**3GPP TSG-RAN2#118-e R2-220xxxx**

**Electronic meeting, May 09-20, 2022**

**Source: ZTE Corporation**

**Title: [AT118-e][508][RA Part] UP open issues and CR 38.321 (ZTE) - Report**

**Agenda item:** **6.18.2**

**Document for:** **Discussion and Decision**

# Introduction

This is the report of offline discussion collecting the comments on open issues for SDT control plane as noted below:

* [AT118-e][508][RA Part] UP open issues and CR 38.321 (ZTE)

UP open issues and CR capturing agreed corrections

Deadline: To be set by rapporteur aiming to have company inputs and proposals by Friday

**Deadline for company comments: Thursday (12th) 23:59 UTC**

# Resource selection for RACH procedure when SDT is applicable

In R2-2205470 and in R2-2205942, the issue about RACH resource selection in case of RA-SDT is discussed. The issues are as follows:

Issue1: In clause 5.27, it is unclear whether MAC should perform RACH resource selection (according to section 5.1.1b) or RACh resource set availability (according to section 5.1.1c).

Issue2: Assuming that in clause 5.27 for Small Data Transmission, MAC performs the Random Access resources selection according to 5.1.1b after checking whether data volume and RSRP threshold are satisfied, the UE would have to repeat the selection according to section 5.1.1 for RA initialization procedure.

The question is whether companies agree with this and if there are any comments to the changes. Looking at R2-2205470 and R2-2205942, it seems the intention is to clarify the same thing, but we could try with one of the options and the options proposed in R2-2205942 seems more rigorous so we could check if this is acceptable.

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| Company | Q 2.1 Do you agree with the above issues (issue 1 and issue 2): Yes/No | Q 2.2 Do agree with the changes proposed in R2-2205942? | Any comments to the actual text proposal? |
| ZTE | Not really.  We think there is no real issue here because the UE will check the resource availability according to 5.1.1b, which is the same as the RACH resource selection in RACH procedure, and 5.1.1b will call 5.1.1c in current text. The intention is to ensure the same procedure will be used for the RACH resource verification and RACH resource selection, in which case if the available RACH resource can be identified in 5.27, the same RACH resource will be selected in the following RACH procedure.  The only issue here is the UE need to perform the 5.1.1b twice for both RACH resource verification and RACH resource selection, but since same threshold will be used in both cases, there is no ambiguity in our view with current implementation. | Not essential.  We don’t think this clarification is essential. But no strong view | If we agree to change something then the proposal in R2-2205942 seems better. |
| Nokia | Yes although issue 2 is a bit artificial and could be handled by the UE. | Intention is OK | There cannot be “current RA procedure” in SDT initiation while there is no RA procedure ongoing. So 5.27.1 could say something like:  “*select set(s) of Random Access resources according to clause 5.1.1b on the selected UL carrier as if a Random Access procedure was ongoing:*”  In 5.1.1, we can just say “*if the RA procedure is not initiated for RA-SDT as specified in 5.27.1*” since we would always select the resources in 5.27.1 if we did it like this. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | We think it is better to have this clear in the specifications and it is ambiguous at the moment. Potentially issue 2 could be solved by UE implementation, but in case it is not, this may lead to misalignement between the UE and the NW on the used procedure (i.e. SDT vs. non-SDT resume). | Yes (proponent) | The proposal from Nokia would also work, but not sure whether this is clearer than TP from R2-2205942, so we have some preference o stick to R2-2205942. |
| Intel | We also don’t think the change is really essential. In our view, once the MAC decides that the condition for SDT is fulfilled, the UE will use the set of Random Access resources configured with SDT indication | We prefer to stick to existing text. |  |
| Samsung | Not essential | Current text is fine |  |
| Qualcomm | The current spec does require UE to perform RA resource selection twice. Although nothing is broken since the RA resources selected in these two steps are unlikely to be different, we still think it is better to fix it, because otherwise we would not be surprised if some company raise this issue again in a few years. | We are fine with the TP. |  |

Then, in R2-2205470 it was also proposed to delete the following notes in MAC spec:

