**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #131 *R2-250xxxx***

**Bengaluru, India August 25th – 29th, 2025**

|  |
| --- |
| *CR-Form-v12.3* |
| **CHANGE REQUEST** |
|  |
|  | **38.321** | **CR** | **draft CR** | **rev** | - | **Current version:** | 18.5.0 |  |
|  |
| *For* [***HE******LP***](http://www.3gpp.org/3G_Specs/CRs.htm#_blank)*on using this form: comprehensive instructions can be found at* [*http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests*](http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests)*.* |
|  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Proposed change affects:*** | UICC apps |  | ME | **x** | Radio Access Network | **x** | Core Network |  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| ***Title:***  | Introduction of NR Sidelink Multi-hop Relay |
|  |  |
| ***Source to WG:*** | InterDigital (Rapporteur) |
| ***Source to TSG:*** | RAN2 |
|  |  |
| ***Work item code:*** | NR\_SL\_relay\_multihop |  | ***Date:*** | 2025-05-19 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Category:*** | B |  | ***Release:*** | Rel-19 |
|  | *Use one of the following categories:****F*** *(correction)****A*** *(mirror corresponding to a change in an earlier release)****B*** *(addition of feature),* ***C*** *(functional modification of feature)****D*** *(editorial modification)*Detailed explanations of the above categories canbe found in 3GPP [TR 21.900](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/21900.htm). | *Use one of the following releases:Rel-8 (Release 8)Rel-9 (Release 9)Rel-10 (Release 10)Rel-11 (Release 11)…Rel-17 (Release 17)Rel-18 (Release 18)Rel-19 (Release 19) Rel-20 (Release 20)* |
|  |  |
| ***Reason for change:*** | Multi-hop U2N relay are introduced |
|  |  |
| ***Summary of change:*** | Section 3.1: Updated definitions to take into account multi-hop into relay related definitions. |
|  |  |
| ***Consequences if not approved:*** | Multi-hop U2N relay is not supported in NR |
|  |  |
| ***Clauses affected:*** | 3.1 |
|  |  |
|  | **Y** | **N** |  |  |
| ***Other specs*** | **x** |  |  Other core specifications  | TS/TR TS 38.331, TS 38.300 |
| ***affected:*** |  | **x** |  Test specifications | TS/TR ... CR ...  |
| ***(show related CRs)*** |  | **x** |  O&M Specifications | TS/TR ... CR ...  |
|  |  |
| ***Other comments:*** |  |
|  |  |
| ***This CR's revision history:*** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| *Start of change* |

## 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

**A2X communication**: A communication to support A2X services leveraging PC5 reference points, as defined in TS 23.256 [31]. A2X services are realized by various types of A2X applications, e.g., BRID or DAA.

**Air to Ground network:** An NG-RAN consisting of ground-based gNBs, which provide cell towers that send signals up to an aircraft's antenna(s) of onboard ATG terminal, with typical vertical altitude of around 10,000 m and take-off/landing altitudes down to 3000 m.

**BWP for SRS for positioning Tx frequency hopping**:For SRS for positioning Tx frequency hopping, separate BWP configuration outside BWP configuration for data transmission.

**Dedicated SL-PRS resource pool**:A sidelink resource pool which can be used for the transmission of SL-PRS and cannot be used for the transmission of PSSCH.

**Dormant BWP**:The dormant BWP is one of downlink BWPs configured by the network via dedicated RRC signaling. In the dormant BWP, the UE stop monitoring PDCCH on/for the SCell, but continues performing CSI measurements, Automatic Gain Control (AGC) and beam management, if configured.

**DRX group**: A group of Serving Cells that is configured by RRC and that have the same DRX Active Time.

**eRedCap UE**: A UE with enhanced reduced capabilities as specified in clause 4.2.22.1 of TS 38.306 [25].

**HARQ information**: HARQ information for DL-SCH, for UL-SCH, or for SL-SCH transmissions consists of New Data Indicator (NDI), Transport Block Size (TBS), Redundancy Version (RV), and HARQ process ID.

