3GPP RAN WG2 Meeting #116e R2-2111339

eMeeting November 1st – 12th, 2021

Agenda Item: 8.10.2.2

Source: InterDigital (summary rapporteur)

Title: Summary of [AT116-e][101][NTN] Other MAC aspects

Document for: Discussion, Decision

# Introduction

This document is a discussion paper to obtain company input to the following offline discussion:

* [AT116-e][101][NTN] Other MAC aspects (InterDigital)

Initial scope: Continue the discussion on remaining aspects of timers, HARQ, and LCP including CG/SPS aspects, based on the proposals in R2-2111331

Initial intended outcome: Summary of the offline discussion with e.g.:

* List of proposals for agreement (if any)
* List of proposals that require online discussions
* List of proposals that should not be pursued (if any)

The following deadline for company feedback has been provided:

* Initial deadline (for companies' feedback): **Thursday 2021-11-04 1000 UTC**
* Initial deadline (for rapporteur's summary in R2-2111339): Thursday 2021-11-04 1600 UTC

Please also note the following chair guidance:

* Proposals marked "for agreement" in R2-2111339 not challenged until **Friday 2021-11-05 0800 UTC** will be declared as agreed via email by the session chair (for the rest the discussion will further continue offline until the CB session in Week2).

# DRX Timers and SR-Prohibit Timer

## Drx-RetransmissionTimerUL

Based on agreement in RAN2#115e, for HARQ processes configured with HARQ state B it is FFS whether to start *drx-RetransmissionTimerUL* to support blind UL retransmission.

**Additional start conditions for HARQ state B:** [1] [7] [9] [12] [18] [19]

Companies which support additional start criteria for *drx-RetransmissionTimerUL* note relying on UE being in Active Time due to other HARQ processes for blind retransmission would be not stable [1] and UE may miss UL grant for assignment for retransmission [9]. For example, [7] notes that since retransmission scheduling will not restart the DRX inactivity timer, the number of blind retransmissions that can be scheduled during inactivity timer will be limited, especially when time diversity is applied in retransmission scheduling or when radio is overloaded. [19] states that if UE start the drx-retransmissionTimerUL on HARQ process configured with HARQ state B, UE has more opportunities to receive blind retransmissions.

Furthermore, [1] and [18] state that the length of drx-InactivityTimer needs to be configured longer, which would lead to unnecessary power consumption and reduced flexible on configuration since the same drx-InactivityTimer is used for all HARQ processes.

Regarding that additional start duration, two options have been proposed via contribution:

* **Option1:** start drx-RetransmissionTimerUL at the end of PUSCH transmission
* **Option2:** start drx-RetransmissionTimerUL with offset indicated by NW after the end of PUSCH transmission

As noted in [1], from UE’s point of view, after the UE finishes the PDSCH reception or PUSCH transmission for the HARQ process, the UE should be ready to receive another PDCCH indicating retransmission or new transmisson for the same HARQ process. [7] states the common understanding is that the DCI is expected to be received after the end of the last PUSCH.

However in [12], it is noted starting the *drx-RetransmissionTimerUL* with offset indicated by network is beneficial compared with starting immediately after the end of reception of the last PDSCH for blind retransmission, because the UE can sleep in between blind HARQ (re)transmissions in the case network schedule time scattered blind retransmission (e.g. for GEO where the blind retransmission may happen in between the 540ms RTT ).

**No additional start conditions for HARQ state B:** [3] [13] [16]

In [3], [13], and [16] it is noted that blind retransmissions can be handled by the *drx-InactivityTimer,* since as long as UE is kept in DRX Active time UE will monitor PDCCH and will act as indicated in DCI. [3] further mentions that starting the *drx-RetransmissionTimerUL* in State B for blind retransmission case would require the UE to know if a HARQ process supports blind retransmission or not, which is unnecessary and introduces additional complexity. [16] notes the UE will anyway start (or restart) drx-InactivityTimer when receiving a grant for a new transmission (as well as when receiving an assignment for new transmission) allowing plenty of opportunities for opportunistic blind retransmissions.

