3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #113bis-e R2-2104322

Electronic Meeting, April 12 – 20, 2021

**Agenda item: 8.8.3**

**Source: CMCC**

**Title: Summary for [AT113bis-e][252][NR] Slice-specific RACH**

**WID/SID: NR\_slice**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# 1 Introduction

This contribution is the summary for the following email discussion during RAN2#113bis-e meeting.

Email discussions ([252]) - not kicked off before online session

* [AT113bis-e][252][NR] Slice-specific RACH (CMCC)

Scope:

* + - Summarize main open issues based on contributions and online agreements.
    - Highlight if there are topics that clearly require online discussion.
    - Identify topics that might benefit from email discussions.

Intended outcome:

* + - Discussion summary in [R2-2104322](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2104322.zip) (by email rapporteur)

Deadline for providing comments and for rapporteur inputs:

* + - Initial deadline (for companies' feedback): 1st week Fri, UTC 0900
    - Initial deadline (for rapporteur's summary): 2nd week Mon, UTC 1200

**Company Context**

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| --- | --- |
| **Company** | **Contact** |
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| Huawei, HiSilicon Jun Chen | jun.chen@huawei.com |
| Xiaomi, Xiaofei Liu | liuxiaofei@xiaomi.com |
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| Perspecta Labs, Achilles Kogiantis | [akogiantis@perspectalabs.com](mailto:akogiantis@perspectalabs.com) |
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# 2 Discussion

This email mainly discusses on the following topics: basic solutions, co-existence with legacy UE and legacy MPS/MCS, RA selection and fallback cases. Some proposals in contributions [1-4] that covers above topics are copied below for discussion.

## 2.1 Basic solutions

In WID RP-210921, it limits that only MO cases should be considered for RACH. It needs to be clarified firstly what is “MO case”, i.e., does it include MO signaling or data traffic?

Proposal: Only MO data arrival triggered RACH can apply slice specific RACH. MO signaling (e.g. mo-Signalling and mo-SMS) triggered RACH is not applied to slice-specific RACH. [1]

**Q1: Do you agree with above proposal?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| CMCC | Yes | MO signaling should use the common RACH resources. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes |  |
| Xiaomi | Yes |  |
| OPPO | Yes | Sometimes, there is no valid S-NSSAI information in NAS layer when it is mo-Signalling or mo-SMS. |
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In TR 38.832, it captured IDLE/INACTIVE UE can apply slice specific RACH. Companies are invited to share views on whether slice specific RACH can be applied to CONNECTED UE in below 3 highlighted cases in TS 38.300:

The random access procedure is triggered by a number of events:

- Initial access from RRC\_IDLE;

- RRC Connection Re-establishment procedure;

- DL or UL data arrival during RRC\_CONNECTED when UL synchronisation status is "non-synchronised";

- UL data arrival during RRC\_CONNECTED when there are no PUCCH resources for SR available;

- SR failure;

- Request by RRC upon synchronous reconfiguration (e.g. handover);

- Transition from RRC\_INACTIVE;

- To establish time alignment for a secondary TAG;

- Request for Other SI (see clause 7.3);

- Beam failure recovery;

- Consistent UL LBT failure on SpCell.

**Q2: Whether CONNECTED UE can also apply slice specific RACH when RACH is triggered by MO data arrival (i.e. when UL synchronisation status is "non-synchronised", or there are no PUCCH resources for SR available, or SR failure)?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| CMCC | Yes | We don’t have strong preference, ok to consider CONNECTED UE. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Neutral | On one hand, it may be some benefits for applying slice based RACH for connected Ues. On the other hand, we are concerned about the TUs as such discussions may consume Tus and then other discussions may be impacted. |
| Xiaomi | Yes | Share the same view with QC that slice-specific RACH configuration can also be applied to CONNECTED UE. |
| OPPO | No | It is already agreed that RRC connected mode is with a low priority. We should settle down other issues firstly. |
| Perspecta Labs | Yes | RA prioritization is useful in all RA attempts since low latency is the objective. Share the view that this will consume more TUs. |
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Proposal: Slice specific RACH (including RACH isolation and RACH prioritization) is only applied to CBRA rather than CFRA. [1]

