**3GPP TSG RAN WG2 Meeting #111-e R2-2008422  
E-Conference, 17th – 28th August 2020**

**Agenda item: 6.1.2**

**Source: Qualcomm Incorporated**

**Title: Summary of Offline discussion#021: UE cap NR-DC (Qualcomm)**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

1. Introduction

This is a summary of phase2 offline discussion:

* [AT111-e][021][NR16] UE cap NR-DC (Qualcomm)

Scope: Treat R2-2006558, R2-2007946, R2-2007605,

Deadlines: Short UE cap

In Thursday, it was discussed online, and updated scoping as captured in chair notes:

[R2-2008422](file:///D:\Documents\3GPP\tsg_ran\WG2\TSGR2_111-e\Docs\R2-2008422.zip)

P2

- Nokia think we cannot do anything until R4 has decided. Most companies think we follow R15 principle, cannot do anyting anything else until R4 decides differently.

- Huawei think we will anyway refer to R4 BC list, Huawei think we don’t need to do anything now.

- Intel think we can introduce new signalling for cases that cannot be handled by R15, or have completely new signalling. R4 has defined intra-FR1 and Intra-FR2 cases, but R1 and R4 are still discussing.

- Chair wonder if we can just postpone. Ericsson think we need to postpone anyway.

- QC think the main restriction that is needed is to restrict MCG/SCG roles.

- TMO UE think it is important to have all cases for R16, and the signalling should be flexible enough.

- MTK think asynch is ok with the old principle, and asks whether the issue is for synch only, and which exact proposal this relates to.

- Huawei think the UE is required to support sync NR DC without restriction. Ericsson agrees. QC has concerns about this, and it should be possible to do only R15 NR-DC also for R16 UEs.

- Apple think we need to agree something at this meeting and think it is dangerous to imply capability with absence of signalling. Samsung agrees that we should try to converge this meeting.

- Apple want to first make clear what would be the consequences of using the R15 signalling, and we should ask R4 and R1, and explain improvements

- CATT think we need to better understand for synch case and would be ok to send an LS.

- Intel think that we can also discuss, e.g. whether we need cell grouping for intra-FR1 intra FR2 cases.

* Agree by email the async parts (that seems agreeable), continue discussion on synch case, and clarify consequences of the signalling proposals on the table. Can work on a draft LS to R1 R4, will come back on-line next week to finally decide whether to send it.

2. Discussion

During online discussion of phase 1 [8], rapporteur think there is some confusions on whether the proposal is for async NR-DC or sync NR-DC. Thus, rapporteur will emphasize it for each question. Please note its definition in this discussion:

* **Sync NR-DC**: Rel-16 slot synchronous NR-DC where support of SFN misalignment is mandatory
* **Async NR-DC**: Rel-16 non-slot-synchronous NR-DC where support of SFN misalignment is also mandatory

## 2.1 Items for easy agreement

Based on company input, rapporteur believe the following 3 items should be easy agreements:

**Proposal 1: Based on company input, RAN2 agree:**

1. **For *sync NR-DC*, capture “The UE shall not report this UE capability from this release” in field description of *sfn-SyncNRDC***
2. **For sync NR-DC, the Rel-16 UE shall support Rel-15 grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2), for backward compatibility with Rel-15 network**
3. **For async NR-DC, introduce LTE cell grouping capability signalling as the baseline (Note that enhancement proposed in phase 1 will be discussed in section 2.2).**

**Q1: Do you agree Proposal 1?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Yes/No | Comments |
| Qualcomm | Yes | For 3), We are fine with it as baseline. We suggest enhancement in Q2/Q3 to be properly discussion in addition. |
| OPPO | Yes |  |
| Apple | Yes |  |
| vivo | Yes |  |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes but | For 2). We understand as long as the UE still reports the FR1+FR2 NR DC, the legacy gNB would always assume the UE supports FR1 as MCG and FR2 as SCG. So we don’t see 2) requires any additional signalling.  [Rapporteur] 2) is just intended for confirmation.  For 3), we are OK to consider LTE cell group signalling, however if we want to differentiate MCG or SCG, it might not be that suitable to say baseline. Can we say LTE cell grouping capability can be considered(Note that enhancement proposed in phase 1 will be discussed in section 2.2) |
| Ericsson | Yes to 1 & 2  Not sure for 3 | For 3, we are not sure what is meant with “as baseline”. We think there should be a possibility to signal only support of async NR-DC for a BC, without the cell grouping capability. Then what this means is something that needs further discussion. We see two options:   1. The UE supports any cell grouping for the BC (this was the meaning in LTE) 2. The UE supports only MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2.   Out of these, we tend to prefer option 2, as it is the same baseline as assumed for sync NR-DC and it will decrease the capability signalling overhead for the common deployment of FR1-FR2 NR-DC. It also avoids that the cell grouping capability becomes an “incapability”, as was the case in the LTE signalling where the field was used to indicate restrictions in the possible cell grouping. Taking the FR1-FR2 NR-DC as baseline, the cell grouping capability would instead be used to indicated what other cell groping constellations the UE supports on top of the FR1-FR2 NR-DC case.  [Rapporteur] We can discuss signalling details later, as suggested by other companies |
| Futurewei | Yes to 1 & 2 | We are open to more discussions of 3. |
| MediaTek | Yes | For 3), we understand that probably further details need to clarify based on phase 1 discussion. But taking LTE approach as baseline (or considering the LTE approach) should be fine. |
| ZTE | Yes |  |
| Samsung | Yes | Maybe one missing point here is what if UE reports to R15 NW unmixed BC (purely FR1 or purely FR2) as NR-DC supported. Since R15 supports only FR1-FR2 mixed DC, R15 NW may be unable to understand and unable to utilize the BC for NR-DC. But it shouldn’t cause any backward compatibility issue because R15 NW will just ignore the information. We like to confirm that R15 NW receiving unmixed BC as NR-DC supported does not cause backward compatibility problem.  [Rapporteur] We have the same understanding that R15 NW will ignore R16 UE’s reporting of intra-FR BC. And there should be no legacy issue. |

