agree |  |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

In both eMTC and NB-IoT, (N)PRACH resources are configured on a per-CE basis and the UE selects a (N)PRACH resource based on its (N)RSRP evaluation against some threshold. In previous meetings, there are some proposals to enhance the (N)PRACH resource selection, e.g. based on location information, to mitigate the inaccuracy of RSRP measurement in NTN. In [6], it is suggested to reuse legacy mechanism in IoT NTN and do not consider any enhancement.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2110479 | Proposal 5: The legacy mechanism for selection of a (N)PRACH resource based on (N)RSRP threshold(s) is reused in IOT NTN. | Huawei, HiSilicon |

Based on this, rapporteur would like to ask the following question:

**Question 4: Do companies agree that any enhancements on (N)PRACH resource selection in IoT NTN will not be pursued in Rel-17?**

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| **Company** | **Agree / Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Agree |  |
| Xiaomi | Agree |  |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

### 2.1.2 (UL) HARQ RTT Timer

Unlike NR, for eMTC and NB-IoT, both HARQ RTT timer and UL HARQ RTT Timer are derived by a formula in TS36.321. In general, the formula can be expressed as below.

HARQ RTT Timer = TPDSCH to UCI + TUCI + Tprocessing + delta PDCCH

UL HARQ RTT Timer = Tprocessing + delta PDCCH

Where,

* TPDSCH to UCI is the time interval from last PDSCH repetion reception to HARQ-feedback transmission;
* TUCI is HARQ-feedback transmission duration;
* Tprocessing is UE processing delay after PUSCH or HARQ-feedback, which is defined as one or a few milliseconds;
* delta PDCCH is not a fixed value but an offset to align with the next NPDCCH occasion, which applies to NB-IoT only.

In RAN2#115e meeting, RAN2 discussed how to adapt (UL) HARQ RTT Timer to IoT NTN, and made the following agreements:

Agreements:

* UE-eNB RTT is taken into account when calculating the (UL) HARQ RTT timer.

In last RAN2 meeting, three options were proposed to extend the (UL) HARQ RTT timer, which would enable the UE to receive a retransmission grant after UE-eNB RTT.

* Option 1: Add an offset, equal to max(UE-eNB RTT - Tprocessing, 0), to the formula calculating the (UL) HARQ RTT timer, where Tprocessing is UE processing delay after PUSCH or HARQ-feedback, which is defined as one or a few milliseconds;
* Option 2: Add an offset, equal to UE-eNB RTT, to the formula calculating the (UL) HARQ RTT timer.
* Option 3: Delay the start of (UL) HARQ RTT timer with an offset of UE-eNB RTT.

In [1], option 1 is proposed for the reason that considering the large RTT impact on (UL) HARQ RTT Timer, UE is actually waiting for both the UE processing delay and the UE-eNB RTT before being ready to receive the earliest PDCCH transmission, and these two time periods are counted in parallel instead of one after another. In both [4], [6], [8] and [10], it is proposed to use option 2. In [8], it is stated that option1 is similar to option2 in that the RTT timer is extended by an offset. However, option1 considers further optimization to exclude the Tprocessing, and it prefers the simple solution (option2) since the UE-eNB RTT is much longer than the UE processing delay for IoT NTN. Besides, in both [6] and [8], option 3 is not preferred since it is not clear how the UE behaves while waiting for the start of (UL) HARQ RTT timer which may bring the complexity to the solution.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2109505 | Proposal 3 In IoT NTN, HARQ RTT Timer and UL HARQ RTT Timer are defined as following:   * HARQ RTT Timer = TPDSCH to UCI + TUCI +max(Tprocessing, UE-eNB RTT)+delta PDCCH * UL HARQ RTT Timer = max(Tprocessing, UE-eNB RTT) + delta PDCCH | OPPO |
| R2-2110115 | Proposal 1: To extend the HARQ RTT timer and UL HARQ RTT timer value by UE-gNB RTT (i.e. sum on UE's TA and K\_mac) for IoT NTN. | ZTE Corporation, Sanechips |
| R2-2110479 | Proposal 6: In NB-IoT, an offset equal to UE-eNB RTT is added to the formula calculating the DL HARQ RTT timer.  Proposal 7: In NB-IoT, an offset equal to UE-eNB RTT is added to the formula calculating the UL HARQ RTT timer. | Huawei, HiSilicon |
| R2-2110706 | Proposal 2: The timer length of HARQ RTT timer and UL HARQ RTT timer are increased by an offset, where the offset is equal to UE-eNB RTT. | Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell |
| R2-2110953 | [Proposal 1 The HARQ RTT Timer length is increased by the UE-eNB RTT.](#_Toc85762117)  [Proposal 2 The UL HARQ RTT Timer length is increased by the UE-eNB RTT.](#_Toc85762118) | Ericsson |