**NOTE 4: The network configures the same value for rsrp-ThresholdSSB-SUL in all BWPs. So, the UE can obtain this parameter from any Random Access configuration.  
NOTE: On a given BWP, the network configures the same value for rsrp-ThresholdMsg3. So, the UE can obtain this parameter from any Random Access configuration within the BWP selected for the Random Access procedure.**

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| Q 2.3: Do companies agree to delete the above notes? | | |
| Company | Agree to delete  Y/N | Any comments? |
| ZTE | Not yet | We need to make sure this is clear from either RRC or from MAC. If it is clear in RRC then we can delete these notes from MAC spec. |
| Nokia | Yes | Can be included in RRC field descriptions. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes | We should make an agreement that this will be removed from MAC and captured in RRC. |
| Intel | Yes | Our understanding is that the note was added because the threshold for UL carrier selection and CE selection are not RACH partition specific. This needs to be added to RRC spec rather than in MAC spec |
| Samsung | Yes | Can be included in RRC field descriptions. |
| Qualcomm | Yes | Agree with companies above that it is enough to include that clarification in RRC |

# Fallback from CFRA to CBRA for REDCAP UE

In R2-2205486, the following proposal is made:

**Proposal 1. For the fallback cases from CFRA to CBRA, RedCap UE should select the RedCap specific RACH resource, if it is configured.**

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| Q 3.1: Do companies agree with the above proposal? | | |
| Company | Agree/Disagree | Any comments to the TP in R2-2205486? |
| ZTE | Disagree | Since NW is not sure about RSRP on UE side when the RACH is initiated, NW has no idea which RACH partition will be selected on UE side (e.g. whether the RACH partition with Msg3 repetition or without Msg3 repetition will be selected). Also considering some parameters for CFRA is derived based on the CBRA RACH partition selected for the fallback operation, the change proposed may lead to some mismatch between NW and UE side on the CFRA parameters.  If companies think such optimization is needed, then we prefer to configure the reference CBRA resource directly with either a reference feature combination or some kind of RACH partition index. |
| Nokia | Agree with intention | This should only happen **within a BWP.** Ie., there should not be any BWP switch performed for the CBRA fallback.  NW configures the CFRA resource and knows that it configures it for RedCap UE. Hence, if there is no RedCap RACH in the current BWP, the the UE uses the common RACH for CBRA. OTOH, if there is RedCap RACH, the UE can do CBRA there.  For Text Proposal: It would end up selecting CE RACH also available for the RA procedure, hence, the TP does not work as is. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Agree with intention | We agree with the proposal from R2-2205486, i.e.:  **Proposal 1. For the fallback cases from CFRA to CBRA, RedCap UE should select the RedCap specific RACH resource, if it is configured.**  It is important to ensure that RedCap UE uses RedCap specific RACH whenever available, and we have already agreed this during the last meeting:  **For the REDCAP BWP, network configures a RACH partition which is applicable to REDCAP (i.e. without combination with other features), similar to “legacy” RACH partition in non-Redcap initial BWP**  **In case of CFRA, in order to initialize the RACH parameters (such as rsrp-ThresholdSSB etc) and for CBRA fallback - UE uses RA parameters of Rel-15 common RACH resource or for RedCap common RACH resource**  The current MC specifications did not implement this properly and has to be fixed. However, as pointed out by Nokia, the TP from R2-2205486 does not handle this properly, but we have provided a fix for this in R2-2205941. |
| Intel | Agree with the intention |  |
| Samsung | Agree with the intention |  |
| Qualcomm | Agree with the proposal but not the TP | We think the proposal itself is fine, as it captures the common understanding. But we are not sure if the TP is needed. The current text already covers it. |

# Feature prioritization for RACH partitioning

In R2-2205876, it was first proposed to discuss the current RACH partitioning mechanism in general and the following proposal is made first.

Proposal 2 RAN2 should agree on which of the following approaches is desired:

1. Indicating a non-triggered feature is not allowed

2. All triggered features must be signalled

3. No initial down-selection before applying the configured priorities

Rapporteur understanding is that current approach takin in MAC spec is aligned with option 1 above and if we change this there will be other significant changes in RRC and MAC. For instance, if the UE is allowed to select SDT resource even if SDT is not triggered then there will be a misalignment between network and UE regarding whether the SDT RBs are resumed or not. Similar implications may apply to other features too. So, current understanding is that non-triggered feature should not be indicated to the network (i.e. option 1 above), but we can first check if this is the common understanding.