Summary for Q1:

All company agreed 1) and 2), but some companies think some more discussions are needed for 3 (i.e. signalling details of cell grouping). Rapporteur would suggest:

**Proposal 1: For *sync NR-DC:***

* **Capture “The UE shall not report this UE capability from this release” in field description of *sfn-SyncNRDC***
* **Confirm that Rel-16 UE shall support Rel-15 grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2), for backward compatibility with Rel-15 network.**

## 2.2 Items for enhancement of async NR-DC raised in phase-1

For **async NR-DC**, two enhancements for cell grouping signalling were raised in phase 1. However, few companies shared their views. Thus, we need to re-discuss the 2 issues here.

First, two companies (Huawei and Qualcomm) proposed to enhance cell grouping by introducing differentiation of MCG and SCG for cell grouping signalling. The justification is:

* Introduction of FR2 is fundamental difference in NR compared to LTE, and how FR1 bands and FR2 bands are grouped in MCG and SCG will have substantial impact to UE implementation. Some companies thought this over-declaring of UE capability is undesirable. Note that even for NR CA, we introduced a capability (*pCell-FR2*) to indicate whether the UE support PCell operation on FR2.

**Because no specific signalling design is illustrated yet, rapporteur think we can first discuss whether RAN2 can agree the requirement. RAN2 can have further email discussion for specific signalling if the requirement can be agreed.**

**Q2: For async NR-DC, do you agree to enhance cell grouping signalling by introducing differentiation of MCG and SCG for cell grouping signalling?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Yes/No | Comments |
| Qualcomm | Yes | Introduction of FR2 is fundamental difference in NR compared to LTE, and how FR1 bands and FR2 bands are grouped in MCG and SCG will have substantial impact to UE implementation. Furthermore, we think the same consideration should be given to sync NR-DC.  For signalling details, we don’t have strong opinion. Maybe we can further progress in post meeting email discussion with Huawei’s input as baseline. |
| OPPO | Yes |  |
| Apple | Yes |  |
| vivo | Yes |  |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes |  |
| Ericsson | No | We are not ready to agree this requirement before we understand the signalling implication. As the requirement is currently formulated, it implies a change in the cell grouping capability. Introducing differentiation for MCG/SCG has a risk of increasing the number of signalled bits per BC in capability signalling, which we should avoid as the signalling overhead is then multiplied with the number of BCs reported. We would prefer to keep the cell grouping capability MCG/SCG agnostic, but instead explore other ways of indicating the FR1/FR2 support, either by limitation in RAN4 or by per UE or per Band signalled capabilities.  [Rapporteur] We think your concern is mainly on signalling change on top of LTE cell grouping signalling, right? We think specific signalling is still FFS. This is just a requirement. |
| Futurewei | Yes |  |
| MediaTek | Yes | We think that signaling overheat is not the first thing to consider while reporting a capability. There is a need to distinguish MCG and SCG due to different implementation for FR2 in MCG or FR2 in SCG. So, we prefer to have further discussion on how signal this.  [Rapporteur] Specific signalling is still FFS. This is just a requirement. |
| ZTE | Yes |  |
| Samsung | Yes |  |

For **async NR-DC**, one companies (Ericsson) proposed to enhance cell grouping by introducing one bit to indicate support of Rel-15 grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2). The intention is to reduce reporting overhead:

* This additional bit allows to reduce the size of the ignaled UE capability for the very common deployment of FR1-FR2 NR-DC. By including the bit, the UE can refrain from including the up to 15-bit long supportedCellGroupingAsyncNRDC-r16 for each band combination, significantly reducing the size of ignaled UE capability, as the number of supported band combinations can grow very large even for systems with only a few available bands.
* Some company raised a question whether it is per-UE or per-BC, rapporteur believe the intention is per-BC according to Ericsson’s explanation on its intention (i.e. “By including the bit, the UE can refrain from including the up to 15-bit long supportedCellGroupingAsyncNRDC-r16 for each band combination”)