**Q3: Do you agree with above proposal?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| CMCC | Yes | Dedicated RACH resource is applied for CFRA. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes | Reasonable proposal as CFRA uses dedicated RACH resources so that it is no need to consider slice based RACH sources. |
| Xiaomi | Yes |  |
| OPPO | No | Even if it is CFRA, there is some benefits for applying slice-specific RACH. For example, slice-specific RACH prioritization can help the UE with a specific slice re-send MAG1/MSGA with a larger ramping power value than legacy UE does, which assures fast cell accessing for the UE with specific slice. |
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## 2.2 Co-existence with legacy UE and non-urgent slice

It is important that the introduction of slice specific RACH resource shall not prevent from accessibility for Rel-15 / Rel-16 legacy UEs. In addition, Rel-17 UEs supporting RACH isolation should also have non-urgent slice, i.e. the Rel-17 should not switch to another BWP to trigger common RACH when non-urgent slice traffic arrival. [1]

Proposal: To support legacy UE and non-urgent slice, if slice specific RACH resource is configured in one BWP, common RACH resource (i.e. legacy CBRA resource) is required to be configured in the same BWP. [1]

**Q4: Do you agree with above proposal?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| CMCC | Yes | To support legacy UEs, the common RACH resource need always be configured. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon |  | For initial BWP, we think it may required to differentiate between common RACH reosurces and slice based RACH resources.  For dediated BWP, it is allocated by the network for RRC connected mode Ues. Based on Q2, if CONNECTED UE can’t apply slice specific RACH, there will be no slice based RACH resources in dedicated BWP, and then Q4 may not exist. |
| Xiaomi | Yes |  |
| OPPO |  | It may happen only for initial BWP if slice-specific RACH is not supported by RRC connected mode UE. Whether common RACH resource is restricted to legacy CBRA resource depends on the conclusion for Q3. |
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## 2.3 RACH type selection and fallback

During the online session, RAN2 agreed to support configuring 2-step RA resources or 4-step RA resources or both for slices, as well as the legacy fallback mechanism. Several contributions [1,2,3,6,7] are supportive to have RA type fallback for slice based RACH. In Qualcomm’s contribution [1], the following 5 cases for RACH type configuration, selection and fallback are proposed. Companies are invited to share views on whether these 5 cases should be supported.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cases | RACH resource configuration in one BWP | RACH type selection | Fallback after MSGA attempt number beyond threshold | Notes |
| Case 1 | 2-step slice specific RACH  4-step common RACH | Always perform 2-step slice specific RACH | UE switch to MSG1 of 4-step common RACH | Via only configuring 2-step slice RACH resource, high priority slice may only trigger 2-step RACH to reduce latency |
| Case 2 | 2-step slice specific RACH  4-step slice specific RACH  4-step common RACH | RACH type selection based on RSRP threshold | UE can switch to MSG1 of 4-step slice specific RACH | No fallback from 4-step slice specific RACH to 4-step common RACH |
| Case 3 | 4-step slice specific RACH  2-step common RACH | Always perform 4-step slice specific RACH | No fallback |  |
| Case 4 | 4-step slice specific RACH  4-step common RACH | Always perform 4-step slice specific RACH | No fallback |  |
| Case 5 | 2-step slice specific RACH  2-step common RACH  4-step slice specific RACH  4-step common RACH | RACH type selection based on RSRP threshold | UE can switch to MSG1 of 4-step slice specific RACH | No fallback from 4-step slice specific RACH to 4-step common RACH. Not preferred due to large RACH resource usage |

**Q5: Do you support above 5 cases for RA configuration, selection and fallback?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No/Part of them** | **Comments** |
| CMCC | Yes | We support to have flexible RA configuration for slices. And we are also ok with the RA selection and fallback in the table. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes | We think the above table is very good and it includes almost all cases for RACH type selection and fallback. We understand that it follows the concept of legacy fallback mechanisms, so we support the above table. |
| Xiaomi | Part of them | For the fallback mechanism of case2/4/5, in our view, the fundamental intention to support slice-specific RACH configuration is to gurantee UE fast access, thus, we think if UE failed on 4-step slice-specific RACH resource, it should be allowed to use 4-step common RACH resource to initiate access attemp other than just wait. |
| OPPO | Yes | It can be the baseline. |
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## 2.4 co-existence with MPS/MCS

**For the topic of prioritization parameter collision with MPS/MCS, here are the candidate approaches:**

Option 1: It should be clearly specified in the specification.