In this meeting, only option 1 and option 2 were proposed by companies. Rapporteur would like to ask the following question:

**Question 5: For (UL) HARQ RTT Timer in IoT NTN, which is the preferred option?**

* **Option 1: Add an offset, equal to max(UE-eNB RTT - Tprocessing, 0), to the formula calculating the (UL) HARQ RTT timer**
* **Option 2: Add an offset, equal to UE-eNB RTT, to the formula calculating the (UL) HARQ RTT timer.**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 2 |  |
| Xiaomi | Option 2 | The processing delay is very small, no need to optimize for this. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

### 2.1.2 TA reporting

TA report during RACH has been discussed in NR NTN WI. The motivation of introducing UE-calculated TA report during RACH is to let gNB know the absolute TA value of the UE, so that gNB could utilize UE’s absolute TA to schedule UL transmission for the UE, which could reduce unnecessary latency. So far, RAN2 has reached the following agreement on TA report in NR NTN.

Agreement in RAN2#114e:

1. If enabled by the network, the UE reports information about UE specific TA pre-compensation at the random access procedure (MSGA/MSG3 or MSG5) using a MAC CE. Actual content is FFS and also depends on further RAN1 input (we can revise this whole agreement if RAN1 come to a different conclusion in terms of what needs to be conveyed to the NW)

Agreement in RAN2#105e:

1. UE specific TA reporting during RACH procedure is enabled/disabled by SI (FFS for RACH in connected mode)
2. The content of UE specific TA pre-compensation reported in RA procedure using MAC CE is UE specific TA (this can be revisited after receiving RAN1 response).
3. Reporting on the information about UE specific TA in connected mode is supported, FFS via RRC signalling or MAC CE
4. Event-triggers for reporting on the information about UE specific TA in connected mode is supported. FFS on the details. Confirmation by RAN1 is also needed
5. Information about UE specific TA pre-compensation is not reported in RA procedures triggered due to “Request for Other SI”
6. The event-triggers for reporting information about UE specific TA are based on TA values (confirmation from RAN1 is needed)
7. A TA offset threshold can be used for event-triggered reporting, at least the offset threshold can be between current information about UE specific TA and the last successfully reported information about UE specific TA
8. The event-triggers for reporting information about UE specific TA based on time threshold is not supported in NTN.
9. No new indication in RRC reconfiguration with sync is needed to configure the UE to report information about UE specific TA in handover procedure (besides the SIB indication carried in HO command on whether TA report is enabled/disabled in the target cell).
10. Under the work assumption "the UE location information cannot be reported in connected mode", the content of UE specific TA reported in connected mode is UE specific TA pre-compensation(for the details of the TA value, confirmation from RAN1 is needed).
11. If the reported content of information about UE specific TA is UE location information in connected mode, RRC signalling is used to report.
12. Under the work assumption "the UE location information can be reported in connected mode", for TA reporting purposes in connected mode, the network can configure the UE to send either the UE specific TA pre-compensation (for the details of the TA value, confirmation from RAN1 is needed) or the UE location information

Working Assumption:

1. If the reported content of information about UE specific TA is TA pre-compensation value in connected mode, MAC CE is used to report

TA reporting was not discussed during the SI for IoT NTN. In RAN2#115e meeting, TA reporting in IoT NTN was discussed and the following agreement was made.

