3GPP TSG-RAN WG3 Meeting #114bis-e [R3-221105](file:///D:\My_work\TSGR1-108-eMeeting-20220110\RAN3-114bis\Inbox\R3-221105.zip)

Online, 17 – 26 January 2022

**Agenda item: 9.3.5.1**

**Source: Huawei (moderator)**

**Title: Summary of offline:** **Retrieve UE context for NPN only cell**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# 1 Introduction

This paper summarizes the following email discussion:

**CB: # 95\_UEContextNPN**

**- Check the solutions from last meeting and try to converge on the solution, no matter in RAN3 or other group**

**- Close the topic in this meeting**

(HW - moderator)

Summary of offline disc [R3-221105](file:///C:\Users\llopes\OneDrive%20-%20Qualcomm\Documents\3%20RAN3\RAN3%20114bis\Inbox\Drafts\CB%20%23%2095_UEContextNPN\Inbox\R3-221105.zip)

# 2 For the Chair’s Notes

TBD

# 3 Discussion (Phase 1)

Based on the online discussion, the following issue seems clear to all companies (also captured at the previous meeting):

**The issue is acknowledged: How could the anchor NG-RAN node acquires the PCI and ARFCN information based on the first PLMN Cell ID to calculate the target key in case of the NPN-only cell?**

Then we can go directly to the candidate solutions, and down-select solutions within RAN3 remit. And then we can close this topic at this meeting.

* **Option 1:** Include the PCI/AFRCN-DL in the **Retrieve UE Context Request** message as proposed in R3-215160;
* **Option 2**: Set the dummy value to be the same as the first entry in the NPN list;
* **Option 3**: Update the procedure/semantics descriptions;
* **Option 4**: Introduce new indication at Xn setup/update procedures (either ***NR Cell Identity of First PLMN*** IE corresponding to the first PLMN Identity broadcasted in SIB1 or ***NR CGI*** IE including the cellIdentity corresponding to the first PLMN Identity and the first PLMN Identity in SIB1);
* **Option 5**: others, e.g., ask SA3 to update the security key generation in case of NPN only cell.
* ~~Option 6: Request RAN2 to use the cell corresponding to the first NPN Identity in SIB1 as the target physical cell.~~

The moderator intends to provide some initial analysis, based on the analysis in R3-220683

* The **first** option could work.
* The **second** option also could work. But this relies on the implementation (not defined in any specs), and this is not a standard solution. This cannot be always ensured by the inter-operation case. Importantly this solution has RAN2 impact: it mandates that NPN only cell broadcast the first cell identity in the *plmn-IdentityInfoList* the same as the first cell identity in the *npn-IdentityInfoList-r16*.
* The **third** option to update the semantic descriptions could not work. As given below, overall twelve PLMN/NIDs could be broadcasted. In case of an NPN-only cell, the first PLMN Identity is not considered as within the twelve PLMN/NIDs in the Broadcast PLMN Identity Info List NR IE.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Broadcast PLMN Identity Info List NR** |  | *0..<maxnoofBPLMNs>* |  | This IE corresponds to the *PLMN-IdentityInfoList* IE and the *NPN-IdentityInfoList* IE (if available) in *SIB1* as specified in TS 38.331 [8]. All PLMN Identities and associated information contained in the *PLMN-IdentityInfoList* IE and NPN identities and associated information contained in the *NPN-IdentityInfoList* IE (if available) are included and provided in the same order as broadcast in SIB1.  NOTE: In case of NPN-only cell, the PLMN Identities and associated information contained in the *PLMN-IdentityInfoList* IE are not included. | YES | ignore |

* The **fourth** option could work. And this issue can be resolved by RAN3 itself.
* The **fifth** option seems require other group involvement (e.g., SA3).

**Question 1: Please provide your preference for the above option(s), or any other solution.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Company** | **Comments** |
| Huawei | Both Option 4 and option 1 are fine to us.  For option 4, either the ***NR CGI*** IE or the ***NR Cell Identity of First PLMN*** IE is fine. |
| Qualcomm | Option 5 should be ruled out, this is the worst scenario (impact seriously other groups due to a RAN3 signalling or configuration issue).  Option 3 appears to be the equivalent of option 2 in the sense that any semantics would effectively point out what is used for security, and by implication what has to go in the dummy broadcast – so I think it can work but it is a bit hidden – but it feasible, and has the least impact.  Although option 2 has RAN2 impact, this is very minor as it has no impact on UE behaviour or any signalling. So not sure we should rule that out. The only concern here is that the problem is caused by a RAN3 decision.  Options 1 and 4 work. Of these two, option 4 may be preferred as it is based on configuration signalling. |
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| Moderator Summary:   * TBD | |

# 4 Discussion (Phase 2), if needed

TBD

# 5 Conclusions, Recommendations

TBD

# References

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| [R3-220683](file:///C:\Users\llopes\OneDrive%20-%20Qualcomm\Documents\3%20RAN3\RAN3%20114bis\Inbox\Drafts\CB%20%23%2095_UEContextNPN\Docs\R3-220683.zip) | Retrieve UE context for NPN only cell (Huawei, Deutsche Telekom, Orange) | Discussion  Nok: Do not you need to add NCGI instead of CID? Another option is to update in TS33.501?  ZTE: No impact on RAN3, it can be discussed in RAN2  CATT: Prefer to let RAN2 check the issue  E///: Prefer to use option2  Qualcomm: Can work on dummy value solution and prefer to discuss this in RAN3  **CB: # 95\_UEContextNPN**  **- Check the solutions from last meeting and try to converge on the solution, no matter in RAN3 or other group**  **- Close the topic in this meeting**  (HW - moderator)  Summary of offline disc [R3-221105](file:///C:\Users\llopes\OneDrive%20-%20Qualcomm\Documents\3%20RAN3\RAN3%20114bis\Inbox\Drafts\CB%20%23%2095_UEContextNPN\Inbox\R3-221105.zip) |
| [R3-220684](file:///C:\Users\llopes\OneDrive%20-%20Qualcomm\Documents\3%20RAN3\RAN3%20114bis\Inbox\Drafts\CB%20%23%2095_UEContextNPN\Docs\R3-220684.zip) | Retrieve UE context for NPN only cell (Huawei, Deutsche Telekom, Orange) | CR0734r, TS 38.423 v16.8.0, Rel-16, Cat. F |