3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 #119bis-e R2-221xxxx

Online, 10th – 19th Oct, 2022

Agenda Item: 8.1.2

Source: ZTE Corporation

Title: Report of [AT119bis-e][NCR] NCR open issues (ZTE)

Document for: Discussion, Decision

# Introduction

This document is the report of the following offline discussion:

* Side control information signaling options (i.e. RRC vs. OAM)
* RRC states of NCR-MT
* Support of SRBs/DRBs
* NCR-Fwd ON/OFF
* SI impacts
* RRM functions

* [AT119bis-e][701][NCR] NCR open issues (ZTE)

Scope: see above.

Intended outcome: Report.

Deadline: TBD

# Contact Information

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# Discussion

This document is to collect company views on the NCR open issues

## Side control information signalling options

According to the TR, there are 3 options for the NCR-MT to obtain the necessary configuration for receiving the L1/L2 signaling of the side control information.

- Option 1: The necessary configuration is from RRC.

- Option 2: The necessary configuration is from OAM or hard-coded.

- Option 3: The necessary configuration is partially configured by RRC and partially configured by OAM or hard-coded.

**Q1: Which option do companies prefer to configure NCR-MT for receiving L1/L2 signalling of side control information?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Option 1 (RRC);  Option 2 (OAM);  Option 3(RRC+OAM) | Comments |
| Qualcomm | Option 1 | L1/2 signaling (DCI, MAC CE) is always RRC-configured. OAM configuration is out of scope.  OAM should not be used for L1/L2 signaling configuration. |
| ZTE | Option 1 |  |
| CATT | Exclude Option2 | Option 1 can be used as baseline, and option3 can be FFS, which we think it is better to wait for more information from other groups. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Option 1 | According to the TR 38867, the “necessary configuration for receiving the L1/L2 signaling of the side control information” includes the following two aspects:   * The configurations of PHY channels to carry the L1/L2 signaling * The configurations of L1/L2 signaling   In our understanding, such configurations need to be changed dynamically according to the network condition, and thus should be configured by RRC naturally. |
| Futurewei | Option 1 | Option 1 is consistent with the second objective, which is RAN2-led, in the WID. |
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## RRC states of NCR-MT

Companies are invited to show your views on which RRC state(s) can be supported by NCR-MT.

* RRC\_CONNECTED;
* RRC\_IDLE;
* RRC\_INACTIVE

**Q2: Which RRC state(s) can be supported by NCR-MT?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Company | applicable RRC states  (answer Yes/No/FFS) | | | Comments |
| RRC\_  CONNECTED | RRC\_  IDLE | RRC\_  INACTIVE |
| Qualcomm | Yes | Yes | Yes | Same as IAB-MT. |
| ZTE | Yes | Yes | FFS | We understand RRC\_INACTIVE state is not so important for NCR-MT because NCR-MT will not change its RRC state frequently and SDT seems not needed.  Currently, RRC\_INACTIVE is defined as mandatory feature with capability signalling， if most companies want to support RRC\_INACTIVE state, we suggest to change it into optional feature for NCR-MT. |
| CATT | Yes | Yes | No | In our understanding, the main principle of introducing RRC\_INACTIVE state is that the UE is able to return to the connected state quickly. Considering the C-link doesn’t need this requirement, we prefer not to support RRC inactive state in the current release. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes | Yes, but | FFS | Clarification is needed when NCR-MT should be in IDLE, e.g. whether it should be released to IDLE by the gNB deliberately and if so, in which case.  For RRC\_INACTIVE, more justification is needed. |
| Futurewei | Yes | Yes | FFS | For RRC\_INACTIVE state, we can wait for more RAN1 progress. |
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## Support of SRBs/DRBs

Whether NCR-MT supports SRBs (i.e. SRB0/1/2) and DRB?

