3GPP TSG-RAN Meeting #90-eRP-20xxxx

Electronic Meeting, 7-11 December 2020

Agenda Item: 9.11

Source: Email discussion moderator (Intel)

Title: Report from Email Discussion [90E][36][SUL\_UL-DL]

Document for: Discussion and decision

# 1 Introduction

This documents reports on the following email discussion during RAN#90-e:

**[90E][36][SUL\_UL-DL]**

Goal: Generate an agreeable way forward.

Input contributions covered: RP-202747.

## 2 Initial Round

The tdoc RP-202747 makes 2 proposals:

**Proposal 1:**

* **RAN to decide between Option 1 and Option 2**
  + **Option 1: DL/UL configuration will not be introduced for SUL**
  + **Option 2: DL/UL configuration will be introduced for SUL**

**Proposal 2:**

* **In case Option 1 is chosen**
  + **From the capabilities, and all other perspectives, SUL is treated as FDD**
* **In case Option 2 is chosen** 
  + **From the capabilities and all other perspectives, SUL is treated the same as the band it shares frequency with (in case there are multiple such bands, RAN4 can make the determination which duplex mode is to be considered)**

Proposal 2 is reliant on the outcome of Proposal 1 and so for the initial round of discussion companies are requested to provide their views on Proposal 1 only. After making some conclusion on proposal 1 the discussion can be expanded to cover proposal 2.

Companies feedback related to Proposal 1.

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| **Company** | **Comments** |
| Huawei | Option 1.  In RAN4 it is clear that SUL, SDL, FDD and TDD are four different duplex mode and the corresponding bands are specified. And in WID for SUL on 2.3GHz and 1.9GHz, it is clear that those bands are purely uplink.  And RAN4 finalized all the SUL bands with the frequency range corresponding to TDD bands based on the assumption that all slots are available for UL on the SUL band as clearly shown in the agreed CRs. So only Option 1 is aligned with RAN4 assumption in Rel-16.  We do not see there is any agreement to introduce Option 2. Option 2 seems new and can only be considered for later releases, but for Rel-16 there is only one possible choice, i.e., Option 1. |
| Qualcomm | We somewhat prefer Option 1 but would not object to either.  Choosing Option 1 will require overturning a RAN1 decision on considering SUL as TDD when SUL is in a TDD band. |
| vivo | We think option 1 is more straightforward thus preferred. But the question we have is do we make such clarification from Rel-15 or Rel-16?? |
| OPPO | This is tightly coupled with the discussion of [90e][38], where [38] goes for a CR to treat the SUL as FDD, and [36] proposes to add a DL/UL configuration to handle the SUL for TDD case.  In our understanding, although so far the SUL for TDD case is currently not so critical as analysed in 2569, option-2 in proposal-1 is more future proof. Considering the reasoning in 2569, even if we go for introduction of D/U configuration as in option-2 of proposal-1, would the intention of 2569/2570 be also covered, if a full UL configuration is defined / allowed for SUL of TDD band? |
| CATT | Option 1.  Although SUL in TDD band was introduced in Rel-16 but it is clearly stated in the WIDs that the band is dedicated for SUL so there is no co-existence issue. |
| Huawei-2 | We would like to ask Qualcomm which RAN1 agreement you are referring to?  The proposal 1 is too general. When SUL overlaps with paired spectrum, we do not need to discuss applicability of DL/UL configuration. We should be careful about the conclusion.  By the way, we would like to provide more background on what happens for SUL in Rel-16. There are three new SUL bands specified in Rel-16, which corresponds to the frequency range of the existing TDD bands (n95, n97 and n98), as shown in our paper RP-202569. Take n98 for an example. In the WID RP-201363, it is clearly stated in the justification part that  *Band n39 with frequency range* *1880-1920MHz is an NR TDD band. There are no co-existence issues in n39/B39 and in China there is only one operator deployed in 1880-1920MHz. In order to meet the potential network deployment request of operator, a new SUL band (1880-1920MHz) will be defined under this WI*.  In the objective part, it is stated that  *NOTE: all the slots can be used as UL in this SUL band*.  In the agreed CR R4-2014330, there is a note  *NOTE 15: The requirements for this band are applicable only where no other NR or E-UTRA TDD operating band(s) are used within the frequency range of this band in the same geographical area. For scenarios where other NR or E-UTRA TDD operating band(s) are used within the frequency range of this band in the same geographical area, special co-existence requirements may apply that are not covered by the 3GPP specifications.*  So it is clear that in Rel-16 only Option 1 is the assumption based on which the work is done. Thus we prefer to adopt Option 1 and finalize the Rel-16 work. If companies still are interested in this work, we can discuss the other option in the future release. |
| ZTE | At this point, we are open to consider either Option1 or Option2 but we would like to first understand what each of these options implies. So we have the following questions:   1. Is it a common understanding that each of these Options implies what proposal 2 has? 2. Regardless of which option we decide, do we assume the same principle across the specs including e.g. TDD/FDD differentiation for UE capabilities and UE behaviour on SUL defined in the specs? 3. Is it a common understanding on the statements in the WID highlighted by Huawei above that the potential co-existence issue for the scenarios where SUL is overlapped with TDD operation does not exist? Based on the WID, it seems that such scenarios may still exist but it is just that special co-existence requirements for such scenarios are not covered by the 3GPP RAN4 spec. Then when RAN1 specs are designed, should it be based on the assumption that this co-existence issue does not exist? 4. Which RAN1 decision Qualcomm was referring to when they said “considering SUL as TDD when SUL is in a TDD band”? 5. Which release(s) does this proposal apply to? |
| Nokia, NSB | We are fine to go with Option 1 if that is indeed the majority preference, but with this option it would be good to clearly note that the specifications do not support SUL on a TDD band that has any bi-directional operation on that band. One also needs to address consistency with the related RAN1 agreements, as pointed out by Qualcomm, as well as ensure that RAN4 work including co-existence should also take this into account. |