**IAB-donor**: gNB that provides network access to UEs via a network of backhaul and access links.

**IAB-node**: RAN node that supports NR access links to UEs and NR backhaul links to parent nodes and child nodes.

**Listen Before Talk**: A procedure according to which transmissions are not performed if the channel is identified as being occupied, see TS 37.213 [18].

**LTM candidate cell**: A candidate cell configured for LTM as defined in TS 38.331 [5].

**Msg3**: Message transmitted on UL-SCH containing a C-RNTI MAC CE or CCCH SDU, submitted from upper layer and associated with the UE Contention Resolution Identity, as part of a Random Access procedure.

**Multi-path**: Mode of operation of a UE in RRC\_CONNECTED configured with one direct path on which the UE connects to gNB using NR Uu, and one indirect path on which the UE connects to the same gNB via another UE using PC5 unicast link or non-3GPP connection (N3C).

**Multi-PUSCH configured grant**: A configured grant configuration configured with *nrOfSlotsInCG-Period* (see TS 38.331 [5]). It includes multiple consecutive configured uplink grants within a single periodicity.

**N3C indirect path:** In Multi-path, the indirect path using Non-3GPP Connection between a remote UE and one or more relay UE(s).

**NCR-Fwd**: NCR-node function, which performs amplifying-and-forwarding of UL/DL RF signals between gNB and UE. The behavior of the NCR-Fwd is controlled according to the side control information received by the NCR-MT from a gNB.

**NCR-MT**: NCR-node entity which communicates with a gNB via a control link to receive side control information. The control link is based on NR Uu interface.

**NCR-node**: RAN node comprising NCR-MT and NCR-Fwd.

**Non-terrestrial network**: An NG-RAN consisting of gNBs, which provide non-terrestrial NR access to UEs by means of an NTN payload embarked on an airborne or space-borne NTN vehicle and an NTN Gateway.

**NR backhaul link**: NR link used for backhauling between an IAB-node and an IAB-donor, and between IAB-nodes in case of a multi-hop backhauling.

**NR sidelink communication**: AS functionality enabling at least V2X Communication as defined in TS 23.287 [19] and ProSe communication (including ProSe non-Relay, single-hop UE-to-Network Relay, Multihop L2 UE-to-Network Relay, and UE-to-UE Relay communication (including ProSe UE-to-UE Relay communication with integrated discovery)) as defined in TS 23.304 [26], between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**NR sidelink discovery**: AS functionality enabling ProSe non-Relay discovery, ProSe UE-to-Network Relay discovery, ProSe Multihop L2 UE-to-Network Relay discovery, and ProSe UE-to-UE Relay discovery for Proximity based Services as defined in TS 23.304 [26], between two or more nearby UEs, using NR technology but not traversing any network node.

**NR sidelink transmission**: Any NR Sidelink-based transmission, including transmission for NR sidelink discovery, transmission for NR sidelink communication, transmission for Ranging/Sidelink Positioning, and transmission for A2X communication.

**PDCCH occasion**: A time duration (i.e. one or a consecutive number of symbols) during which the MAC entity is configured to monitor the PDCCH.

**Positioning SRS Bandwidth Aggregation**: Transmission of positioning SRS on multiple carriers in RRC\_CONNECTED and RRC\_INACTIVE where the positioning SRS resources are linked in RRC configuration as defined in TS 38.331 [5].

**PRS Processing Window**: A time window during which UE may perform PRS measurement inside the active DL BWP with the same numerology as the active DL BWP without measurement gap.

**Ranging/Sidelink Positioning**:AS functionality enabling ranging-based services and sidelink positioning as specified in TS 23.586 [30].

**RB set**: A RB set refers to a contiguous set of resource blocks (RBs) on which a channel access procedure is performed in shared spectrum as defined in TS 37.213 [18].

**RedCap UE**: A UE with reduced capabilities as specified in clause 4.2.21.1 in TS 38.306 [25].

**Serving Cell**: A PCell, a PSCell, or an SCell in TS 38.331 [5].

**Shared SL-PRS resource pool**:A sidelink resource pool which can be used for the transmission of both SL-PRS and PSSCH.

