3GPP RAN TSG Meeting #90e RP-20xxxxx

Electronic meeting, December 7 – 11th, 2020

Agenda item: 9.11

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# 1 Introduction and background

Dynamic spectrum sharing is an important feature that allows for sharing existing spectrum between the LTE and NR carriers, thus enabling smoother transition from LTE and faster adoption of NR. Among prerequisites for running LTE and NR within the same frequency channel, either FDD or TDD, an operator has to ensure that both LTE and NR sub-carrier grids are aligned. And for that, the corresponding "UL channel raster shift" higher layer parameter was introduced already in Rel-15. However, while a UE has to act upon that parameter signalled for the FDD and SUL bands, its support is not mandatory by default for the TDD bands.

The aforementioned issue with DSS and NR TDD bands was realised when DSS for band 41/n41 frequency range was instantiated [1], outcome of which was introduction of a new band n90 to enable UL shift. That time the issue with DSS and NR TDD bands was raised [2], in which it was elaborated further on consequences of having UL channel raster shift as an optional parameter for the TDD bands. It was suggested making it mandatory, but the proposal was not agreed. The n41 band was followed by WIs enabling DSS for other TDD bands: n48 [3], n38 [4], and n40 [5]. However, as discussed during the RAN4#96 meeting, it is not entirely clear how 3GPP should proceed with enforcing mandatory UL shift for earlier releases of those bands. In [6] submitted to RAN#90 meeting, it is elaborated further on a common way of handling UL channel shift for NR TDD bands and how to introduce this functionality to earlier releases.

As mentioned earlier, according to the outcome of the 41/n41 LTE/NR spectrum sharing WI [1] RAN WG4 agreed to introduce a new band to circumvent around the fact that the UL channel raster shift is not a mandatory parameter for the NR TDD band n41. As the outcome of that discussion, a new band n90 was introduced which is effectively the same band as n41, but the network deploying LTE and NR on the same carrier will use band n90 to prevent legacy terminals from camping on that carrier. In turn, a UE supporting band n90 has to support UL shift.

Observation 1: To enable UL shift for the **Rel-15** NR band n41, a new band n90 was introduced.

After RAN#84 meeting, another re-farmed LTE TDD band 48 was added to NR, which was followed by the corresponding WI to enable DSS in that frequency range. However, since band n48 is a Rel-16 band, it was concluded that the corresponding changes can be introduced for that band because no commercial devices were anticipated that time, i.e. a new band was not created.

Observation 2: To enable UL shift for the **Rel-16** NR band n48, the corresponding changes are introduced into the band n48 because no commercial devices were anticipated when the WI was agreed.

After the RAN#88 meeting, two more WIs were approved that aim at enabling the DSS functionality for Rel-15 NR TDD bands n38 and n40. Even though both bands are Rel-15 bands, different approaches were taken on how to enable UL shift. While band n38 has UL shift as mandatory parameter starting from Rel-15 (with a special NOTE for Rel-15 indicating that some UEs will not support it), band n40 has mandatory UL shift only starting from Rel-17 with a release independent statement.

Observation 3: To enable UL shift for the **Rel-15** NR band n38, the corresponding changes are introduced starting from Rel-15 (with a special NOTE in the Rel-15 specification).

Observation 4: To enable UL shift for the **Rel-15** NR band n40, the corresponding changes are introduced starting from Rel-17 with a release independent statement.

Observation 5: There are four NT TDD bands where DSS was enabled – n41, n48, n38, n40 – and all of them follow a different approach on UL shift functionality was mandated.

As a summary, there are the following approaches on how it is possible to mandate UL shift for a particular TDD band:

a) *Introduce a new band*. This approach was taken for the Rel-15 band n41/n90 and can be regarded as the "safest" approach because legacy UEs, not supporting UL shift, will not camp on a new band. However, as discussed previous in RAN WG4, this approach should be avoided because every time DSS is needed in a particular TDD band, a new band will have to be instantiated.

b) *Mandate UL shift starting from the release when the band was introduced.* This approach was proposed by several proponents during the RAN4#96 discussion and was referred to as the "cleanest" in terms of the specification clarity. Indeed, by making the corresponding changes straight to the release when the corresponding band was added, we could ensure that the UL shift functionality will not be missed by UE implementations; however, this is true if we assume that there are no UEs in the market or in the development process. This approach can be applied only in those case when a particular band is added in the open release. Otherwise, the main drawback of this solution is that by mandating UL shift functionality for the closed release, we will introduce a non-backward compatible change for the UEs that have entered the market or been already entering it. These UEs are compliant with the existing versions of specifications that do not mandate UL shift support, but they will become non-compliant if specifications are revised to mandate UL shift.