**Q3: For async NR-DC, do you agree to enhance cell grouping signalling by introducing one bit to indicate support of Rel-15 grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2) for a given band combination?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Yes/No | Comments |
| Qualcomm | Yes | We don’t have strong opinion, but it is acceptable for us with intention to reduce signaling overhead. |
| OPPO | No | Some RAN4 input is needed since they are still discussing possible combination between FR1 and FR2. |
| Apple | Yes | We are ok with signalling optimization |
| vivo | No | Cell grouping capability bits can be used. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes but | We think by using this extra bit, we can avoid having cell grouping to reduce the overhead. But we think this is for Rel-16, not for Rel-15 as async DC is introduced in Rel-16.  [Rapporteur] of course it is for Rel-16. We don’t even have async in Rel-15. |
| Ericsson | Yes | An alternative approach would be the approach we mentioned in Q1, i.e. that absence of the cell grouping capability indicates that the UE supports only MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2. Then the UE would only need to include the async NR-DC capability for a BC to indicate that it supports async NR-DC with MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2. This will decrease the capability signalling overhead for the common deployment of FR1-FR2 NR-DC. |
| Futurewei | Yes | We are open to signalling optimization to reduce overhead. |
| MediaTek | No | We prefer to finish the baseline design and then consider signaling optimization.  Saying that “*absence of the cell grouping capability indicates that the UE supports only MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2*” seems imply that the UE is mandatory to support asynch NR-DC in some case, which is not our original understanding.  We are actually open for extra bit but think it could be discuss later. |
| ZTE | Yes | We are fine with this signalling optimization. |
| Samsung | No | No strong opinion, but we are wondering why this bit is needed at the first place. Probably we should use “absence” of cell grouping as indicating MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2. |

Summary for Q2 and Q3:

* For MCG and SCG differentiation: only 1 company don’t agree but rapporteur think their concern is mainly on signalling change on top of LTE cell grouping signalling. Please note that specific signalling is still FFS (i.e. it is possible that we may not reuse LTE cell grouping signalling). This is just a requirement.
* For signaling to indicate only support of Rel-15 grouping: most companies prefer to study 1-bit signaling as original proposal after baseline signaling is clear. However, Two companies (Ericsson and Samsung) propose to use “absence” of signaling to indicate Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2). Rapporteur tend to think such implicit way is worth trying.

Rapporteur would suggest:

**Proposal 2: For async NR-DC, introduce 1-bit indication on whether Rel-16 UE supports asynchronous operation and its supported cell grouping for a given band combination:**

* **FFS: signaling detail of cell grouping (LTE cell grouping capability can be considered)**
* **MCG and SCG can be differentiated in cell grouping signaling. FFS how to signal**
* **Absence of cell grouping signaling means the UE only support Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2)**

## 2.3 Items for sync NR-DC cell grouping

As indicated by Qualcomm and Apple in phase 1, the Rel-16 UE may have to over-declare the support of all complex cell grouping before RAN4 finalized the feasible band combination for sync NR-DC. Because there is some confusion on what “over-declaring” is, rapporteur will use a concrete example with 3 bands for illustration of companies concerns.

Let’s say the Rel-16 UE supports NR-DC involving FR1-Band-a, FR1-Band-b and FR2-Band-c, which is a legitimate band combination. The lack of cell grouping UE capability signalling mandates the support for the following {MCG, SCG} combinations.

1) {FR1a+FR1b, FR2c}

2) {FR1a+FR2c, FR1b}

3) {FR1b+FR2c, FR1a}

4) {FR2c, FR1a+FR1b}

5) {FR1b, FR1a+FR2c}

6) {FR1a, FR1b+FR2c}

Case 1) is Rel-15 cell grouping. However, supporting cases 2)-6) will cause the following issues to **both UE and Network**:

**#Issue 1: support of FR1-FR2 CA is a pre-requisite**

Case 2)/3) requires the support of FR1-FR2 CA in MCG, and case 5)/6) requires the support of FR1-FR2 CA in SCG. For both UE and Network side, the support of FR1-FR2 CA is not an easy work.

**#Issue 2: support of PCell in FR2 is a pre-requisite**

Case 4) requires the support of Pcell in FR2 because its MCG is fully in FR2. As mentioned before, whether supporting Pcell operation on FR2 is already another capability (i.e. *pCell-FR2*). Note that at this stage, rapporteur don’t know whether the enhancement in Q2 can be agreed.