**Sidelink transmission information**: Sidelink transmission information included in an SCI for an SL-SCH transmission or SL-PRS transmission with or without SL-SCH transmission on Shared SL-PRS resource pool as specified in clause 8.3 and 8.4 of TS 38.212 [9] consists of Sidelink HARQ information including NDI, RV, Sidelink process ID, HARQ feedback enabled/disabled indicator, Sidelink identification information including cast type indicator, Source Layer-1 ID and Destination Layer-1 ID, and Sidelink other information including CSI request, SL-PRS request, SL-PRS resource ID, a priority, a communication range requirement and Zone ID and COT sharing information.

**SL-PRS delay budget**: Delay budget before which the SL-PRS is expected to be transmitted by the Tx UE.

**SL-PRS transmission information on Dedicated SL-PRS resource pool**:SL-PRS transmission information on Dedicated SL-PRS resource pool is included in an SCI for an SL-PRS transmission on Dedicated SL-PRS resource pool, as specified in TS 38.212 [9], consisting of

- SL-PRS identification information, including cast type indicator, source ID and destination ID;

- SL-PRS transmission other information, including SL-PRS priority, SL-PRS request, SL-PRS resource ID and resource reservation period.

**SRS for positioning Tx frequency hopping**: Transmit frequency hopping of positioning SRS in RRC\_INACTIVE and RRC\_CONNECTED.

**SRS positioning validity area**:An area consisting of a list of cells within which the corresponding positioning SRS configuration is considered as valid.

**Special Cell**: For Dual Connectivity operation the term Special Cell refers to the PCell of the MCG or the PSCell of the SCG depending on if the MAC entity is associated to the MCG or the SCG, respectively. Otherwise the term Special Cell refers to the PCell. A Special Cell supports PUCCH transmission and contention-based Random Access, and is always activated.

**Timing Advance Group**: A group of Serving Cells that is configured by RRC and that, for the cells with a UL configured, using the same timing reference cell and the same Timing Advance value. A Timing Advance Group containing the SpCell of a MAC entity is referred to as Primary Timing Advance Group (PTAG), whereas the term Secondary Timing Advance Group (STAG) refers to other TAGs.

**UE-gNB RTT**: For non-terrestrial networks, the sum of the UE's Timing Advance value (see TS 38.211 [8] clause 4.3.1) and *kmac*.

**V2X sidelink communication**: AS functionality enabling V2X Communication as defined in TS 23.285 [20], between nearby UEs, using E-UTRA technology but not traversing any network node.

NOTE 1: A timer is running once it is started, until it is stopped or until it expires; otherwise it is not running. A timer can be started if it is not running or restarted if it is running. A Timer is always started or restarted from its initial value. The duration of a timer is not updated until it is stopped or expires (e.g. due to BWP switching). When the MAC entity applies zero value for a timer, the timer shall be started and immediately expire unless explicitly stated otherwise.

NOTE 2: In this version of the specification, the SRS in the procedural description includes Positioning SRS except for the Positioning SRS for transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE as in clause 5.26. Positioning SRS except for the Positioning SRS for transmission in RRC\_INACTIVE is treated the same as SRS by the UE unless explicitly stated otherwise.