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| Agreement:   * RAN2 assumes that TA information (FFS what) reporting by the UE on network enabling will be needed in IoT NTN. Expect RAN1 need to progress on this, and can maybe reuse NR NTN progress. FFS in which message this is provided. |

Proposals in [2], [4], [5] and [6] related to TA reporting during RACH procedure in IoT NTN are listed below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2109701 | Proposal 1: RAN2 confirms to reuse the following NR NTN agreements for IoT NTN:   * If enabled by the network, the UE reports information about UE specific TA pre-compensation at the random access procedure (MSGA/MSG3 or MSG5) using a MAC CE; * UE specific TA reporting during RACH procedure is enabled/disabled by SI; * The content of UE specific TA pre-compensation reported in RA procedure using MAC CE is UE specific TA. | CATT |
| R2-2110115 | Proposal 2b: An indication in SIB1 or SIB2 is used to control the UE specific TA reporting in RA procedure and in connected mode.  Proposal 2c: If UE specific TA MAC CE is included in Msg3, it can be always placed in the fixed position in Msg3. With this way, no additional subheader for UE specific TA MAC CE in RA procedure is needed.  Proposal 2d: Once the indication of UE specific TA reporting is included in SIB, the UE in the cell should always report the UE specific TA information in the RA procedure. | ZTE Corporation, Sanechips |
| R2-2110268 | Proposal 2: It is proposed to follow NR NTN regarding the content of TA information reporting by the UE and in which message this is provided. | CMCC |
| R2-2110479 | Proposal 8: In NB-IoT, during initial access not using EDT, TA reporting is done in MSG5.  Proposal 9: In NB-IoT, during initial access using EDT, TA reporting is done in MSG3. | Huawei, HiSilicon |

Rapporteur thinks it would be good to first discuss stage-2 issues before touching stage-3 details. Therefore, rapporteur would like to ask the following questions.

**Question 6: Do companies agree to support TA reporting using MAC CE during RACH procedure in IoT NTN?**

* **Option 1: Yes, only support TA reporting in Msg5**
* **Option 2: Yes, support TA reporting in Msg3/Msg5**
* **Option 3: No**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 2 |  |
| Xiaomi | Option 2 | Same as NR |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

**Question 7: If the answer to Question 6 is option 1 or option 2, do companies agree that for IoT NTN, UE specific TA reporting during RACH procedure in RRC IDLE/INACTIVE is enabled/disabled by SI, similar with NR NTN?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Agree |  |
| Xiaomi | Agree |  |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

**Question 8: If the answer to Question 7 is yes, then is UE specific TA reporting during RRC\_Connected mode RACH also controlled by enabling/disabling indication in SI?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Wait for NR-NTN agreements | We think it is better to wait for progress in NR-NTN. |
| Xiaomi | No | Wait for NR conclusion. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

Proposals in [2], [4], [6], [7] and [8] regarding TA reporting in RRC connected mode in IoT NTN are listed below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2109701 | Proposal 2: TA information reporting should be supported in connected mode for IoT NTN.  Proposal 3: If UE location information can be reported in RRC connected mode, the content of TA information can be UE specific TA information (The details of UE specific TA information can be revised with RAN1) or UE location information.  Proposal 4: If UE location information cannot be reported in RRC connected mode, the content of TA information should be UE specific TA information (The details of UE specific TA information can be revised with RAN1).  Proposal 5: RAN2 discusses the following methods to report the TA information:   * Option 1: TA information requested by network; * Option 2: Periodical reporting of TA information; * Option 3: Event-triggered method based on TA value, e.g. a TA change threshold between current TA and the last successfully reported TA is configured to control TA information report. | CATT |
| R2-2110115 | Proposal 2a: MAC CE can be also used for UE specific TA reporting in connected mode.  Proposal 2b: An indication in SIB1 or SIB2 is used to control the UE specific TA reporting in RA procedure and in connected mode.  Proposal 2e: The subheader for UE specific TA MAC CE is used in connected mode.  Proposal 2f: The discussion on details about event-triggers for reporting on the information about UE specific TA in connected mode can be postponed till further NR NTN and RAN1 conclusion are made. | ZTE Corporation, Sanechips |
| R2-2110479 | Proposal 10: In NB-IoT, in connected mode, TA reporting is done using a MAC CE. | Huawei, HiSilicon |
| R2-2110550 | Proposal 1: At least for NB-IoT, detailed location information cannot be reported in RRC\_CONNECTED.  Proposal 2: FFS for eMTC whether to report detailed location information in RRC\_CONNECTED  Proposal 3: For NB-IoT, a new MAC CE is used for reporting of UE specific TA and is used for both reporting during RACH procedure and reporting in RRC\_CONNECTED.  Proposal 4: For eMTC, a new MAC CE is used for reporting of UE specific TA during RACH procedure. FFS how to report in RRC\_CONNECTED. | Interdigital, Inc. |
| R2-2110706 | Proposal 4: Reporting UE location for determining UE-specific Timing Advance in half duplex deployments is one method, which can be used by eNB scheduler to avoid UL-DL collisions.  Proposal 5: As UE location reporting is already agreed and utilized in RAN2 and RAN3 for multiple purpose in NTN, UE location reporting should be specified for IoT NTN in Rel 17.  Proposal 6: RRC signalling is used to report UE location. | Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell |

Based on the above proposals, rapporteur would like to ask the following questions regarding TA reporting in RRC connected mode.