**#Issue 3: support of intra-FR power sharing is a pre-requisite**

For case 2)/3)5)/6), although they are intended as a FR1-FR2 band combination, they have intra-FR serving cells across cell groups. Then, the support of intra-FR power sharing (i.e. *capability intraFR-NR-DC-PwrSharingMode1-r16* or *intraFR-NR-DC-PwrSharingMode2-r16*) is a must. This problem is severer in case if the UE also supports multiple FR2 bands in the band combination. The UE may support power sharing only for FR1 or FR2 and have to limit the cell grouping accordingly.

Meanwhile, RAN1 indicated earlier that the UE capability for power sharing is implicitly indicated by supported cell grouping (RAN1 LS R1-2003072):

|  |
| --- |
| * + RAN2 to discuss whether or not to introduce an optional FG that indicates supported cell-grouping configurations for a BC where the UE supports NR-DC operation     - If the UE reports a cell-grouping configuration in which MCG cell(s) and SCG cell(s) are in the same FR, the UE must support FG18-1 (FG18-1a/1b are optional). |

**#Issue 4: may block deployment of dual CDRX**

If dual CDRX is intended to be deployed for sync NR-DC for power saving, it actually requires UE and Network to support triple CDRX for case 2)/3)/5)/6). If it can’t be supported due to implementation complexity (3-4 parallel CDRX), dual CDRX may have to be dropped for NR-DC.

**Q4: For sync NR-DC, do you agree the 4 issues list above as the consequence of the lack of cell grouping UE capability signalling for a legitimate band combination (FR1-Band-a, FR1-Band-b and FR2-Band-c)?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Company | I1 | I2 | I3 | I4 | Comments (if no, please indicate the reason) |
| Qualcomm | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | We do have strong concern that NR-DC may become a paper work as LTE-DC, if we don’t introduce any cell grouping signalling (TBD signalling details):   1. The issue #1/#2#3 imply that the UE can only report its support for a legitimate sync NR-DC band combination (i.e. FR1-Band-a, FR1-Band-b and FR2-Band-c) after the UE supports all features of FR1-FR2 CA, Pcell in FR2 and infra-FR power sharing (either FG18-1 or FG18-2). We think it is impossible in early deployment of Rel-16. Then, the UE may have no choice but have to drop the support of the whole feature of sync NR-DC in Rel-16. 2. We don’t think the issues indicated in 1) are only for UE/chipset vendor. We are not sure whether Network vendor can deploy FR1-FR2 CA, Pcell in FR2 and infra-FR power sharing because we understand these features have NW impact and are also not easy for Network to deploy in early Rel-16. 3. The issue#4 is just an example to illustrate that some related Rel-16 feature may be impacted by the lack of cell grouping signalling for a FR1-FR2 BC. We believe there should be more examples. |
| OPPO | No | No | No | No | Issue1: not sure why suddenly CA between FR1 and FR2 is difficult. It exists in Rel15 from very beginning  Issue2: in case UE don’t want to support FR2 as Pcell, it means UE can already indicated by capability *pCell-FR2.* And at last meeting per UE capability *CarrierAggregationVariant* is introduced to indicate whether FR2 carrier can configured as sPCell for CA between FR1 and FR2. So if UE wants FR1 carrier to be sPCell, it can also do it.  Issue3: that’s the consequence to split FRX carrier between MCG and SCG. If there is no such split, it means FRX can either in MCG or SCG. Since rapporteur has concern on FR2 as pcell, it seems rapporteur think Rel15 capability i.e. FR1 in MCG and FR2 in SCG is sufficient also in Rel16? If it is inevitable, then this should not be a concern.  Issue4: dual DRX is one way to save power. Rel16 has other power saving solution on the table, so we are not sure whether this concern is valid or not.  On the other hand we have sympathy to further discuss this issue and would like to come back after more input from RAN1 and RAN4 comes. |
| Apple | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |  |
| vivo | Maybe | Maybe | Maybe | Maybe | Same other capability, lots of capabilities have dependency, we do not sure how serious it is for introduction of sync NR-DC due to the capability dependency. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | No | No | No | No | We largely agree with OPPO. We are also a bit concerned that we already defined considerable number of UE capabilities, and we should be careful to introduce more to complicate the combination of the capabilities. Currently we don’t see sync DC support has serious problem due to some dependency with other capabilities. |
| Ericsson |  |  |  |  | We think we need first to settle the use of the cell grouping capability for the async case before addressing these. |
| Futurewei | Pending on RAN1/4 input | No | Pending on RAN1/4 input | No | Issues 1 and 3 fall into RAN1/4 expertise, and they haven’t raised concerns or the need of signalling support.  Issue 2 can already be handled by existing UE capability signalling.  We fail to see cell grouping would address issue 4 – it can only avoid the BC cases of 2/3/5/6, but wouldn’t help CDRX in 2/3/5/6. It is not a good practice to not allow a BC just because CDRX may not be effective. |
| MediaTek | Not sure | To clarify | Yes | Maybe | Issue 1 – We are not sure whether support FR1-FR2 NR-DC implies support of FR1-F2 NR CA. Could UE report different capability for this two case?  Issue 2 – I think we could clarify that *pCell-FR2* apply to the DC case and maybe this could solve the concern. |
| Samsung | Ye | Yes | Yes | Maybe | If UE is required to support all cell groupings in sync DC, supporting sync DC may not be possible at all. |

Summary for Q4:

No consensus on the 4 issues. Rapporteur will not suggest any proposal.

