**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 #109Bis-e draft R2-20xxxxx**

**E-meeting, 20 – 30 April 2020**

**Title: [Draft]** LS to RAN1 on Guard Symbols in IAB

**Release:** Rel-16

**Work Item:** NR\_IAB-Core

**Source:** Samsung (will be RAN2)

**To:** RAN1

**CC :** RAN4

**Contact Person:**

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**1. Overall Description:**

At the RAN1#99 meeting in November 2019, the following agreement was reached:

Agreements:

*Desired Guard* Symbols and *Provided Guard Symbols* are provided per cell and use 3 bits for each of the 8 transitions to indicate the number of guard symbols.

* In Rel-16, a range of 0-4 symbols are supported for each transition. Additional entries are reserved for future use
* A new parameter *GuardSymbol-SCS* is also provided which indicates the reference SCS (FR1: {15kHz, 30kHz, 60kHz}, FR2: {60kHz, 120kHz}) to be used for the guard symbols.

At the RAN2#109-e meeting in February, the following was agreed:

* RAN2 will design one single fixed-length Guard Symbols MAC CE, containing values (or indices mapped thereto) of all 8 parameters introduced by RAN1.

At the RAN2#109Bis-e meeting, RAN2 further discussed whether the information received in the Guard Symbol MAC CE should apply to a specific cell, or to the entire cell group (if a cell group is configured). RAN2 could not reach a consensus on this matter, or a common understanding of the RAN1 agreement quoted above.

Some companies believe that the RAN1 agreement quoted above indicates that Guard Symbol MAC CE(s) should be indicated per each individual cell, while other companies interpret the RAN1 agreement as indicating that a single value is provided, and it applies to all cells within a cell group.

**2. Actions:**

RAN2 would very much appreciate it if RAN1 could inform RAN2 at their earliest convenience whether there is a requirement that Number of Guard Symbols should be applied to a specific cell, or if the Number of Guard Symbols applies across all the cells in the cell group.

**3. Date of Next TSG-RAN WG2 Meetings:**

TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #110-e 01 – 12 June 2020 E-meeting

TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #111 24 – 28 August 2020 Toulouse, France