**3GPP TSG-RAN WG3 #112-e R3-21xxxx**

**17 – 28 May 2021**

Title: Reply LS on LS on IoT-NTN basic architecture

Response to: LS on IoT-NTN basic architecture (R3-211432/R2-2102501)

Work Item: FS\_LTE\_NBIOT\_eMTC\_NTN

Source: RAN3

To: RAN2, SA2, RAN,

Cc: CT1

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Attachments: None

**1. Overall Description:**

RAN3 would like to thank RAN2 for the received LS on IoT-NTN basic architecture.

RAN3 would like to clarify that the NG interface is always terminated in NG-RAN, i.e. in Fig.2 of the LS, “E-UTRAN” should be replaced by “NG-RAN”. As specified in TS 38.300, NG-RAN nodes can provide either NR or E-UTRA user plane and control terminations towards the UE. RAN3 assumes that RAN2 is considering NTN for the following:

* Support of eMTC/NB-IOT device connectivity to EPC
* Support of eMTC/NB-IOT device connectivity to 5GCN

Regarding 5GCN connectivity, support for this configuration is not currently planned, but RAN3 expects that the RAN3 impacts should, for the most part, be covered by the existing work for NR devices within the ongoing *NR\_NTN\_solutions* WI.

Regarding EPC connectivity, RAN3 has currently no planned work on this topic. RAN3 expects that it will be feasible to take the NG-RAN work as a model and transpose it to E-UTRAN. This also depends on impacts detected in other groups (e.g. SA2, RAN2), in case they deviate from those in 5GS.

RAN3 would like also to comment that the confirmation of the support of IoT-NTN in release 17 is a RAN decision. RAN did not schedule this work yet for RAN3 in rel-17, then RAN3 expect a small impact on specification.

**2. Actions:**

**To RAN WG2, SA WG2, TSG RAN**

**ACTION:** RAN3 kindly asks the above groups to take the above information into account.

**3. Date of Next RAN3 Meetings:**

RAN3#113-e 16-27 August 2021 Electronic meeting