During online discussion, more than 1 companies commented that Rel-16 UEs should be allowed to support only Rel-15 cell grouping for sync-DC in early Rel-16 deployment. Otherwise, the Rel-16 UE may have to drop the support of NR-DC before it can support new Rel-16 NR-DC cases 2)-6) (e.g. support of FR1-FR2 CA, and support of Pcell in FR2)

**Q5: For sync NR-DC, do you also agree that Rel-16 Ues should be allowed to support only Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2) in early Rel-16 deployment?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Yes/No | Comments (if no, please indicate the reason) |
| Qualcomm | Yes | As indicated in our comment in Q4, it is questioned that NR-DC in all kind of band combination can be supported in early deployment of Rel-16, if we don’t introduce any cell grouping signalling. Then since UE and NW had supported NR-DC where MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2, it is important to allow Rel-16 UE to still enjoy the benefit of Rel-15 NR-DC without further UE/NW update grade in early deployment of Rel-16. This is a benefit with almost no cost.  One response for companies’ comment that “RAN#88e agreement removes all restriction on sync NR-DC in Rel-16”. We have different understanding: RAN#88e agreement is just intended to mandate SFN synchronization in NR-DC in Rel-16. We do not think RAN plenary make any conclusion to mandate UE to support all cell groupings with various mixed FR1-FR2 bands.  Note that we think we just need to address this in this meeting because it is related to the existing NR-DC band combination defined by RAN4. We can discuss design of ignalling details for new NR-DC band combinations which require the release-16 mechanisms, either in post-meeting email discussion or after getting RAN1/RAN4 response. |
| OPPO |  | Not sure this email is right place to discuss this |
| Apple | Yes |  |
| vivo | Yes | We are ok with this. We think that supporting only Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2) for R16 UE may help NR-DC quick deployment. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | OPEN | We don’t fully understand this question, in our view Rel-16 UEs should support any kind of sync DC, of course including the above case, but also include other cases as well. If UE vendors do have strong wish to have this, we can accept this is an assumption without any immediate signalling change in RAN2, and we should raise this question to RAN4. The final RAN2 decision will be dependent on RAN4’s reply.  [Rapporteur] Majority agree this requirement. With regarding to your concern on “immediate signalling change in RAN2”, we assume that the implicit way mentioned by multiple companies (i.e. absence of signalling means only support Rel-15 cell grouping) can address your concern. |
| Ericsson | Yes | As mentioned in Q1, this would be implicit if we assume absence of the cell grouping capability indicates that the UE only supports MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2. This will significantly reduce signalling overhead for this common deployment. |
| Futurewei | Yes | We have some sympathy that it is a large jump for implementation from R15 FR1 MCG/FR2 SCG to flexible BCs between MCG and SCG. |
| MediaTek | Yes | This is just basic assumption to avoid legacy UE impact. |
| ZTE | Yes with comments | We tend to agree this is a valid requirement. But besides the case “MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2”, for a given BC, if the UE already indicates the supports of async NR-DC and corresponding cell grouping. We think the UE should also support sync NR-DC with the same cell grouping, because supporting sync NR-DC should be easier than supporting async NR-DC of the same BC, isn’t it?  [Rapporteur] We think it makes sense, but it can be further study since it depends on async cell grouping signalling. |
| Samsung | Yes |  |

Although there is no consensus on whether to introduce cell grouping for sync NR-DC in phase 1, rapporteur would like to ask the same question after the illustration with the concrete example.

**Q6: For sync NR-DC, do you agree to introduce cell grouping capability signalling similar to async NR-DC? (signalling details can be discussed further in email discussion)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Yes/No | Comments (if no, please indicate the reason) |
| Qualcomm | Yes | To address the issues in Q4, we think it is simplest way to have cell grouping signalling similar to LTE-DC and async NR-DC (assuming it can be agreed in Q1).  Since enhancements to async NR-DC are being discussed in Q2/Q3, we think maybe ignalling details can be discussed in post-meeting email discussion. |
| OPPO |  | Please see comment to Q4 |
| Apple | Yes |  |
| vivo | maybe | We would like to postpone this part until get RAN1/RAN4 feedback. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | No |  |
| Ericsson | No | Not yet. It requires more discussion |
| Futurewei | Not yet | We’d like to see inputs/analysis from RAN1/4 on this. |
| MediaTek | Need more discussion | We have some sympathy on sync NR-DC cell grouping but would suggest to have async cell group first and the keep assumption from Q5 - “*Rel-16 UEs should be allowed to support only Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2)*”. |
| ZTE | Need more discussion | Besides the cases mentioned in our response to Q6, we also prefer to postpone this discussion until get more inputs from RAN1/4. |
| Samsung | Yes | Yes. We think it is the most straightforward approach. |

In Q2, we discussed whether to introduce differentiation of MCG and SCG for cell grouping for async NR-DC. The rapporteur think the same question exists in sync NR-DC no matter whether LTE cell grouping like signalling will be introduced or not. For instance, the UE wanting to support FR1-MCG + FR2-SCG will also have to support FR2-MCG and FR1-SCG. During phase-1 discussion, some companies thought this over-declaring of UE capability is undesirable.

