3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #115-e draftR2-2108887

Elbonia, Online, 16 – 27th of August 2021

**Agenda item: 8.10.3.1**

**Source: Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell**

**Title: Report from [AT115-e][107][NTN] Reply LS on TAC handling (Nokia)**

**WID/SID: NR\_NTN\_solutions-Core - Release 17**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# 1 Brief scope of the paper

This document aims at collecting companies’ views regarding TAC handling in NTN:

* [AT115-e][107][NTN] Reply LS on TAC handling (Nokia)

Scope: Continue the discussion on p3 and p4 from [R2-2107520](file:///C%3A%5CData%5C3GPP%5CExtracts%5CR2-2107520%20On%20Tracking%20Area%20Code%20handling%20for%20NTN.docx) and then draft reply LS response to CT1 and SA2

Intended outcome: Summary of the offline discussion with e.g.:

* + - List of proposals for agreement (if any)
		- List of proposals for further discussion

Initial deadline (for companies' feedback): Thursday 2021-08-19 1000 UTC

Initial deadline (for rapporteur's summary in R2-2108887): Thursday 2021-08-19 1600 UTC

Deadline for reply LSs: Week2 (after CB session)

Proposals marked "for agreement" in R2-2108887 not challenged until Friday 2021-08-20 1000 UTC will be declared as agreed via email by the session chair (for the rest the discussion will further continue offline until the CB session in Week2).

The following sections elaborate on the topics listed in the scope above.

# 2 One or multiple TACs indicated to NAS

At RAN2#113bis it was discussed what shall be sent to NAS from AS when there is more than a single TAC per PLMN. RAN2 has listed two options and shared them with CT1 and SA2 in [2]:

* Option 1: AS still reports only one TAC for one PLMN even if more than one TACs per PLMN are broadcasted in an NTN cell.
* Option 2: AS indicates all received TAC(s) for one PLMN to NAS layer.

SA2 and CT1 responded in [3] and [4], respectively. We have analyzed their responses in our TDoc [1]. In our understanding:

* SA2 [3] admits Option 2 is doable, while stating Option 1 is simpler as it does not require updates for NAS. At the same time they point at CT1, in their opinion, a group responsible for verifying Stage-3 requirements and the ultimate feasibility of Option 2. SA2 also sees a risk of Option 1, where a non-optimal TAC is selected and is signalled to NAS.
* CT1 [4] states Option 2 is feasible, but they ask, in addition to the registration area, what should be taken into account by the NAS in selecting a single TAC from multiple TACs indicated by AS.

Thus, RAN2 may conclude Option 2 is doable and shall be selected (as per RAN2 clear preferences expressed during RAN2#113bis). Companies are kindly asked to confirm this is a preferred option, in light of the response LSs from SA2 and CT1:

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| **Question 1: Considering the response LSs from SA2 [3] and CT1 [4], which option shall be selected by RAN2 if there is more than a single TAC per PLMN:*** **Option 1: AS still reports only one TAC for one PLMN even if more than one TACs per PLMN are broadcasted in an NTN cell.**
* **Option 2: AS indicates all received TAC(s) for one PLMN to NAS layer.**
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| **Company** | **Option 1/Option 2** | **Comment** |
| vivo | Option 2 | We are OK to follow previous RAN2 preference which was confirmed by CT1 and SA2 to some extents.  |
| ericsson | Option 1 | Also Option 2 requires the information on how to select one TAC from multiple thus it seems more straightforward AS does it directly. |
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Assuming that RAN2 preferences have not changed and Option 2 is still supported by the majority, RAN2 shall consider what kind of factors may be taken into account when NAS is to select a single TAC value. Please note it has been indicated in the CT1 LS [4] that such further guidance from RAN2 is expected. In [1] it has been pointed out that the following aspects may be considered:

- registration area

- forbidden tracking areas

- service area restrictions

- local area data network (LADN) information.

- UE’s location information and information of geographical area of Tracking Areas

Please kindly indicate what RAN2 shall suggest in the response to CT1.

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| **Question 2: Which factors should be taken into account and communicated to CT1 in the response LS to facilitate the TAI selection in case multiple TACs are broadcast per PLMN?** |
| **Company** | **Answer** |
| vivo | From RAN2 perspective, we think *UE’s location information and information of geographical area of Tracking Areas* should be used by the NAS for TAI selection. There was also a draft LS from Huawei (in R2-2107345) which indicates the above information is needed by NAS for TAI selection. We think such a reply from Huawei should be in a right way. Per our reading of the incoming CT1 LS, we understand that the question is asking, besides the TA related information already existing/available in the NAS as in the legacy (e.g. those listed in Nokia’s draft LS), what *other* information is needed from RAN2 perspective in this NTN-specific situation with multiple TACs available in the AS. Otherwise, if only the NAS information itself had been concerned, CT1/SA2 should have decided all by themselves without need of enquiring RAN2.We think the need of location information for TAI selection is the direct consequence resulting from the support of earth-fixed TA planning in NTN as well as the support of earth-moving cells allowed to broadcast multiple TACs. The UE has to map its current location into the fixed TA where it is currently located, depending on its current location information available. Since TA/cell planning is related to RAN deployment, RAN2 should be the right WG to decide the need of such location information and geographical information of TAs for TAI selection, and inform this decision to CT1/SA2. In addition to location information and geographical information of TAs, we may also inform CT1 that the need of other NAS layer information for TAI selection (e.g. those listed by Nokia above) can be up to CT1.  |
| Ericsson | Selection has to respect the geographical area of TAC. If UE would have full knowledge on the geographical areas it is easy for the UE to select. Current discussion does not assume UE has it, timing information will help in this selection as UE can select the one that is going to be broadcasted longer time. Additionally restricted and forbidden areas should be taken into account. |
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The discussion above shall lead to drafting the response LS to [3] and [4]. In this liaison statement RAN2 shall indicate the following:

1. Confirmation Option 2 has been selected by RAN2 after analysing the feedback from SA2 and CT1
2. If RAN2 converges on Question 2, factors that can be taken into account to facilitate the TAI selection
3. Other (please indicate)

Please note we have already provided a draft response LS in [5], which can serve as a basis for constructing the final response from RAN2.

Please provide your view on what to insert in the LS:

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| **Question 3: What kind of information to insert in the response LS to CT1 and SA2? Please select (multiple) options: a), b), c) and provide further details in the Comment column.** |
| **Company** | **a), b), c)** | **Comment** |
| vivo | a), b), c) | As what was commented in Q2, c) can be telling CT1 what information needs to be considered for TAI selection at the NAS level is up to CT1. |
| Ericsson | C) | We should provide RAN2 outcome of the discussion |
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# 3 Conclusion

Based on the views expressed in the previous sections, we propose the following:

# 4 List of referenced documents

1. R2-2107520 *On Tracking Area Code handling for NTN* 3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #115 Electronic Elbonia, 16 – 27 of August 2021
2. R2-2104377 *LS on multiple TACs per PLMN* 3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #113bis electronic, 12 – 20th of April 2021
3. S2-2104891 *LS Response to LS on multiple TACs per PLMN* 3GPP TSG SA WG2 Meeting #145E (e-meeting) May 17 - 28 2021
4. C1-213965 *LS reply on multiple TACs per PLMN* 3GPP TSG CT WG1 Meeting 130-e TDoc Electronic meeting, 20 - 28 May 2021
5. R2-2107523 *Response LS on Multiple TACs per PLMN* 3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #115 Electronic Elbonia, 16 – 27 of August 2021

# Contact information

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