Furthermore, as described in [16] in case the RTT is very long as in GEO – it is not efficient to extend drx-RetransmissionTimerUL (nor drx-InactivityTimer), to allow blind retransmissions at any time (this would be similar to not configure DRX at all), as this will waste UE power. In such cases, we can utilize the drx-onDurationTimer for blind opportunistic retransmissions to reduce the energy consumption. If drx-RetransmissionTimerUL is started after each PUSCH transmission to allow for further blind retransmissions after a blind retransmission, lots of UE energy will be wasted as most of the time there is no blind retransmission.

**Question 1:** **Which of the following option(s) do you support to enable reception of blind UL retransmission grant for HARQ process(es) configured with HARQ mode B:**

1. **Rely on UE being in DRX Active Time via other means (e.g. Inactivity Timer);**
2. **Start *drx-RetransmissionTimerUL* at the end of PUSCH transmission;**
3. **Start *drx-RetransmissionTimerUL* at offset indicated by NW after the end of PUSCH transmission;**
4. **Other, please describe**

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| **Company** | **Supported Option(s)** | **Additional comments** |
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## Drx-RetransmissionTimerDL

Similar arguments supporting additional start conditions for the *drx-RetransmissionTimerDL* are also made in [1] [7] [18], and against additional start conditions for the *drx-RetransmissionTimerDL* in [13]. For a detailed discussion, companies are referred to contributions [12] and [16] respectively.

However, as noted in [7], based on RAN1 agreement (i.e. incorporation of X = T\_proc,1) the start condition for the *drx-RetransmissionTimerDL* may be slightly different than in the UL case. The following options have been proposed regarding start time of *drx-RetransmissionTimerDL* in [7] and [12]*:*

* **Option 1:** start the DRX retransmission timer in the first symbol after the end of the reception of the last PDSCH or slot-aggregated PDSCH. [7]
* **Option 2:** start the DRX retransmission timer in the first symbol after the end of the reception of the last PDSCH or slot-aggregated PDSCH plus X (X = T\_proc,1). [7]
* **Option 3:** Start drx-RetransmissionTimerDL with offset indicated by NW after the end of the reception of the last PDSCH. [12]

**Question 2:** **Which of the following option(s) do you support to enable reception of blind retransmission for HARQ process(es) configured with disabled HARQ feedback:**

1. **Rely on UE being in DRX Active Time via other means (e.g. Inactivity Timer);**
2. **Start *drx-RetransmissionTimerDL* in the first symbol after the end of the reception of the last PDSCH or slot-aggregated PDSCH;**
3. **Start *drx-RetransmissionTimerDL* in the first symbol after the end of the reception of the last PDSCH or slot-aggregated PDSCH plus X (X = T\_proc,1);**
4. **Start *drx-RetransmissionTimerDL* with offset indicated by NW after the end of the reception of the last PDSCH;**
5. **Other, please describe.**

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## HARQ RTT Timers

For UL HARQ mode, RAN2 has agreed that if a mode is not configured, UE applies legacy behaviour for *drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerUL*. However, similar agreements were not made for DL HARQ process. Based on current MAC running CR, if a HARQ process is not configured with enabled/disabled DL HARQ feedback, then the *drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerDL* is extended by UE-gNB RTT. [1] and [18] note that if the MAC entity is not configured with *downlinkHARQ-FeedbackDisabled*, the intention is not to increase the *drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerDL* but to use the original length as it is.

[18] further notes that if the network intends to increase the *drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerDL*, there is already an option to do so, i.e., to configure *downlinkHARQ-FeedbackDisabled* and set DL HARQ feedback for the corresponding HARQ process enabled. So, there is no reason to have duplicate option for this.

**Proposal 3:** **For HARQ process(es) not configured with DL HARQ feedback enabled/disabled, what is the intended *drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerDL* behaviour?**

1. ***drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerDL* is extended by UE-gNB RTT;**
2. ***drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerDL* is not changed (i.e. legacy behaviour applies).**

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| **Company** | **Supported Option** | **Additional comments** |
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## SR-Prohibit Timer

To accommodate increased propagation delay in NTN, it was agreed in RAN2#113bise that the sr-ProhibitTimer be extended, with details FFS. In RAN2#116e the following was agreed:

*The extended values for sr-ProhibitTimer in NTN can include values less than UE-gNB RTT (as in legacy). FFS on the actual values and how this is extended*

[14] states that the simplest solution to both compensate for additional RTT while maintaining the possibility to configure values less that RTT would be including additional values (similar to t-Reassembly timer), with a candidate set of values provided in [18]. However, it is noted in [14] this would require a range of values to accommodate the different propagation delays of LEO and GEO, and may need to be further expanded in the future as additional scenarios (e.g. MEO, HAPS) are defined.