## 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

A2X Aircraft-to-Everything

AP Aperiodic

BFR Beam Failure Recovery

BRID Broadcast Remote Identification

BSR Buffer Status Report

BWP Bandwidth Part

CE Control Element

CG Cell Group

CG-SDT Configured Grant-based SDT

CI-RNTI Cancellation Indication RNTI

CSI Channel State Information

CSI-IM CSI Interference Measurement

CSI-RS CSI Reference Signal

CS-RNTI Configured Scheduling RNTI

DAA Detect And Avoid

DAPS Dual Active Protocol Stack

DCP DCI with CRC scrambled by PS-RNTI

DL-PRS DownLink-Positioning Reference Signal

DSR Delay Status Report

DTX Discontinuous Transmission

G-CS-RNTI Group Configured Scheduling RNTI

G-RNTI Group RNTI

IAB Integrated Access and Backhaul

INT-RNTI Interruption RNTI

LBT Listen Before Talk

LCG Logical Channel Group

LCP Logical Channel Prioritization

LTM L1/L2 Triggered Mobility

MBS Multicast/Broadcast Services

MCCH MBS Control Channel

MCCH-RNTI MBS Control Channel RNTI

MCG Master Cell Group

MO-SDT Mobile Originated SDT

MPE Maximum Permissible Exposure

MTCH MBS Traffic Channel

MT-SDT Mobile Terminated SDT

N3C Non-3GPP Connection

NCD-SSB Non Cell Defining SSB

NCR Network-Controlled Repeater

NSAG Network Slice AS Group

NUL Normal Uplink

NZP CSI-RS Non-Zero Power CSI-RS

PDB Packet Delay Budget

PEI-RNTI Paging Early Indication RNTI

PHR Power Headroom Report

PQI PC5 QoS Identifier

PS-RNTI Power Saving RNTI

PSI PDU Set Importance

PTAG Primary Timing Advance Group

PTM Point to Multipoint

PTP Point to Point

QCL Quasi-colocation

PPW PRS Processing Window

PRS Positioning Reference Signal

RA-SDT Random Access-based SDT

RRH Remote Radio Head

RS Reference Signal

SCG Secondary Cell Group

SDT Small Data Transmission

SFI-RNTI Slot Format Indication RNTI

SI System Information

SL-PRS-CS-RNTI SL-PRS-Configured Scheduling-RNTI

SL-PRS-RNTI SL-PRS-RNTI

SL-CS-RNTI Sidelink-Configured Scheduling-RNTI

SL-PRS Sidelink-PRS

SL-RNTI Sidelink-RNTI

SpCell Special Cell

SP Semi-Persistent

SP-CSI-RNTI Semi-Persistent CSI RNTI

SPS Semi-Persistent Scheduling

SR Scheduling Request

SRI SRS Resource Indicator

SS Synchronization Signals

SSB Synchronization Signal Block

STAG Secondary Timing Advance Group

STx2P Simultaneous Transmission with 2 Panels

SUL Supplementary Uplink

TAG Timing Advance Group

TCI Transmission Configuration Indicator

TPC-SRS-RNTI Transmit Power Control-Sounding Reference Signal-RNTI

TRIV Time Resource Indicator Value

TRP Transmit/Receive Point

TRS CSI-RS for tracking

U2N UE-to-Network

U2U UE-to-UE

UCI Uplink Control Information

UTO-UCI Unused Transmission Occasion - UCI

UTW Uplink Time Window

V2X Vehicle-to-Everything

ZP CSI-RS Zero Power CSI-RS

|  |
| --- |
| *Next change* |

#### 6.1.3.33 Sidelink Buffer Status Report MAC CEs

Sidelink Buffer Status Report (SL-BSR) MAC CEs consist of either:

- SL-BSR format (variable size); or

- Truncated SL-BSR format (variable size).

SL-BSR and Truncated SL-BSR MAC control elements consist of one Destination Index field, one LCG ID field and one corresponding Buffer Size field per reported target group.

The SL-BSR formats are identified by MAC subheaders with LCIDs as specified in in Table 6.2.1-2.

The fields in the SL-BSR MAC CE are defined as follows:

- Destination Index: The Destination Index field identifies the destination. The length of this field is 5 bits. The value is set to one index corresponding to SL destination identity associated to same destination reported in *sl-TxResourceReqList*, *sl-TxResourceReqListDisc*, *sl-TxResourceReqListCommRelay* and *sl-TxResourceReqListL2-U2U*, if present. The value is indexed sequentially from 0 in the same ascending order of SL destination identity in *sl-TxResourceReqList*, *sl-TxResourceReqListDisc*, *sl-TxResourceReqListCommRelay* and *sl-TxResourceReqListL2-U2U* as specified in TS 38.331 [5]. When multiple lists are reported, the value is indexed sequentially across all the lists in the same order as presented in *SidelinkUEInformationNR* message;

- LCG ID: The Logical Channel Group ID field identifies the group of logical channel(s) whose SL buffer status is being reported. The length of the field is 3 bits;

- Buffer Size: The Buffer Size field identifies the total amount of data available according to the data volume calculation procedure in TSs 38.322 [3] and 38.323 [4] across all logical channels of a logical channel group of a destination after the MAC PDU has been built (i.e. after the logical channel prioritization procedure, which may result the value of the Buffer Size field to zero). The amount of data is indicated in number of bytes. The size of the RLC headers and MAC subheaders are not considered in the buffer size computation. The length of this field is 8 bits. The values for the Buffer Size field are shown in Table 6.1.3.1-2, respectively. For the Truncated SL-BSR format the number of Buffer Size fields included is maximised, while not exceeding the number of padding bits.