**Q7: For sync NR-DC, do you agree to introduce differentiation of MCG and SCG for cell grouping? (note that signalling details can be discussed further in email discussion)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Yes/No | Comments (if no, please indicate the reason) |
| Qualcomm | Yes | Same comment in Q2. We think differentiation of MCG and SCG for cell grouping is the same requirement for async and sync NR-DC because it is mainly related to issue caused by MCG FR2 deployment. |
| OPPO |  | Please see comment to Q4 |
| Intel Yes |  |  |
| vivo | maybe | We would like to postpone this part until get RAN1/RAN4 feedback. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | No | Prefer to wait for RAN1/RAN4 feedback first |
| Ericsson | No | See our comment in Q2. |
| Futurewei | Not yet | We’d like to see inputs/analysis from RAN1/4 on this. |
| MediaTek | Need more discussion |  |
| ZTE | Need more discussion |  |
| Samsung | Yes | See no difference from Async case as far as MCG/SCG differentiation concerns. |

Summary for Q5/Q6/Q7 (for sync NR-DC):

1. Most companies (8/10) agree that Rel-16 UEs should be allowed to support only Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2) in early Rel-16 deployment.
2. Most companies prefer to wait RAN1/RAN4 LS before concluding whether we introduce cell grouping signaling for sync NR-DC

Because 1) is a requirement agreed by most companies, rapporteur would like to try whether we can indicate it by reusing the similar implicit way as async NR-DC (i.e. absence of signalling means only supporting Rel-15 cell grouping):

**Proposal 3: For sync NR-DC, absence of Rel-16 UE capability signalling indicates that the UE only supports Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2). The form of Rel-16 UE capability signalling is FFS (e.g. cell grouping signalling similar to async NR-DC).**

## 2.4 LS to RAN1 / RAN4

[Rapporteur’s node] During online discussion, multiple companies commented that RAN2 may not do anything until RAN4 provided band combination list. Meanwhile, they also commented that we should ask RAN4 and RAN1 to explain the issue and ask for guidance of capability design.

**Q8: Companies are requested to comment on possible LS to RAN1 / RAN4, e.g. the need of it. What the content should be.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company | Comments |
| Qualcomm | We prefer to conclude in this RAN2 meeting. However, we are also fine to send LS to RAN1 / RAN4 if people can’t achieve consensus on whether cell grouping for sync NR-DC is required.  If it is needed, we prefer to include below contents:   * Confirm the understanding of issue #1-#4 in Q4 * Whether differentiation of MCG and SCG for (sync and async) NR-DC cell grouping signaling is requirement * Any further requirement / restriction on sync NR-DC cell grouping from RAN1 / RAN4 perspectve |
| OPPO | Yes. At least RAN2 need know what typical synchronous band combinations are. And what is their opinion not to support Rel15 signalling etc. |
| Apple | We also prefer to conclude in RAN2 and in the LS explain the RAN2 agreements and the reasoning behind these (potential NBC etc). We are not very keen on asking input in the LS, but rather provide the agreements and request RAN1/4 to take these into consideration. |
| Vivo | Confirm the understanding of issue #1-#4 in Q4.  Do capability dependency of issue #1-#4 in Q4 will give high restriction for sync-NR DC deployment? |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | We support to have second and third bullet proposed by Qualcomm for RAN1/RAN4 checking. But it is a bit unclear to us why first bullet has relation with RAN1/RAN4? We have similar question as Vivo why this would have impact on decision of how we deal with sync DC. |
| Ericsson | We partially agree with Apple in the sense that we should not ask too much open questions and input to RAN4. But we do see the benefit of asking RAN4 only whether any requirement/restriction is needed on the NR-DC cases that the signalling should cover e.g. MCG FR2 and SCG FR1. The issue #1-#4 in Q4 and differentiation of MCG and SCG aspect mentioned above would be too soon to ask and may change as well depending on RAN4 reply on the NR-DC cases that may need to be covered. |
| Futurewei | We agree to send LS to RAN1/4 on bullet 2 and 3. We don’t see the need of using the issues 1- 4 to limit/guide RAN1/4 into particular area/direction in their domain. |
| MediaTek | We are of course ok to consult with RAN1/RAN4 on NR-DC capabilities. But I am not sure what to ask at this moment. The discussion on sync NR-DC seems to quite open right now. We suggest to have more discussion in RAN2 first to consolidate the “issues” that we need input from RAN1/RAN4. |
| ZTE | For sync NR-DC, we are fine to first discuss it in RAN2, but seems companies hardly reach consensus on the necessity of separate grouping capability for sync NR-DC case. So it is better to ask RAN1/4.  In addition, as we responsed to Q5, we think at least the reported cell grouping for async NR-DC should also be applicable to sync NR-DC case. |
| Samsung | We are fine with sending LS. However, we are not sure about the timeline. If we send LS this meeting, RAN4 discuss it and reply back at the next meeting. In this timeline, would it be possible to reflect the NR DC UE capability even in Dec version?  The prime purpose of the LS would be to get the confirmation on our understanding. In addition, sending LS shouldn't imply that RAN2 wait for the response for further work. |

