

Views on RAN4 Rel-18 Package Approval Process

Agenda Item: 15

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RAN #91e agreements on RAN4 Rel-18 Timelines

RAN4 Rel-18 WI package approval timelines were decided in RAN #91e (RP-210770) and RAN4-led proposals were agreed to be discussed in June – December 2021 jointly with RAN1-3 proposals

- Working towards RAN1/2/3/4 Rel-18 Package Approval
 - RAN#93 (September) to further consolidate RAN1/2/3/4 proposals led by the respective Convenors
 - RAN4-led proposals addressed in this phase are the new areas (not dependent on Rel-17 work finalization)
- Working towards completing RAN4 Rel-18 Package Approval
 - RAN#94 (December) can potentially approve item(s) on RAN4-led new areas
 - RAN4 impacts of RAN1/2/3-led items are included in the WI/SI sheets at the December approval
 - RAN4 leadership can then determine the available RAN4 capacity for RAN4-led items
 - Some RAN4 capacity needs to be reserved for RAN4-led items!
 - Further RAN4-led proposals that are dependent on Rel-17 finalization are to be worked on in Q1/2022
 - Structured email discussions to be set up in Q1/2022
 - RAN#95 (March) to approve the rest of the RAN4 core work package for Rel18

Views on RAN4 Rel-18 package approval process (1)

Approval timelines

- The most part of Rel-17 RAN4-led study and work items were approved in Sep/Dec 2020. A limited scope extension was made in March 2021.
- The RAN4 work on Rel-17 was kicked-off in Q4'2020, while the work on most of RAN1/2-led items started in Q2'2021
- Approval of the RAN4 Rel-18 package in 9 months after Rel-17 scope update and in the early stage of Rel-17 work may not be the most productive approach, at least for Non-spectrum items
- **Proposal #1: Move RAN4 package approval for non-spectrum work items to March 2022**

"New" vs "Old" items

- Based on RAN#91e decisions, early discussions on RAN4 proposals shall focus on "... *new areas (not dependent on Rel-17 work finalization)*". RAN4 "new areas" are within scope of the Rel-18 Workshop.
- No hard boundary between "New" and "Old" items was provided and it may cause much ambiguity
- Staggering the new/old discussions and approvals may eventually lead to prioritizing the "new" topics to be approved in Dec 2021 and not address the industry interests in a fair manner
- The decisions on RAN4 package content should consider the industry prioritization across the full set of topics.
- **Proposal #2: After the Rel-18 workshop, do not apply any differentiation or prioritization between "new" & "old" topics.**

Views on RAN4 Rel-18 package approval process (2)

Approval process split into multiple meetings

- Rel-17 RAN4 package approval was split over a very long period, which resulted in more challenging RAN4 work planning
- Further split of Rel-18 approval process over several meetings may lead to the same situation
- **Proposal #3: Minimize the split of RAN4 WI package approval for non spectrum items across multiple meetings**

Handling of urgent requests

- Based on Rel-16/Rel-17 experience new urgent market requests may arise after approval of the RAN4 work package
- **Proposal #4: A certain amount of RAN4 TUs shall be reserved to accommodate urgent market requests**

Spectrum & Non-spectrum item handling

- RAN4 spectrum items address urgent operator needs and focus on spectrum related areas
- Typically, spectrum and non-spectrum items have dedicated TU budgets
- Given a potentially large amount of spectrum items, it can be more convenient to split the approval of spectrum/non-spectrum items to different meetings
- **Proposal #5: Approval of RAN4 Spectrum & Non-spectrum Rel-18 WIs packages may be performed in different meetings**
- It is quite typical that new Spectrum WIs requests arise once the package is approved. It is recommended to put clear deadlines for possible additions
- **Proposal #6: Allow a multi-stage (e.g., 2-3) Spectrum WIs package approval during the release with a 6 months period (e.g., Dec 21 / June 22 / Dec 22)**

Summary

Proposal #1: Move RAN4 package approval for non-spectrum work items to March 2022

Proposal #2: After the Rel-18 workshop, do not apply any differentiation or prioritization between “new” & “old” topics.

Proposal #3: Minimize the split of RAN4 WI package approval for non spectrum items across multiple meetings

Proposal #4: A certain amount of RAN4 TUs shall be reserved to accommodate urgent market requests

Proposal #5: Approval of RAN4 Spectrum & Non-spectrum WIs packages may be may be performed in different meetings

Proposal #6: Allow multi-stage (e.g., 2-3) Spectrum WIs package approval during the release with 6 months period (e.g., Dec 21 / June 22 / Dec 22)

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