[16] proposes that the timer be extended with a factor times an RTT offset value where the factor may take values below one, and [14] proposes that an additional bias K may be introduced to reduce the overall offset to below the UE-gNB RTT.

**Question 4:** **What is your preferred method to extend values for the *sr-ProhibitTimer* in NTN*?***

1. **Additional values;**
2. **Offset existing values by UE-gNB RTT \* *K*, where *K* can be < 1;**
3. **Offset existing values by UE-gNB RTT – *K*, where K is < UE-gNB RTT;**
4. **Other, please describe.**

**Note: If the preferred option is 1) please provide examples of possible new values. If it is 2) or 3) please provide potential values for *K.***

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| **Company** | **Supported Option(s)** | **Additional comments (including possible new values or values of *K)*** |
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# Remaining HARQ/LCP Aspects

## Configuration of HARQ mode

**Issue 1) PUSCH transmission scheduled by RAR**

As described in [10], the PUSCH transmission scheduled by RAR during the random access procedure (msg2), is a dynamically scheduled PUSCH transmission (e.g. in the 4-step contention based random access procedure the RAR schedules PUSCH msg3 transmission and for CFRA RAR schedules a “normal” PUSCH transmission). The HARQ process used for PUSCH scheduled by RAR is fixed in specifications, i.e. HARQ process zero is used for PUSCH transmission scheduled by RAR UL grant.

Since the HARQ process cannot be dynamically selected for a PUSCH transmission scheduled by RAR as for other dynamic PUSCH transmissions, NW has no tight control on the HARQ retransmission state applied for the data transmitted in the PUSCH and accordingly the corresponding UE DRX behaviour. This may lead to a situation that the allocated PUSCH resources cannot be efficiently used by the UE, i.e. the configured LCH restriction may prevent UE from using such allocated PUSCH resources or DRX behaviour is not suitable for the data transmitted on the PUSCH.

It is therefore proposed in [10] that no HARQ retransmission state and related LCH restriction should be applied for a PUSCH scheduled by RAR. In more detail, UE should ignore the HARQ process configuration, i.e. HARQ retransmission state configuration, configured for HARQ process=0 for the case of a PUSCH transmission scheduled by RAR. Even though NW may configure HARQ process=0 with a certain HARQ retransmission state, e.g. HARQ state A or B, UE assumes for a PUSCH transmission scheduled by RAR UL grant, e.g. RACH Msg3, that no HARQ retransmission state is configured. This ensures that no LCH restrictions apart from the legacy LCH restrictions are applied for a PUSCH scheduled by RAR.

**Question 5:** **Do you agree UE ignores HARQ process configuration (e.g. configured HARQ mode) for the case of a PUSCH transmission scheduled by RAR as proposed in [10]?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments**  |
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**Issue 2) Configuration of Legacy and Mode A/B vs. Legacy or Mode A/B**

In the current RRC running CR, the fields *downlinkHARQ-FeedbackDisabled* and *uplinkHARQ-DRX-LCP-Mode-r17* use a 32-bit bitmap type with optional presence.

[1] notes that this may have some issues for both UL and DL HARQ. For example, if *uplinkHARQ-DRX-LCP-Mode-r17* field is absent, all of UL HARQ process would be legacy; while if *uplinkHARQ-DRX-LCP-Mode-r17* field is present, each bit of the 32-bit bitmap would be either 1 or 0, which means that all of UL HARQ processes would be either state A or B. The network cannot configure some UL HARQ process as state A, some as state B and some others as legacy behaviour at the same time. This seems to be an unnecessary restriction for network’s configuration.