Buffer Sizes of LCGs are included in decreasing order of the highest priority of the sidelink logical channel having data available for transmission in each of the LCGs irrespective of the value of the Destination Index field.

NOTE: Void.



Figure 6.1.3.33-1: SL-BSR and Truncated SL-BSR MAC control element

|  |
| --- |
| *Next change* |

### 6.2.4 MAC subheader for SL-SCH

The MAC subheader consists of the following fields:

- V: The MAC PDU format version number field indicates which version of the SL-SCH subheader is used. In this version of the specification, the V field is set to 0. The size of the V field is 4 bits;

- SRC: The SRC field carries the 16 most significant bits of the Source Layer-2 ID set to the identifier provided by upper layers as defined in TS 23.287 [19] or TS 23.304 [26]. The length of the field is 16 bits;

- DST: The DST field carries the 8 most significant bits of the Destination Layer-2 ID set to the identifier provided by upper layers as defined in TS 23.287 [19] or TS 23.304 [26]. The length of the field is 8 bits;

- LCID: The Logical Channel ID field identifies the logical channel instance of the corresponding MAC SDU or the type of the corresponding MAC CE within the scope of one Source Layer-2 ID and Destination Layer-2 ID pair or padding as described in Tables 6.2.4-1 for SL-SCH. There is one LCID field per MAC subheader except for SL-SCH subheader. The values of LCID from 21 to 36 identify the logical channels used to send duplicated RLC SDUs from logical channels of which the values of LCID from 4 to 19 respectively in sequential order. The size of the LCID field is 6 bits;

- L: The Length field indicates the length of the corresponding MAC SDU or variable-sized MAC CE in bytes. There is one L field per MAC subheader except for SL-SCH subheader and subheaders corresponding to the fixed-sized MAC CE or padding. The size of the L field is indicated by the F field;

- F: The Format field indicates the size of the Length field. There is one F field per MAC subheader except for SL-SCH subheader and subheaders corresponding to the fixed-sized MAC CE or padding. The size of the F field is 1 bit. The value 0 indicates 8 bits of the Length field. The value 1 indicates 16 bits of the Length field;

- R: Reserved bit, set to 0.

The MAC subheader is octet aligned.

Table 6.2.4-1: Values of LCID for SL-SCH

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Index | LCID values |
| 0 | SCCH carrying PC5-S messages that are not protected |
| 1 | SCCH carrying PC5-S messages "Direct Security Mode Command" and "Direct Security Mode Complete","ProSe direct link security mode command" and "ProSe direct link security mode complete" |
| 2 | SCCH carrying other PC5-S messages that are protected |
| 3 | SCCH carrying PC5-RRC messages |
| 4–19 | Identity of the logical channel |
| 20 | SCCH carrying PC5-S messages ("Direct Security Mode Command" and "Direct Security Mode Complete") which is used for duplication |
| 21 | SCCH carrying other PC5-S messages that are protected which is used for duplication |
| 22 | SCCH carrying PC5-RRC messages which is used for duplication |
| 23-38 | Identity of the logical channel which is used for duplication |
| 39–52 | Reserved |
| 53 | Enhanced Sidelink Inter-UE Coordination Request |
| 54 | Enhanced Sidelink Inter-UE Coordination Information |
| 55 | SCCH carrying end-to-end SL-SRB0/1/2/3 messages delivered via SL-U2U-RLC as specified in TS 38.331 [5] |
| 56 | SCCH carrying RRC messages delivered via SL-RLC0 as specified in TS 38.331 [5] |
| 57 | SCCH carrying RRC message delivered via SL-RLC1 as specified in TS 38.331 [5] |
| 58 | SCCH for Sidelink Discovery Messages |
| 59 | Sidelink Inter-UE Coordination Request |
| 60 | Sidelink Inter-UE Coordination Information |
| 61 | Sidelink DRX Command |
| 62 | Sidelink CSI Reporting |
| 63 | Padding |