### 2.1 Moderator summary from Initial Round

8 companies have provided comments to the discussion. Option 1 is preferred or acceptable to all companies. Option 2 would be an acceptable approach for 3 companies and one of those companies considers that this option is more future proof. Given these responses, it seems clear that there is no strong motivation to introduce new signalling of the DL/UL configuration for an SUL carrier into Release 16 at this late stage.

**Moderator conclusion from the Initial Round**: No new signalling will be introduced in Rel-16 to provide a DL/UL configuration for an SUL carrier.

## 2 Intermediate Round

Given the conclusion from the initial round, the next question to conclude is whether in Rel-16 any further clarification to the handing of SUL carriers is required. In RP-202747, Qualcomm consider that some clarification is required for the interpretation of UE capabilities, specifically when a per UE capability related to SUL is differentiated between FDD and TDD and the SUL carrier is within unpaired spectrum, should the FDD or TDD capability be considered?

Furthermore, some of the responses have suggested that there may be additional aspects within the specifications that could need some clarification, for example:

- The Nokia suggestion to clarify that the "specifications do not support SUL on a TDD band that has any bi-directional operation on that band ".

- Clarification such as that proposed in RP-202569 and discussed within email discussion [38]

With these points in mind, in the Intermediate Round company feedback on 3 aspects is requested.

**Question 1:** Companies are requested to provide feedback, if any, on the moderator conclusion from the Initial Round. Furthermore, in the Initial Round a question was asked by some companies to Qualcomm to clarify what was meant by "RAN1 decision on considering SUL as TDD when SUL is in a TDD band. ". I would like to request that Qualcomm give a response to this question here.

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| **Company** | **Comments** |
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**Question 2:** Companies are requested to provide feedback on the interpretation of a per UE capability related to SUL that is differentiated between FDD and TDD. The proposal from RP-202747 is that the FDD capability is always considered (which would imply that the TDD version of this capability has no usage).

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| **Company** | **Comments** |
| Intel | From RAN1 103e,  **Conclusion:**   * Rel-16 per-UE capabilities with xDD differentiation and FRx differentiation can be differentiated for SUL/SDL bands by "per-band” capability signaling for each SUL band and SDL band. * FFS for Rel-15 per-UE capabilities with xDD differentiation. * FFS if two different bands are involved in the Rel-15/Rel-16 UE capability   Thus, it seems the question is for Rel-15 or Rel-17+ as Rel-16 case can be handled by per-band capability signaling.  Our preference is:   * For an SUL band overlapped with TDD, TDD capability is applied. * For an SUL band overlapped with FDD, FDD capability is applied. * For an SUL band overlapped with neither TDD nor FDD, FDD capability is applied (this is for future proof, not the case up to now). |
| Samsung | Based on the conclusion and comments of companies from the initial round discussion, it is clear that SUL can be treated as FDD since “*all the slots can be used as UL in this SUL band”*. We are not convinced that additional TDD/FDD differentiation for SUL is necessary. Therefore, we think considering only FDD capability for SUL is enough. |
| OPPO | We prefer further discussion on this at WG level. This problem was triggered by RAN2, covering both SUL and SDL, and later replied by RAN4 without too much preference expressed, and by RAN1 with the conclusion as indicated by Intel above.  For Rel-15 capability, it is preferred to leave it to further discussion at RAN1 first, as indicated in the LS R1-2009576. Or if companies would like to solve at RAN level, we tend to limit the conclusion to R15 only (i.e., do not predict for R17), for which we only need to solve the SUL with clear corresponding FDD band. |
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**Question 3:** Companies are requested to provide feedback on whether any additional specification clarifications may be required. The proposal from RP-202747 was that in "all other perspectives, SUL is treated as FDD ". However, this wording seems too general to be a useful basis for discussion so I would like companies to give more definite examples for what further clarifications are required.

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| **Company** | **Comments** |
| Intel | See Intel’s answer to Question 2 |
| Samsung | We do not think additional clarification is needed since it is already clearly described in WID as captured by Huawei. From RAN1 specification point of view, there is another email discussion of [38] related to clarification on PUCCH repetition on SUL band. If the CR discussed in [38] is agreed, there is no ambiguity on UE behaviour anymore. |
| OPPO | As replied to Q2.  We also prefer a conclusion to a concrete issue, e.g., how to handle the per-UE capability for R15. In that case, conclusion like “SUL is treated as FDD” can be a candidate. But as replied in Q2, our first preference is to leave this to WG discussion. |
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## Annex: Contacts

Please provide a company contact that the email discussion moderator can contact if required.

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