Alternatively, [3] states that in NTN, the legacy operation will not work properly because of the large UE-gNB RTT. If neither State A nor State B is configured in NTN, the duration of the *drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerUL* would be smaller than the UE-gNB RTT, and therefore it would not give enough time to the UE to receive a possible UL retransmission grant from the network. This opinion is shared by [9], which states there is no benefit to configure the legacy HARQ state to a HARQ process of NTN cell, because both HARQ based retransmission and blind retransmission are not supported well by this HARQ state. If legacy HARQ state is excluded, the bitmap is suitable to configure the HARQ state. [16] adds that if legacy behaviour is wanted it can only be used for all HARQ process IDs.

**Question 6:** **If *uplinkHARQ-DRX-LCP-Mode-r17* is configured, what possible values can a HARQ process be mapped to?**

1. **‘HARQ mode A’ or ‘HARQ mode B’;**
2. **‘HARQ mode A’ or ‘HARQ mode B’ or ‘Legacy’.**

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## LCH-HARQ Process mapping details

As noted in [13], it is optional to configure HARQ with a state and a LCH with new LCP, thus coexistence of HARQ process wt/wo a states and coexistence of LCH wt/wo new LCP is possible in NTN. All possible LCP restrictions with consideration on HARQ states are listed as below:

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|  | HARQ mode A | HARQ mode B | No HARQ mode |
| Case 1 | Y | N | N |
| Case 2 | N | Y | N |
| Case 3 | N | N | Y |
| Case 4 | Y | Y | N |
| Case 5 | Y | N | Y |
| Case 6 | N | Y | Y |
| Case 7 | Y | Y | Y |

* Case 1 & 2) LCH mapped only to HARQ process configured with the same HARQ mode;
* Case 3) LCH mapped only to HARQ process not configured with a HARQ mode;
* Case 4) LCH mapped to HARQ process configured with either HARQ mode A or B;
* Case 5 & 6) LCH mapped only to HARQ process configured with the same HARQ mode or not configured with a HARQ mode;
* Case 7) LCH mapped to any HARQ process (HARQ Mode A or B or without configuration)

For an analysis of each option, companies are invited to refer to the pre-meeting summary in R2-2111331 or to the original contribution.

**Question 7:** **Which of the following are valid LCH to HARQ process mapping configurations?**

1. **LCH mapped only to HARQ process configured with the HARQ mode A;**
2. **LCH mapped only to HARQ process configured with the HARQ mode B;**
3. **LCH mapped only to HARQ process not configured with a HARQ mode;**
4. **LCH mapped to HARQ process configured with either HARQ mode A or B;**
5. **LCH mapped only to HARQ process configured with HARQ mode A or not configured with a HARQ mode;**
6. **LCH mapped only to HARQ process configured with HARQ mode B or not configured with a HARQ mode;**
7. **LCH mapped to any HARQ process (HARQ Mode A or B or without configuration). This may be realized by not configuring mapping rule for an LCH.**

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| **Company** | **Supported Option(s)** | **Additional comments**  |
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## RRC parameter details

In the 38.331 running CR for NTN, the fields *downlinkHARQ-FeedbackDisabled* and *uplinkHARQ-DRX-LCP-Mode-r17* are added in the IE *MAC-CellGroupConfig*. [1] argues that for better forward compatibility, e.g. when considering NTN CA in Rel-18, it is better to place these two fields under *PDSCH-ServingCellconfig* and *PUSCH-ServingCellConfig*, since different serving cells don’t have to have the same configurations, for better flexibility. [16] further notes that “*uplinkHARQ-DRX-Mode*” or “*uplinkDRX-Mode*” may be configured in the *MAC-CellGroupConfig* as all HARQ processes are shared in a cell group and setting it individually per serving cell by including the parameter in *PUSCH-ServingCellConfig*.

**Question 8:** **Should *uplinkHARQ-DRX-Mode* be included in *MAC-CellGroupConfig* or *PUSCH-ServingCellConfig*?**

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| **Company** | **Preferred Option** | **Additional comments**  |
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# Configured Grant/SPS aspects

## HARQ/LCP configuration for CG/SPS

As noted in [5], [6], and [17] The HARQ-processes ID of both CG and SPS are calculated from parameters of radio resource allocation in time domain, e.g. configured periodicity, start off in time domain, configured HARQ process number. This is different from dynamic scheduling, where there is no relationship between HARQ ID and radio resource allocation in time domain.