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| Q 4.1: Do companies agree with the current approach that Indicating a non-triggered feature is not allowed? | | |
| Company | Agree/Disagree | Please explain your preference |
| ZTE | Agree | We think current text is fine and we agree that “non-triggered feature should not be indicated to the network” – i.e. option 1 above. |
| Nokia | Agree | This should be rather obvious. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Agree | Not sure how this can work otherwise. |
| Intel | Agree | The existing implemented text looks fine to us. |
| Samsung | Agree |  |
| Qualcomm | Agree |  |

Then, in R2-2205876 the following proposal is also made.

Proposal 3 Do not specify UE behaviour for the error case when the network does not provide all needed partitions.

We discussed this in the past and agreed to specify UE behaviour for error cases (because network is allowed to only configure RACH resources for a subset of features). So, we can check again if we stick to this approach.

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| Q 4.2: Do companies agree with the following proposal?  Proposal: Do not specify UE behaviour for the error case when the network does not provide all needed partitions | | |
| Company | Agree/Disagree | Please explain your preference |
| ZTE | Disagree | It is not clear what error case mean since if no suitable RACH partition with feature combination can be selected, the UE will always select the RACH partition without feature combination (i.e. one available RACH resource will be selected anyway after the procedure).  However, we agree that network should have flexibility to configure RACH resources only for a subset of feature combinations as already agreed. |
| Nokia | Disagree | What error case is this? Obviously the NW may not provide all partitions, and for this we specified the prioritization for the selection. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Disagree | This is not an error case and as agreed previously, the NW may provide RACH resources only for a subset of feature combinations. |
| Intel | Disagree | Not sure what error cases are missing in the 5.1.1 |
| Samsung | - | RAN2 has agreed previously, the NW may provide RACH resources only for a subset of feature combinations.  We are ok to consider the approach where network always provides all combinations of features supported in the cell, if that’s majority view. |
| Qualcomm | Disagree | Agree with all the comments above |

# General MAC corrections

In [R2-2205840](file:///C:\evutukuri\work\5G\RAN2\docs\R2-2205840.zip) and in R2-2205941 a number of general MAC corrections are proposed. Most of these seem straightforward and hence acceptable. However, in R2-2205840, there was issue 7 which proposed to modify the RA partition selection from excluding the unavailable partitions to selection available partitions. Although it seems feasible to go this way, the current proposal in R2-2205840 seems to not work.

For instance, with the approach proposed in R2-2205840, any RACH resource for a feature combination with feature A (e.g: partition with A, A+B, A+C, A+X) will be considered as available for RACH procedure triggered by feature A (even if feature B/C/X is one of the triggers for the same RACH). For example, the RACH resource REDCAP+SDT, REDCAP+CE, REDCAP+Slice A will be considered as available for RACH procedure triggered by REDCAP UE without SDT/CE/Slice indication (i.e. even though the RACH resource is reserved for SDT/CE/Slice A, it will be considered as available for any RACH triggered by REDCAP UE). It seems this is not the intention. So, companies are encouraged first to check the issue 7 in R2-2205840 and explain if they agree with this change or not.

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| Q 5.1: Do companies agree with the following change in R2-2205840?  7: Section 5.1.1c: Consider the RA resource sets as available for the RA procedure based on their configured indication and the feature applicability for the RA procedure. | | |
| Company | Agree/Disagree | Please explain your preference |
| ZTE | Disagree | The change on 5.1.1c seems not correct as explained by the rapporteur above. |
| Nokia | Agree (proponent) | However, agree with the issue pointed out by the email rapporteur.  In any case, certain sets of RA resources would need to be determined available for the RA procedure, ie., we cannot just exclude RA resource sets without considering anything as available. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Disagree | We think the current description works properly and there is no need for such drastic changes. Agree also with the issue pointe out by the rapporteur. |
| Intel | Disagree | Agree with the rapporteur analysis. |
| Samsung | Disagree | Agree with the rapporteur. |
| Qualcomm | Disagree | This change is against the principle that many agreements are built on. We should not make such a drastic change unless something is really broken. |

The other changes in R2-2205840 seem straightforward and perhaps we can generally check whether these are acceptable or not.