**Question 9: Do companies agree to support TA reporting in RRC connected mode in IoT NTN?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Agree |  |
| Xiaomi | Agree |  |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

**Question 10: if the answer to Question 9 is yes, which information should be supported and which message should be used for TA reporting in RRC connected mode in IoT NTN?**

* **Option 1: only support UE-specific TA report, using MAC CE**
* **Option 2: only support UE location report, using RRC signalling**
* **Option 3: support both UE-specific TA report using MAC CE and UE location report using RRC signalling**
* **Option 4: others**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 1 | Only Option 1 seems sufficient. |
| Xiaomi | Option 1 | No LCS issue was discussed for IOT, there is no agreement made on this. Thus we assume that location report was not available, we should only consider TA report at this stage. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

**Question 11: Regarding trigger condition of TA reporting in connected mode, which option(s) do companies think is needed for IoT NTN?**

* **Option 1: event-triggered TA reporting**
* **Option 2: NW requested TA reporting**
* **Option 3: Periodical TA reporting.**
* **Option 4: Semi-persistent TA reporting**
* **Option 5: None**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 1 |  |
| Xiaomi | Option 1 & 2 | We can wait for NR NTN agreement |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

## UL synchronization

In the RAN1-106bis meeting, RAN1 discussed validity timer for UL synchronization in IoT NTN. According to RAN1 discussion, a validity timer for ephemeris data is introduced which indicates the maximum time during which the UE can apply the satellite ephemeris for UL synchronization without having acquired new satellite ephemeris. However, RAN1 has no conclusion to specify the validity timer maintenance and UE behaviour related to expiry of UL synchronization validity timer. RAN2 is asked to decide the expected behaviour.

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| Agreement:  RAN1 has discussed the following aspects and leaves it up to RAN2 to specify UE behaviour related to expiry of UL synchronization validity timer and determine which of the following aspects are to be specified:   * Mechanisms for UE to declare loss of UL synchronization including mechanisms for UL synchronization recovery procedure when UL synchronization is lost if UL synchronization validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED   + It is up to RAN2 to specify this new behaviour for connected UE within RLF set of procedures or a new procedure for re-acquiring satellite ephemeris   + Mechanism for UL synchronization includes re-acquiring the satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters if indicated on SIB   + A new clause of RLF for loss of UL synchronization if validity timer for UL synchronization expires assuming a new re-interpretation of RLF set of procedures is specified for recovery of UL synchronization with re-acquisition of satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters if indicated   + Potential additional RACH after re-acquisition of satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters if indicated for the UL synchronization recovery procedure in case of potential residual TA error. * If validity timer for UL synchronization expires and no UL synchronization recovery mechanisms specified as above, UE behaviour shall declare RLF and go into idle mode autonomously to re-acquire ephemeris SIB. UE will then need to re-access the cell via Random Access procedure. * UE signalling to indicate the validity timer for UL synchronization is about to expire |

Since the expiry of the UL synchronization validity timer means that ephemeris data are not valid, it means UL sync for UE is missed and UE should stop UL transmission before achieving new one. In [6], it is proposed that there should be a common understanding on validity timer status between UE and network, the main reason is that if eNB don’t know whether UE’s validity timer is expired, eNB may schedule the UE even UL sync is missed. [More](javascript:;) [specifically](javascript:;), it is suggested that UE informs network after UE reads a new satellite ephemeris data, or if the validity timer is about to expire. While in [4], it is proposed not to introduce UE signaling to indicate the validity timer for UL synchronization is about to expire, since it's very doubtful whether the UE can find a suitable enough timing to send such indication.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2110115 | Proposal 5: UE signaling to indicate the validity timer for UL synchronization is about to expire is not introduced. | ZTE Corporation, Sanechips |
| R2-2110706 | Proposal 7: There should be a common understanding on validity timer status between UE and network, which should be specified in IoT NTN.  Proposal 8: A TAT-like validity timer could be used as a baseline, where the UE should inform network when it reads new ephemeris data, so that both the UE and the network reset the validity timer and keep a common understanding on UL synchronization status.  Proposal 9: To reduce overhead, UE reporting for validity timer status update should be reduced. The detail solution can be further discussed. | Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell |

**Question 12: Do companies agree to introduce UE reporting of validity timer status or not?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Disagree | This is not needed. |
| Xiaomi | Disagree | We do not think there will be misalignment between UE and network on validity timer. According to RAN1 agreement, the validity timer for UL synchronization is started/restarted with configured timer validity duration at the epoch time of the assistance information (i.e. serving satellite ephemeris data).  No matter when UE acquires the SIB, the epoch time will not change unless ephemeris/common TA is updated. In that case, all UE will update their SI triggered by SI information change notification. Thus, all UE hold the same epoch time all the times, then the validity timer running status will be the same. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

Upon expiry of the UL synchronization validity timer, UE may need to acquire SIB to update the ephemeris and recover UL synchronization. Currently, the eMTC/NB-IoT UE is not required to acquire any SIB in RRC\_CONNECTED, therefore, acquisition of SIB may also incur interruption.

The following solutions are proposed by companies to facilitate a UE in connected mode to acquire SIB and recover UL synchronization after expiration of UL synchronization validity timer:

* Option 1: UE triggers RLF based on a new RLF timer (e.g., t317) for synchronization recovery. [3]
* Option 2: UE re-acquires the SIB and triggers RACH procedure to recover from UL out of synchronization.[4] [8]
* Option 3: UE explicitly notifies the network about the expiry of validity timer and the network will release the UE to RRC\_IDLE state.[9]

In [3], it is proposed to introduce a new RLF timer (e.g., t317) which is similar to existing timer t310. UE behaviour upon detecting synchronization failure would be to trigger t317. If UE is able to acquire ephemeris before t317 expiry, then t317 can be stopped. Upon expiry of t317, RLF is triggered. It is pointed out that the advantage of this new RLF timer is that if UE is fast enough to acquire the ephemeris and update time/frequency compensation, it does not have to go through RRC re-establishment procedure.

In [4], it thinks to trigger RLF and RRC reestablishment procedure brings with large interruption. As the UL out of synchronization caused by the expiration of validity timer is very similar as the legacy UL out of synchronization caused by the expiration of TA timer, e.g., both can lead to the infeasible UL transmission, it thinks option 1 may be a bit more straightforward. In [8], it is also stated that when the validity timer expires, it is only the UL synchronization that is unavailable, but the DL synchronization is kept. The UE should stay in RRC\_CONNECTED mode.

In [9], option 3 is suggested, given that the UE never re-acquire the SIB contents after moving to RRC\_CONNECTED for the duration of time it is in RRC\_CONNECTED, for a number of reasons, e.g.HD FDD scheduling operations.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2109966 | Proposal 1 A new RLF timer (e.g., t317) is triggered when the synchronization validity timer is expired.  Proposal 2 The new RLF timer (e.g., t317) is stopped if the UE acquires ephemeris and starts synchronization validity timer.  Proposal 3 RLF is triggered upon expiry of the new RLF timer (e.g., t317).  Proposal 4 Wait for RAN1 progress on GNSS validity before making decision on UE behaviour upon expiry of GNSS validity. | Qualcomm Incorporated |
| R2-2110115 | Proposal 6: For IoT NTN, after validity timer expires, the UE re-acquires the SIB and triggers RACH procedure to recover from UL out of synchronization. | ZTE Corporation, Sanechips |
| R2-2110706 | Proposal 10: To save power and resource consumption, once the validity timer has expired, UE should remain in RRC Connected mode. The UE can therefore read the new ephemeris data for UL synchronisation and report it to the network (e.g. via CFRA as indicated by PDCCH order). | Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell |
| R2-2110919 | Proposal 1: RAN2 to specify the UE behaviour for RLF when UL synchronization is lost, due to expiry of the UL validity timer. | MediaTek Inc. |

Given that various options are proposed by companies, rapporteur would like to check which enhancement direction companies are interested in.

