3GPP TSG RAN Meeting #87e RP-200492

Electronic Meeting, March 16-19, 2020 *Revision of RP-200297*

**Agenda Item: 5.6**

**Source: RAN6 Chairman, RAN Chairman**

**Title: Future handling of RAN6 topics**

**Document for: Discussion and Agreement**

# 1 Introduction

At RAN #86 plenary, the discussion on ramping down RAN6 was started [1]. This contribution observed a decreasing workload in RAN6, in particular after Rel-16 completion, and made two proposals.

* New GERAN-only and UTRA-only study/work items will not be considered from RAN #86 onwards.
* TSG RAN will close RAN6 at RAN #89 meeting (Sept 2020) and the related maintenance for GERAN and UTRA will move directly under control of TSG RAN, except for the GERAN and UTRAN aspects that remain in RAN3 and RAN4 terms of reference.

While there was no decision made at RAN #86 plenary, there was agreement to come back on this matter at RAN #87e plenary [2].

In fact, the average number of contributions per RAN6 electronic agreement meeting has significantly decreased over the past year and no GERAN-only or UTRAN-only work items have been opened for Rel-16. For Rel-16, there is only one active work item, led by RAN2, which is now close to completion. Moreover, the number of participants has considerably decreased in the electronic agreement meeting with no operators and very few device vendors only attending.

Based on the above observation, this contribution provides proposals for RAN6 closure time and on the future handling of RAN6 topics, i.e. UTRAN-only and GERAN-only related normative work, after RAN6 closure.

# 2 RAN6 closure

It is proposed RAN #87e plenary considers RAN6 closure at RAN #88 plenary in June 2020 aligned to ASN.1 completion time for Rel-16.

This allows for one final RAN6 meeting, namely RAN6 #16, which is scheduled from 20th April to 7th May 2020 and which will serve to

* take into account progress achieved at RAN2 #109 for the active WI on SRVCC from 5G to 3G (i.e. agreed NR Stage 2 and NR Stage3 specs) for checking if there is any impact to UTRAN Stage 2 and Stage 3 specs;
* progress/complete ASN.1 freeze for UTRAN Rel-16 in view of ASN.1 completion in June 2020.
* progress / complete the update of rapporteur responsibilities for a few remaining TSs and TRs under RAN6 responsibility.

**Proposal 1: RAN #87e plenary to agree that RAN6 is closed in June 2020.**

# 3 Future handling of GERAN/UTRAN-only topics after RAN6 closure

After RAN6 closure the following operational mode for GERAN/UTRAN-only topics is proposed:

* RAN plenary will take over responsibility for all GERAN and UTRAN specifications under responsibility of RAN6 including corresponding required updates to rapporteur responsibilities.
* The required change of RAN plenary ToR will be prepared for RAN #88 plenary by RAN Chairman and RAN6 Chairman.
* Discussion of contributions will be done within the dedicated existing agenda items for GERAN and UTRAN.
* No Ad-hoc group is foreseen to be established.
* No convener will be appointed to recommend approval / rejection of CRs. Each proponent will therefore be responsible for their own CR(s).
* Timely submission of CR(s) and discussion with other companies prior to submission is encouraged.
* No dedicated email reflector will be used. All related communication will use the 3GPP\_TSG\_RAN reflector.

If this setup is not operating well, adjustments will be made in the future, agreed by RAN plenary decision. For UTRAN work in RAN3 and RAN4, no change is foreseen.

**Proposal 2: RAN #87e plenary to agree that the above operational mode will be adopted for handling GERAN/UTRAN-only topics after RAN WG6 closure.**

As contributed during the discussion of RAN #87e, following proposal is made.

**Proposal 3: RAN #87e plenary to agree that there will be a proper send-off for GSM and UMTS work at the next f2f TSG RAN plenary, whenever that may take place. 3GPP attending companies are requested to provide input to this honouring session.**

# 4 Proposal

It is proposed to agree Proposal 1 in section 2, i.e. **RAN6 will be closed at RAN #88 in June 2020**, and future work will be handled as described in section 3 according Proposals 2 and 3.

RAN Chairman, RAN6 Chairman and ETSI MCC will support the transition period between current operational mode and the future operational mode for GERAN/UTRAN-only topics in 3GPP.

# 5 References

[1] R6-192899 – Proposal for RAN6 ramp-down, Huawei, HiSilicon, RAN #86

[2] RP-200002 – Draft report of RAN #86 held in Sitges, Spain, 09.12.-12.12.2019, ETSI MCC, RAN #86