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| Q 5.2: Apart from the Issue 7 discussed above, do companies have any comments to the other changes in R2-2205840? | | |
| Company | Changes are  Okay/Comments | Please explain any specific comments |
| ZTE | Changes are okay | We are fine with other changes. |
| Nokia | Agree |  |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | OK in general, but see comments | Change 2: this will not be needed in case we apply corrections as proposed in rapporteur CR in R2-2205553.  Change 5: This seems OK, but perhaps we then need to clarify somewhere (in RRC?) that there may be at maximum one partition for each feature combination per RA type.  Change 6: Agree to remove the note, but not without correcting the procedural text, as explained in Q.3.1 |
| Intel | OK | Other than the changes to 5.1.1c, all the other changes look ok |
| Samsung | ok |  |
| Qualcomm | OK |  |

Similarly, for the changes proposed in R2-2205941 we may be able to check the whole CR at one go.

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| Q 5.3: Do companies have any comments to the changes proposed in R2-2205941? | | |
| Company | Changes are  Okay/Comments | Please explain any specific comments |
| ZTE | Okay but… | See comments to Q.2.1 |
| Nokia | Mostly OK | Can check the wordings in CR review. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | OK (proponent) |  |
| Intel | OK except for the changes related to Q2.1 |  |
| Samsung | ok |  |
| Qualcomm | OK |  |

# Editorial issues

Finally, there is one CR submitted capturing a couple of editorial corrections and companies are invited to comment on these specific corrections in R2-2205553.

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| Q 6.1: Do companies have any comments to the changes proposed in R2-2205553? | | |
| Company | Changes are  Okay/Comments | Please explain your choice |
| ZTE | Okay |  |
| Nokia | Mostly OK | Can check the wordings in CR review. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | OK |  |
| Intel | OK |  |
| Qualcomm | OK |  |

# Conclusion and proposals

TBD

# References

1. [R2-2205470](C:\\evutukuri\\work\\5G\\RAN2\\docs\\R2-2205470.zip) Consideration on UP Remaining Issues of RACH common CATT discussion Rel-17 NR\_cov\_enh-Core, NR\_slice-Core, NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core, NR\_redcap-Core

1. [R2-2205942](C:\\evutukuri\\work\\5G\\RAN2\\docs\\R2-2205942.zip) Correction to RACH procedure with SDT applicability Huawei, HiSilicon draftCR Rel-17 38.321 17.0.0 F NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core, NR\_slice-Core, NR\_redcap-Core, NR\_cov\_enh-Core
2. [R2-2205486](file:///C:\evutukuri\work\5G\RAN2\docs\R2-2205486.zip) Correction on fallback cases from CFRA to CBRA for RedCap UE LG Electronics Inc. discussion Rel-17 NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core, NR\_slice-Core, NR\_redcap-Core, NR\_cov\_enh-Core

1. [R2-2205876](C:\\evutukuri\\work\\5G\\RAN2\\docs\\R2-2205876.zip) Feature Prioritization for RACH Partitioning Ericsson discussion Rel-17

1. [R2-2205839](C:\\evutukuri\\work\\5G\\RAN2\\docs\\R2-2205839.zip) Introduction of RACH partitioning Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell CR Rel-17 38.300 17.0.0 0466 - F NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core

1. [R2-2205840](C:\\evutukuri\\work\\5G\\RAN2\\docs\\R2-2205840.zip) RACH partitioning MAC issues Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell CR Rel-17 38.321 17.0.0 1288 - F NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core

1. [R2-2205941](C:\\evutukuri\\work\\5G\\RAN2\\docs\\R2-2205941.zip) Various corrections to MAC spec for RACH partitioning Huawei, HiSilicon draftCR Rel-17 38.321 17.0.0 F NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core, NR\_slice-Core, NR\_redcap-Core, NR\_cov\_enh-Core

1. [R2-2205553](C:\\evutukuri\\work\\5G\\RAN2\\docs\\R2-2205553.zip) MAC Corrections for RACH partitioning ZTE Corporation (rapporteur) CR Rel-17 38.321 17.0.0 1273 - F NR\_redcap-Core, NR\_SmallData\_INACTIVE-Core, NR\_cov\_enh-Core, NR\_slice-Core