**Question 13: Regarding how to recover UL synchronization loss when UL synchronization validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED, which is the preferred option?**

* **Option 1: UE triggers RLF based on a new RLF timer (e.g., t317) for synchronization recovery.**
* **Option 2: UE re-acquires the SIB and triggers RACH procedure to recover from UL out of synchronization.**
* **Option 3: UE explicitly notifies the network about the expiry of validity timer and the network will release the UE to RRC\_IDLE state.**
* **Option 4: other**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 1 or Option 3 |  |
| Xiaomi | FFS | We suggest to postpone the discussion to next meeting for people to better understand the issue and conceive a better solution with less RAN2 spec impact. In general option 1 is a bad idea, which tries to reuse RLF procedure, but actually very little can be reused, most of the behaviours are new. Regarding option 2 and 3, further analysis is required to consider not only validity timer expire but also GNSS position fix outdated issues. When we look at the whole picture, we can then decide whether a common solution is feasible or different approaches are required for different purpose. At this stage, we think companies need more time to digest the issues brought up by RAN1. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

## 2.3 RLC

Both AM and UM modes use the *t-Reordering* timer to control the RLC waiting interval for out-of-order MAC data before considering the missing data as lost and handing any received data off to the PDCP layer. The *t-Reordering* timer can be configured with fixed values between 0 and 1600ms. Large propagation delay might have impacts on *t-Reordering* timer. In the SI phase, it is agreed that the value range of the RLC t-Reordering timer will be extended to support IoT NTN.

In RAN2#115e meeting, the following agreement has been made regarding RLC t-Reordering.

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| **Agreement:**   * RAN2 confirm the SI agreement that the value range of the RLC t-Reordering timer will be extended to support IoT NTN. |

Regarding the exact value of RLC t-Reordering for IoT NTN, it is suggested in [4] that the RLC t-Reordering timer value is extended with ENUMERATED (ms3200, ms6400). In [10], it is proposed to reuse the NR NTN solution in IoT NTN.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2110115 | Proposal 3: The RLC t-Reordering timer value is extended with ENUMERATED (ms3200, ms6400) for IoT NTN. | ZTE Corporation, Sanechips |
| R2-2110706 | Proposal 3: The value range of RLC t-Reordering timer shall be extended. The values which should be added to value range should consider number of HARQ retransmissions and NTN RTD covering possible satellite orbit distances. | Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell |
| R2-2110953 | [Proposal 5 The RLC timer t-Reordering is extended with higher values. IoT NTN can reuse the NR NTN solution.](#_Toc85762121) | Ericsson |

**Question 14: Regarding how to extend RLC t-Reordering in IoT NTN, which is the preferred option?**

* **Option 1: the value of RLC t-Reordering timer is extended with ENUMERATED (ms3200, ms6400)**
* **Option 2: other**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 2 | Wait for NR-NTN and reuse NR-NTN’s solutions. |
| Xiaomi | Option 2 | We agree with mediaTek that we can wait for NR agreement. Regarding the issue of option 1, the current value set for t-Reordering has a very big gap between 200ms and 1600ms. We think additional values need to be introduced between 200ms and 1600ms, similar to NR NTN: “The value range of t-Reassembly shall be extended. The following set of values are possibly added for t-Reassembly timer: {ms210, ms220, ms340, ms350, ms550, ms1100, ms1650, ms2200}”  For values beyond 1600ms, a smaller step should be considered, and the upper bound should be larger than 2200ms, given the high repetition of PUSCH(maximum 2048). Some suggested values are {3000, 4000, 5000, 6000} |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

In [7], another RLC issue due to long propagation delays in IoT NTN is raised. That is, for very long propagation delays as is the case with GEO satellites, the RLC RTT will be extremely long which would suggest unacceptable UE memory requirement or very low throughput rates supported when using RLC AM (i.e. because the L2 buffer size is directly proportional to RTT). Based on this, it is propose RAN2 to discuss how to support RLC AM in Rel-17, e.g. RLC RTT value to be used in L2 buffer requirement calculations, whether need to specify data rate limitation, how to minimise protocol stalling due to unreliable feedback.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2110550 | Proposal 5: RLC UM provides a best effort solution in Rel-17.  Proposal 6: RAN2 to discuss how to support RLC AM in Rel-17.   * RLC RTT value to be used in L2 buffer requirement calculations. * Whether data rate limitation needs to be specified. * How to minimise protocol stalling due to unreliable feedback. | Interdigital, Inc. |

Rapporteur would like to collect companies’ views on this issue:

**Question 15: Do companies agree to discuss how to support RLC AM in Rel-17 (e.g. RLC RTT value to be used in L2 buffer requirement calculations, whether need to specify data rate limitation, and how to minimise protocol stalling due to unreliable feedback, etc.)?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Disagree | The L2 buffer requirement does not go up as HARQ will not be disabled in IoT-NTN. Hence, the amount of data to be buffered during the RLC RTT time is quite limited. |
| Xiaomi | Disagree | For intermittent delay-tolerant small packet transmissions, we do not think buffer would be an issue. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

## 2.4 PDCP

The transmitting PDCP entity shall discard the PDCP SDU when the *discardTimer* expires for a PDCP SDU or when a status report confirms the successful delivery. The *discardTimer* can be configured up to 1500ms for eMTC and up to 81920ms for NB-IoT, or can be switched off by choosing infinity. The *discardTimer* mainly reflects the QoS requirements of the packets belonging to a service.

In RAN2#115e meeting, RAN2 made the following agreements regarding PDCP *discardTimer*:

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| **Agreements:**   * Do not extend the PDCP discardTimer for NB-IoT over NTN. * FFS whether to extend the PDCP discardTimer for eMTC over NTN. |

In [4], [5], and [10], it is proposed to extend PDCP discardTimer for eMTC over NTN. in [4], it is further suggested to extend the timer value with ENUMERATED (ms3000, ms6000), while in [10], it is suggested to extend the timer with a single value 2000ms.

Corresponding proposals are listed as below.

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| Tdoc No | Proposals | Source |
| R2-2110115 | Proposal 4: The PDCP discardTimer for eMTC is extended with ENUMERATED (ms3000, ms6000), and the PDCP discardTimer for NB-IoT is not extended. | ZTE Corporation, Sanechips |
| R2-2110268 | Proposal 3: It is proposed to extend the PDCP discardTimer for eMTC over NTN. | CMCC |
| R2-2110953 | [Proposal 6 Extend the PDCP discardTimer with the single value 2000ms.](#_Toc85762122) | Ericsson |

**Question 16: Do companies agree that the PDCP discardTimer should be extended to support eMTC over NTN?**

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| **Company** | **Agree / Disagree** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Agree | Extension in Discard Timer seems required in eMTC. |
| Xiaomi | Agree | NR has agreed to extend discard timer to 2000ms. For eMTC, the discard timer should at least be larger than t-Reordering. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

**Question 17: If the answer to Q16 is yes, which option do companies prefer regarding the extended value of PDCP t-Reordering for eMTC over NTN?**

* **Option 1: The PDCP discardTimer value is extended with ENUMERATED (ms3000, ms6000)**
* **Option 2: The PDCP discardTimer value is extended with ENUMERATED (ms2000)**
* **Option 3: other**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Additional comments** |
| MediaTek | Option 3 | PDCP Discard Timer should be larger than RLC Reordering Timer. |
| Xiaomi | other | For eMTC, the discard timer should at least be larger than t-Reordering. |
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**Rapporteur summary:**

TBA…

# 3. Summary and Proposals

This section summarizes the discussion and reports the following proposals:

*Proposals for easy agreements:*

*Proposals for further online discussion:*

# 4. References

1. R2-2109505 Discussion on UP impact for IoT over NTN OPPO discussion Rel-17 LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
2. R2-2109701 Discussion on TA information reporting for IoT NTN CATT discussion Rel-17 LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
3. R2-2109966 UL synchronization validity timer in RRC\_CONNECTED Qualcomm Incorporated discussion Rel-17 FS\_LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
4. R2-2110115 Remaining FFSs on UP in IoT NTN ZTE Corporation, Sanechips discussion FS\_LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
5. R2-2110268 Discussion on UP aspects for IoT-NTN CMCC discussion Rel-17 LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
6. R2-2110479 User plane for IOT NTN Huawei, HiSilicon discussion Rel-17 LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
7. R2-2110550 IoT-NTN UP impacts Interdigital, Inc. discussion Rel-17 LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
8. R2-2110706 On User Plane aspects for IoT NTN Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell discussion Rel-17 LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN
9. R2-2110919 Validity Timer Expiry and Synchronization Loss in IoT-NTN MediaTek Inc. discussion
10. R2-2110953 User plane aspects of NB-IoT and LTE-M in NTNs Ericsson discussion Rel-17 LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN

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