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Puerto Rico, 14th - 18th May 2001

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To: 3GPP TSG GERAN
Cc: 3GPP TSG SA2, **3GPP TSG CN**, 3GPP TSG SA
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3GPP TSG CN WG1 thanks 3GPP TSG GERAN for the LS and corresponding CRs (TDoc GP-010978) on the introduction of the new feature called "Extended uplink TBF" in the GPRS RLC/MAC protocol.


3GPP TSG CN WG1 has reviewed the change request on 3GPP TS 24.008 (REL-4), proposing to introduce the MS_EXT_UTBF parameter as a one-bit field, and agrees that the CR is technically correct except for the fact that the current version of TS 24.008 is v4.2.0.

In addition, 3GPP TSG CN WG1 has considered whether it would be acceptable, to introduce an option for new mobile stations to utilise the feature on a R97 (or R99) basis by including the MS_EXT_UTBF parameter in the R97 version of 3GPP TS 04.08, and has the following general comments:

- The proposal would add a new feature to R97, which is already frozen. Although the new feature would be optional it was felt that the general principle should be discussed at the relevant plenary meetings, that is 3GPP TSG GERAN, CN and SA, rather than at the working group level.
- Cherry picking features from later versions without any specification support in the reference versions was not seen as a feasible approach.
- Finally, 3GPP TSG CN WG1 believe that there is a potential technical problem in introducing the feature into R97. An implementation based on a previous version, e.g. of R97 in this case, might only interpret part of the MS Radio Access Capability IE contents, meaning that some valid information could be lost leading to undefined behaviour in the network. The current R97 definition of the MS Radio Access Capability IE specifies a maximum length of 14 octets and the addition of the MS_EXT_UTBF parameter, along with the extra bits needed to place it in the correct position, could potentially take the IE beyond the currently defined limit.

Attached Tdocs:

Tdoc GP-010978 (N1-010696), incoming LS from GERAN


"N1-010696_LS
IN.zip"