Summary for Q7:

1. All companies agree to send LS to RAN1 / RAN4 but companies had diverse opinions on what questions should RAN2 ask RAN1 / RAN4.
2. Some companies had concern on the latency caused by LS exchange, and worried whether the NR-DC UE capability can be reflected in Dec version.
3. Some companies don’t prefer to ask open questions to RAN1/RAN4, but inform them agreement

Based on the diverse opinion on LS contents, rapporteur would suggest if RAN2 can make conclusion on Proposal 1-3 in online session, we can inform RAN1/RAN4. If RAN2 can’t converge, we can have post-meeting email discussion on its contents.

**Proposal 4: If RAN2 can make conclusion for Proposal 1-3, the LS to RAN1 / RAN4 is intended to inform the agreements; Otherwise, RAN2 is kindly suggested to have post-meeting email discussion for the contents of LS.**

# 3. Conclusion

**Proposal 1: For *sync NR-DC:***

* **Capture “The UE shall not report this UE capability from this release” in field description of *sfn-SyncNRDC***
* **Confirm that Rel-16 UE shall support Rel-15 grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2), for backward compatibility with Rel-15 network.**

**Proposal 2: For async NR-DC, introduce 1-bit indication on whether Rel-16 UE supports asynchronous operation and its supported cell grouping for a given band combination:**

* **FFS: signaling detail of cell grouping (LTE cell grouping capability can be considered)**
* **MCG and SCG can be differentiated in cell grouping signaling. FFS how to signal**
* **Absence of cell grouping signaling means the UE only support Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2)**

**Proposal 3: For sync NR-DC, absence of Rel-16 UE capability signalling indicates that the UE only supports Rel-15 cell grouping (i.e. MCG fully in FR1 and SCG fully in FR2). The form of Rel-16 UE capability signalling is FFS (e.g. cell grouping signalling similar to async NR-DC).**

**Proposal 4: If RAN2 can make conclusion for Proposal 1-3, the LS to RAN1 / RAN4 is intended to inform the agreements; Otherwise, RAN2 is kindly suggested to have post-meeting email discussion for the contents of LS.**

# References

[1] [R2-2006558](file:///D:\Documents\3GPP\tsg_ran\WG2\TSGR2_111-e\Docs\R2-2006558.zip), Introduce capabilities on Async NR-DC and cell-grouping configuration Qualcomm Incorporated discussion Rel-16 LTE\_NR\_DC\_CA\_enh-Core

[2] [R2-2007946](file:///D:\Documents\3GPP\tsg_ran\WG2\TSGR2_111-e\Docs\R2-2007946.zip), Correction on non-SFN-sync NR-DC support Huawei, HiSilicon CR Rel-16 38.306 16.1.0 0398 - F LTE\_NR\_DC\_CA\_enh-Core

[3] [R2-2007605](file:///D:\Documents\3GPP\tsg_ran\WG2\TSGR2_111-e\Docs\R2-2007605.zip) UE capabilities for NR-DC Ericsson discussion

[4] TS 36.306

[5] RAN#88-e, Chair Notes

[6] TS 38.101-3

[7] R2-2004437, Clarification on supported NR-DC cell grouping, Qualcomm Incorporated

[8] R2-2008422, Summary of Offline discussion#021: UE cap NR-DC (Qualcomm), Qualcomm Incorporated

# Appendix A (LTE cell grouping signalling)

The related signalling is captured in TS 36.306 [3] and TS 36.331 [4]. It includes two UE capabilities *asynchronous-r12* and *supportedCellGrouping-r12* per band combination.

#### Copy from TS 36.306

##### 4.3.5.9.1 *asynchronous-r12*

In addition to the UE capability indicated by *dc-Support*, this field defines whether asynchronous DC and power control mode 2 is supported by the UE which is capable of *simultaneousRx-Tx*. If the band combination is comprised of a single band entry for more than two carriers, the UE shall support any permutations of carriers to CGs. If the concerning band combination is comprised of more than two band entries, the carriers corresponding to a band entry shall belong to one cell group. For this band combination, the UE may indicate the supported carrier permutations to CGs.