Currently, for dynamic grant only the granularity of HARQ process is supported for enabling/disabling HARQ feedback and configuration of UL HARQ mode.

**Issue 1) Configuration of DL HARQ feedback enable/disable for SPS**

In the SPS case, if the HARQ process mechanism specified for the dynamic DL grant is followed, it may result in the UE transmitting HARQ feedback for a logical channel data that is received in SPS occasion X but NOT transmitting HARQ feedback for the same logical channel data that is received in the SPS occasion Y [6] , where:

* SPS occasion X belongs to HARQ process ID with HARQ feedback enabled
* SPS occasion Y belongs to HARQ process ID with HARQ feedback disabled.

[6] notes that this is not the expected behaviour for a logical channel data. The network would have to make sure this won’t happen, i.e., for a given logical channel data that requires HARQ reliability, network will skip transmitting PDSCH in the SPS occasions Y. This incurs additional delay to data.

The following two options are proposed to handle the HARQ retransmission for DL SPS:

* **Option 1**: DL HARQ feedback is enabled/disabled per HARQ process (as in DG): Whether UE should send HARQ feedback for the DL PDSCH reception in SPS occasion is determined by the HARQ behaviour configured by RRC for the dynamic DL grant.
* **Option 2:** DL HARQ feedback is enabled/disabled per SPS configuration: for the SPS occasions belonging to a DL SPS configuration, all the HARQ processes are considered either HARQ feedback disabled or enabled.

**Question 9:** **How should enabled/disabled DL HARQ feedback be configured for SPS?**

1. **DL HARQ feedback is enabled/disabled per HARQ process (as in DG);**
2. **DL HARQ feedback is enabled/disabled per SPS configuration;**
3. **Other, please describe**

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**Issue 2) Configuration of UL HARQ mode for CG**

[5] describes a similar issue for CG, where for the same set of configured grants different transmission occasions may result in using HARQ processes configured with different HARQ states after calculation. Using HARQ processes with different HARQ states for different transmission occasions can lead to out-of-order reception.

[5] notes this is obviously not reasonable as the same set of configured grants are usually configured for the same traffic, and proposes that RAN2 should therefore study UL HARQ mode configuration for configured grant besides dynamic grant, starting with the following candidate solutions:

* **Option 1:** Independent signalling is used to configure HARQ mode for configured grant, i.e., HARQ State A/B is configured per CG.
* **Option 2:** Signalling of HARQ mode for dynamic grant (i.e. per HARQ process) also applies to configured grant and NW implementation guarantees that the calculated HARQ processes for configured grant have the same HARQ mode, i.e. through the parameters such as nrofHARQ-processes, harq-ProcID-Offset and harq-procID-offset2.
* **Option 3:** Signalling of HARQ mode for dynamic grant (i.e. per HARQ process) also applies to configured grant and configured grant is mapped to the HARQ processes with the same HARQ mode. This can be realized if we allow that the calculated HARQ process IDs can be different from the HARQ process IDs actually used.

**Question 10:** **How should UL HARQ mode (e.g. A or B) be configured for configured grant?**

1. **HARQ mode is configured per configured grant;**
2. **HARQ mode is configured per HARQ process and NW implementation guarantees that the calculated HARQ processes for configured grant have the same HARQ mode;**
3. **HARQ mode is configured per HARQ process and configured grant is mapped to the HARQ processes with the same HARQ mode;**
4. **Other, please describe.**

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**Issue 3) Applicability of LCH mapping configuration to CG**

In RAN2 #115e a new LCP mapping restriction as agreed for dynamic grant in NTN, however it is not clear whether this restriction also applies to configured grant case.

Applicability of the new LCP restriction to configured grant case is supported in [7] and [9], where in [7] it is argued that if UL HARQ retransmission state is agreed to be configured per HARQ process for CG, then HARQ retransmission state configuration is not related to DG/CG, thus LCH to HARQ state mapping should be agnostic to DG/CG. [9] also does not see a reason to preclude new LCP restriction for configured grant.

