

3GPP TSG RAN Meeting #73

New Orleans, USA, 19 - 22 September 2016

RP-161775

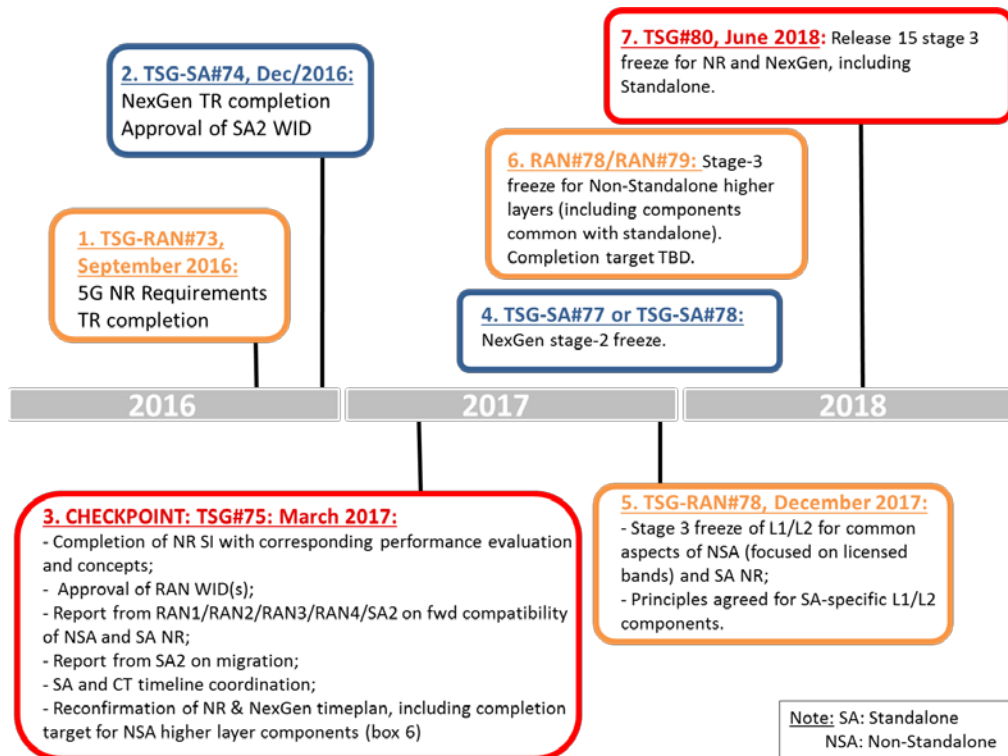
Response to RP-161557 (Key Decisions on Option 3 & 7)

Agenda Item: 9, Document for: Discussion

**Source: Samsung, Verizon, ZTE Corp., ZTE
Microelectronic, ETRI**

Introduction

- There was lengthy discussion on timeline for NR work in RAN plenary #72 meeting resulting in the following conclusion (see RP-161310 endorsed by SA in SP-160465)



Note: Stage-3 freeze of L1/L2 for common aspects of NSA and SA NR was set to be Dec 2017 to meet request for early NSA deployment

- RP-161557 proposes to conclude in RAN#73 that stage-3 freeze for non-standalone higher layers with architecture option 3 (LTE assisted and EPC connected, see RP-161266) be RAN#78, December 2017
- This contribution shows cosigning companies' response to the proposal of RP-161557

Discussion

- First of all, the conclusion of RAN#72 (RP-161310) should be kept and RAN WGs should continue the technical work accordingly
 - There has been no significant change that requires revisiting this subject
- Co-signing companies have concerns on setting December 2017 as stage-3 freeze for non-standalone higher layers with architecture option 3 as follows
 - It would not be possible to accomplish in Dec 2017 stage-3 freeze of both L1/L2 for common aspects of NSA (focused on licensed bands) and SA NR, and NSA higher layers
 - As an alternative, one could argue it should be possible to finalize the common L1/L2 aspects 3-month earlier than higher layers as in usual practices, i.e., in Sep 2017. This approach, however, would only allow 6-month period in WI phase for the common L1/L2 aspects. Reduction in work time could limit the extent of key L1/L2 features introduced for NR
 - Initial batch of NR UEs (only supporting NSA) will not be able to operate in a NR-only network (where there is no LTE support). This results in market fragmentation
 - Accelerating NSA only in 3GPP work plan could have negative impact on promoting/enlarging 5G ecosystem, since NSA can be deployed only if LTE networks are available

Conclusion

- The co-signing companies prefer to keep the conclusion of RAN#72 shown in introduction section (see RP-161310)
- If the stage-3 freeze date for non-standalone higher layers with architecture option 3 should be decided in RAN#73, the co-signing companies propose it to be RAN#79, March 2018 due to the concerns as listed in discussion section

Thanks!