##### 4.3.5.9.2 *supportedCellGrouping-r12*

In addition to the UE capability indicated by *asynchronous*, this field defines for which mapping of serving cells to cell groups (i.e. MCG or SCG) the UE supports asynchronous DC.

Copy from TS 36.331

BandCombinationParameters-v1250::= SEQUENCE {

dc-Support-r12 SEQUENCE {

asynchronous-r12 ENUMERATED {supported} OPTIONAL,

supportedCellGrouping-r12 CHOICE {

threeEntries-r12 BIT STRING (SIZE(3)),

fourEntries-r12 BIT STRING (SIZE(7)),

fiveEntries-r12 BIT STRING (SIZE(15))

} OPTIONAL

} OPTIONAL,

supportedNAICS-2CRS-AP-r12 BIT STRING (SIZE (1..maxNAICS-Entries-r12)) OPTIONAL,

commSupportedBandsPerBC-r12 BIT STRING (SIZE (1.. maxBands)) OPTIONAL,

...

}

Note that the capability *supportedCellGrouping-r12* provides a mapping from bands to (one or more than one feasible) cell grouping configuration, as indicated in Note5 under *UE-EUTRA-Capability* in 36.331:

===================Extract from TS 36.331================

NOTE 5: The grouping of the cells to the first and second cell group, as indicated by *supportedCellGrouping*, is shown in the table below. The leading / leftmost bit of *supportedCellGrouping* corresponds to the Bit String Position 1.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nr of Band Entries: | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Length of Bit-String: | 15 | 7 | 3 |
| Bit String Position | Cell grouping option (0= first cell group, 1= second cell group) | | |
| 1 | 00001 | 0001 | 001 |
| 2 | 00010 | 0010 | 010 |
| 3 | 00011 | 0011 | 011 |
| 4 | 00100 | 0100 |  |
| 5 | 00101 | 0101 |  |
| 6 | 00110 | 0110 |  |
| 7 | 00111 | 0111 |  |
| 8 | 01000 |  |  |
| 9 | 01001 |  |  |
| 10 | 01010 |  |  |
| 11 | 01011 |  |  |
| 12 | 01100 |  |  |
| 13 | 01101 |  |  |
| 14 | 01110 |  |  |
| 15 | 01111 |  |  |

=========================================================

The table seems to be complex. We take a simple example for illustration: Assume that the given band combination includes 4 bands (e.g. band A, B, C, D) the UE supports simultaneously. Then if the UE reports ‘0001’ and ‘0110’, it means the UE supports two Async cell grouping: 1) band ABC in first cell group and band D in secondary cell group; 2) band AD in first cell group and band BC in secondary cell group.

# Appendix B (Status of RAN1/RAN2 interaction)

In RAN1 LS on Rel-16 RAN1 UE features lists, RAN1 has requested RAN2 to introduce similar signalling to LTE, as illustrated in their agreement:

|  |
| --- |
| * RAN1 lists NR-DC power-sharing features as FG18-1/1a/1b. Apart from them, RAN1 see the need of following:   + RAN2 to introduce an FG that indicates support of asynchronous operation     - RAN1 will discuss whether this FG is mandatory or optional   + RAN2 to discuss whether or not to introduce an optional FG that indicates supported cell-grouping configurations for a BC where the UE supports NR-DC operation     - If the UE reports a cell-grouping configuration in which MCG cell(s) and SCG cell(s) are in the same FR, the UE must support FG18-1 (FG18-1a/1b are optional). * The capability signalling structure is up to RAN2. * The requirements for sync-DC and async-DC are up to RAN4. |

In RAN2#110-e, RAN2 agreed to use LTE style cell grouping capability signalling with restriction to 5 bands, which was included in reply LS to RAN1:

*Omit part*

1. **NR-DC cell grouping capability4:**

RAN2 has agreed to design the NR-DC cell grouping capability for the UE using the LTE style of capability signaling. RAN2 intends to restrict the NR-DC cell grouping signaling to NR DC combinations with up to 5 bands and for NR DC combinations with more than 5 bands in the combination, the UE cannot signal NR-DC cell grouping. The motivation for the above is that in LTE, there were no DC combinations defined with more than 5 bands, and RAN2 views the same with NR.

*Omit part*

By the end of RAN2#110-e, RAN1 response that “There is no additional suggestion from RAN1 for now.” in R1-2005096.

*Omit part*

|  |
| --- |
| **4.1 Further restrictions that are applicable to NR -DC combinations**  RAN2 would like to request RAN1 and RAN4 if they see any additional restrictions in the definition of NR-DC combinations that can help reduce the NR-DC cell grouping capability reporting at the UE. |

**RAN1 view:** There is no additional suggestion from RAN1 for now.

*Omit part*