**3GPP TSG-RAN WG3 #111-e** **R3-210500**

**25 January – 4 February 2021**

**Title:** [DRAFT] Reply LS on small data transmission

**Reply to:** LS to RAN3 on small data transmission (R2-2010839)

**Release:** Release 17

**Work Item:** NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core

**Source:** Ericsson [To Be RAN3]

**To:** RAN2, SA3

**Cc:**

**Contact Person:**

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**Attachments:** n/a

**1. Overall Description:**

RAN3 thanks RAN2 for the LS on their progress.

RAN3 has briefly discussed how to support SDT in RRC\_INACTIVE WI, and would like to inform RAN2 about our initial progress as followings:

* WA1: The existing Retrieve UE Context procedure can be reused for both with and without anchor relocation scenarios. Any further enhancement will be discussed later.
* WA2: UL data for SDT is buffered in the successful context retrieval procedure. For the unsuccessful case, i.e., without anchor relocation, the common understanding is that UL data will be buffered as well, unless any serious latency issue is foreseen by RAN2.
* WA3: The last serving gNB, i.e., anchor gNB, will be the decision maker whether to relocate anchor or not. Assistance information from the receiving gNB may help on the decision. Details of assistance information are pending.
* RAN3 sees restriction on network solutions with RAN2’s assumption that RLC handling is processed in the receiving gNB, thus would propose no limitation on which node to process RLC configuration at this stage unless RAN2 has technical concern.

Furthermore, considering the without anchor relocation, there is potential concern on security. One possible scenario could be if context is fully fetched from the last serving gNB to the receiving gNB, how the encryption keys work for both nodes as both nodes may be able to decode the same data.

Based on the above consideration, RAN3 will continue discussing on possible simple solutions when the WI starts in RAN3 in Q4 2021.

**2. Actions:**

**To RAN2 working group.**

**ACTION:** RAN3 kindly RAN2 to take the progress into account and provide inputs if any.

**To SA3 working group.**

**ACTION:** RAN3 respectfully requests SA3 to provide feedback on the above question related to security.

**3. Date of Next TSG-RAN WG3 Meetings:**

RAN3#112 May 2021 Online