Alternatively, [10] [12] and [13] do not support applying the new LCP restriction to configured grant, stating in that for configured grant, the existing *allowedCG-List* is configured to a logical channel, MAC SDUs from the logical channel can only be mapped to the indicated configured grant configuration, so the network can control the allowed CG type and CG to be used for transmission of certain LCHs. Furthermore [12] mentions that if per-CG HARQ retransmission scheme is used, it means one CG should have only one retransmission scheme and allowedCG-List can be reused to do LCP for different retransmission scheme in NTN. It is reasonable since the LCHs with similar QoS can be mapped to the same CG .

**Question 11:** **Do you agree new LCP mapping restriction introduced for dynamic grant also applies to configured grant?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments**  |
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## ConfiguredGrantTimer

As described in [16], for a configured grant configuration, the network may configure *configuredGrantTimer* or not:

* If *configuredGrantTimer* is configured for a CG-config: HARQ processes will not be used for a new CG transmission while it is running, and this allows the gNB to schedule retransmissions of that HARQ process ID (HP ID), if needed.
* If *configuredGrantTimer* is not configured for a CG-config and the periodicity is less than the HARQ RTT, then the HARQ process IDs will be reused before a HARQ RTT has elapsed when the UE has UL data to transmit.

When *configuredGrantTimer* is configured for a CG-config and periodicity is lower than the HARQ RTT, new CG transmissions may reuse a HARQ process ID before a HARQ RTT has elapsed. If *configuredGrantTimer* is not configured for a CG-config and the periodicity is longer than the HARQ RTT, retransmission of a HARQ process ID is possible based on the UL decoding result.

**Issue 1) configuredGrantTimer extension**

As noted in [7], for a HARQ process configured with configured grant, since there is no ACK feedback from the gNB, UE needs to know when the HARQ process can use the configured grant to transmit new data again.

According to the current specification, the unit of *configuredGrantTimer* is in multiples of *periodicity*, the value range is 1-64, where for smaller value of *periodicity* the length of *configuredGrantTimer* may not be sufficient to cover the UE-gNB-RTT. To ensure that the HARQ process is able to receive re-scheduling, the periodicity of configured grant will take into account the UE-gNB RTT. In RAN2#116e, the following was agreed:

*configuredGrantTimer can be extended in NTN. FFS details of when extension is applicable and method of extention.*

There have been two options proposed via contribution:

* **Option 1**: Introducing value of *configuredGrantTimer* larger than 64.
* **Option 2:** value of the *configuredGrantTimer* is extended by UE-gNB-RTT (similar to how the *drx-HARQ-RTT-TimerUL* is extended).

**Question 12a:** **What is your preferred method to extend *configuredGrantTimer* in NTN?**

1. **Introducing value(s) of *configuredGrantTimer* larger than 64;**
2. **Value of the *configuredGrantTimer* is extended by UE-gNB-RTT;**
3. **Other, please describe.**

**Note: if preferred option is 1), please provide one or more possible value(s) to be added.**

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**Question 12b:** **Please describe in which scenarios *configuredGrantTimer* should be extended (e.g. always; when *periodicity* is short; for GEO only etc.)?**

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| **Company** | **Applicable scenarios**  |
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**Issue 2) Impact of UL HARQ mode to CG timer**

In [6] and [19] it is proposed that the configured HARQ mode be associated with the configuration of the CG timer, for example:

* For the configured grant for which the *configuredGrantTimer* is configured, the HARQ retransmission state is considered to be “mode A”.
* For the configured grant for which the *configuredGrantTimer* is NOT configured, the HARQ retransmission state is considered to be “mode B”.

It is further noted in both contributions that for the case the configuredGrantTimer is configured, the value of needs to be configured sufficiently long (e.g. extended by UE-gNB RTT [19]) however this is addressed in another Issue.

**Question 13:** **Do you agree UL HARQ mode is associated with *configuredGrantTimer* configuration (i.e., *configuredGrantTimer* configured = HARQ mode A and *configuredGrantTimer* NOT configured = HARQ mode B)?**

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| **Company** | **Agree/Disagree** | **Additional comments**  |
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# Summary

<To be generated pending company feedback>

# Conclusion

In this contribution the following proposals are suggested based on contributions submitted to RAN2#116e AI 8.10.2.2:

<To be generated pending company feedback>

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