c) *Mandate UL shift starting from Rel-X and enable UL shift in earlier releases only to new UEs*. This solution is somewhat similar to the previous one, with the only difference that UL shift is mandated starting from the open or the next release. As for the earlier releases, the corresponding NOTE or a clarification is added to the specifications indicating UL shift applicability. And even though the difference between approaches b) and c) can be viewed as rather marginal, this approach can be viewed as the most "compliant" one because we will not taint existing UEs with the mandatory functionality that they will not support. At the same time, new UEs will support UL shift.

## 2 Discussion

Based on the presented considerations in section 1, we ask companies feedback for the following open points with an intention to formulate common principles on how DSS will or can be enabled for FR1 TDD bands.

**Q1: If UL shift is enabled for a particular TDD band, starting from which release UL shift should become mandatory?**

As an example, if there is an FR1 TDD band X introduced in Rel-15 into 38.101-1 specifications, but the operator request to enable UL shift is submitted in Rel-17, then the question is whether we should try to enable UL shift also in earlier releases.

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| Company | Feedback |
| Huawei | So far the work on the operators’ interested band was completed. For some mainstream band, there will be severe NBC issue such that UL shift cannot be supported in a release independent manner, while from some band there would be possibility to enable UL shift in a release independent way. Since UL shift is related to initial access, it should be mandated from Rel-15, if needed. Otherwise, even if some UEs are able to support it, network cannot use it.  But for Q1 we prefer to discuss it based on the concrete band proposed by operators. Maybe we do not need have a general agreement. |
| Ericsson | We do not believe it is needed or useful to make a generic agreement for as yet unknown future TDD DSS bands. We should discuss which release should be considered on a case by case basis if and when bands/WI are identified. |

**Q2: If UL shift is enabled in earlier releases, what is the way to reflect it in the specifications?**

As an example, if there is an FR1 TDD band X introduced in Rel-15 into 38.101-1 specifications and there is an agreement to enable UL shift in all releases starting from Rel-15 when the band is added, then there are two potential ways how it can be accomplished. One way is to follow the way it was done for band 38/n38 DSS: introduce the corresponding CRs starting from the release where the band was introduced adding, if needed, a special NOTE acknowledging the fact that legacy UEs may not support it. Another approach could be similar to what has been done for band 40/n40 DSS: introduce the release-independent statement only in a later release.

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| Company | Feedback |
| Huawei | We prefer to discuss it based on the concrete band proposed by operators. Not sure if we need to reach a general agreement. |
| Ericsson | Similar to Q1 and Huawei, we think that the release and specification mechanism should be handled on a case by case basis. |

**Q3: What is the company view/preference on mandating UL shift for \_all\_ FR1 TDD bands starting from e.g. Rel-17?**

To minimise potential issues with enabling DSS for TDD bands in the future, one approach could be to mandate UL shift for \_all\_ FR1 TDD bands starting from e.g. Rel-17. That will also eliminate a need to instantiate a new WI every time UL shift is needed for a particular FR1 TDD band.

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| Company | Feedback |
| Huawei | As we commented for Q1, mandating UL shift from Rel-17 seems less useful, since it is related to initial access and network won’t use it if some UE cannot support it. |
| Ericsson | We also take the view this could cause issues with initial access if a network tried to use the shift. |

# 3 Conclusions

# 4 References

1. RP-182883, "New WI proposal: LTE/NR spectrum sharing in Band 41/n41", KDDI Corporation
2. RP-191848, "Channel raster shift for NR TDD bands", Apple Inc.
3. RP-192427, "New WID: LTE/NR spectrum sharing in band 48/n48 frequency range", Apple Inc.
4. RP-201314, "New WI proposal: LTE/NR spectrum sharing in Band 38/n38", Vodafone
5. RP-201362, " New WID proposal: LTE/NR spectrum sharing in Band 40/n40", Reliance Jio
6. RP-202585, "DSS and UL shift for NR TDD bands", Apple Inc.