Option 1a: slice specific RA prioritization parameter should override MPS/MCS specific RA prioritization parameter. [2][13]

Option 1b: MPS/MCS specific RA prioritization parameter should override slice specific RA prioritization parameter. [3][12]

Option 2: It should be configurable by network. [4]

**Q6: which option do you prefer**

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| **Company** | **Option** | **Comments** |
| CMCC | 1a | In order to guarantee the fairness among UEs initiating the same slice, we prefer the slice specific RA prioritization parameter should override MPS/MCS specific parameter |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | 1a | We share similar views as CMCC. |
| Xiaomi | Option 1b. and Option 2 | We think it should be configurable by network and if not, MPS/MCS specific RA prioritization should overrule slice specific RA prioritization because it is configured to specific UE and can provide more precise configuration. |
| OPPO | 1a | We share the similar view as CMCC. |
| Perspecta Labs | Prefer 2, 1b is ok | MPS/MCS RA prioritization configuration should at least be able to override the slice specific one since it matters only to those UEs with the special Access Identities. Also, MPS/MCS override (1b) covers the corner case where a slice has not configured its RA prioritization parameters, which would happen with 1a implementation. To address all use cases, configurability (Option 2) is preferred. Agree with Xiaomi. |
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## 2.5 Collision of slice based RA-RNTI and legacy RA-RNTI

As if slice-specific RACH resources are configured in addition to legacy common RACH resources, based on legacy RA-RNTI calculation formula, the value of RA-RNTI calculated for using existing common RACH resources and slice-specific RACH resources may be same. And then UE can not recognize which RACH resource pool the RAR is associated. [3]

Q7: Do you think there is the collision of slice-based RA-RNTI and legacy RATI if slice-based RACH resources are configured in addition to the existing common RACH resources, and RAN2 need to address it?

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| **Company** | **Yes or No** | **Comments** |
| Xiaomi | Yes | As we analyze in [3], we think this issue exists and need to be considered to resolve. |
| OPPO | Yes | The issue on RA-RNTI collision exists, and it can be addressed by using a new RNTI associated with slice-specific RO, as we mentioned in our paper [8]. |

# 3 Conclusion

TBD

# 4 References

1. [R2-2102697](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2102697.zip) Slice specific RACH Qualcomm Incorporated discussion
2. [R2-2103696](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2103696.zip) Discussion on slice based RACH configuration CMCC discussion Rel-17
3. [R2-2102761](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2102761.zip) Considerations on slice based RACH configuration Beijing Xiaomi Software Tech discussion
4. [R2-2104019](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2104019.zip) Analysis on slice based RACH configuration CATT discussion
5. [R2-2102832](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2102832.zip) Considerations of slice based RACH Intel Corporation discussion Rel-17
6. [R2-2102989](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2102989.zip) Considerations on slice-based PRACH configuration Lenovo, Motorola Mobility discussion Rel-17
7. [R2-2103089](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2103089.zip) Slice based RACH configuration Samsung discussion Rel-17
8. [R2-2103214](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2103214.zip) Consideration on slice-specific RACH OPPO discussion Rel-17
9. [R2-2103240](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2103240.zip) Consideration on slice based RACH configuration Spreadtrum Communications discussion Rel-17
10. [R2-2103376](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2103376.zip) Slice based RACH configuration vivo discussion Rel-17
11. [R2-2103548](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2103548.zip) RACH prioritisation for slices Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell discussion Rel-17 FS\_NR\_slice

1. [R2-2103882](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2103882.zip) Discussion on slice based RACH Apple discussion Rel-17

1. [R2-2104005](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2104005.zip) Discussion on slice based RACH configuration Huawei, HiSilicon discussion Rel-17
2. [R2-2104064](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2104064.zip) Discussion on slice specific RACH resources and RACH prioritization ZTE corporation, Sanechips discussion Rel-17
3. [R2-2104099](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_RAN/WG2_RL2/TSGR2_113bis-e/Docs/R2-2104099.zip) Slice-specific RA procedure LG Electronics UK discussion