To facilitate the discussion, rapporteur has provided some information from other WG:

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| *#RAN3 online agreement made on Thursday 10-13:*  **The NCR-OAM connectivity requirement should be supported, further details can be discussed.**  Nok: This OAM requirement has no impact in RAN3 |

So RAN3 just agreed to support NCR-OAM connectivity requirement, as proposed by some companies, one possible way for transmitting OAM traffic from NCR-MT to gNB (or vice versa) is to establish a PDU-session over a DRB, similar to IAB.

**Q3: Whether SRBs and DRB are supported by NCR-MT?**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Support of SRB/DRB  (answer Yes/No/FFS) | | | | Comments |
| SRB0 | SRB1 | SRB2 | DRB |
| Qualcomm | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | SRB0 and SRB1 are mandatory for RRC setup  SRB2 is mandatory for NAS.  DRB should be optional. It may be used to enable OAM connectivity via PDU session.  Note: The OAM connectivity REQUIREMENT implies that 3GPP has to support a mechanism for OAM connectivity. It does not imply that implementations have to use this mechanism. |
| ZTE | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | For DRB, we understand it is still a mandatory feature for NCR-MT, otherwise, we will introduce a new connection type which was not supported by legacy UEs (i.e. SRB0/1/2 but without DRB), and this may cause more specification impacts. |
| CATT | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Thanks rapporteur providing the information about NCR-OAM connectivity requirement, hence we think it is reasonable to support DRB as well right now. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Yes | Yes | Yes | FFS | The NCR-OAM connectivity doesn’t necessarily reuqire the support of DRB. RAN2 may need to discuss more about what should be transmitted via the NCR-OAM connectivity. |
| Futurewei | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Support of DRB can be optional. And, the number of DRBs supported by NCR-MTs can be significantly reduced. |
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## NCR-Fwd ON/OFF

Several companies propose to discuss the linkage between NCR-Fwd ON/OFF and the RRC state of NCR-MT, rapporteur has summarized them into following options:

* Option 1: When NCR-Fwd is ON, NCR-MT can be in any RRC states (e.g. RRC\_CONNECTED or RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE);
* Option 2: When NCR-Fwd is ON, NCR-MT must be in RRC\_CONNECTED state; when NCR-MT is in RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE states, NCR-Fwd must be “OFF”;
* Option 3: When NCR-Fwd is ON, NCR-MT must be in RRC\_CONNECTED state; when NCR-MT is in RRC\_IDLE state, NCR-Fwd must be “OFF”; when NCR-MT is in RRC\_INACTIVE state, NCR-Fwd can be “ON” or “OFF”;
* Option 4: Up to RAN1, considering RAN1 is discussing the fallback mechanism for NCR.

**Q4: Which option is preferred for the linkage between NCR-Fwd ON/OFF and the RRC state of NCR-MT?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Preferred Option | Comments |
| Qualcomm | Option 2 | ON/OFF is part of side control and therefore signaled on **slot-level time scale**. The NCR-MT must be **operational** when receiving side control signaling.  As the baseline, the NCR-MT is operational when RRC-CONNECTED.  The NCR-MT is certainly not operational and cannot receive side control in RRC-IDLE.  The question arises, if the NCR-MT could be operational in RRC-INACTIVE:   * What are the benefits? * How would it receive MAC-CE’s in this state? * How would it perform beam control, power control, etc on the BH link?   To keep things simple during the first NCR WI, we should assume that the NCR-MT can only receive side control including ON/OFF info when RRC CONNECTED. |
| ZTE | Option 4 | RAN1 is discussing the fallback mechanism for NCR, e.g. when the NCR-MT is in RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE state, the NCR-Fwd can still “ON”, but it operates like a traditional RF-repeater (no side control information). See RAN1 agreements made last meeting:   |  | | --- | | The NCR-Fwd is always expected to be “OFF” unless otherwise explicitly or implicitly indicated by gNB.   * Note-1: This applies to the case regardless of the RRC state of NCR-MT. * Note-2: Indication (e.g., received when NCR-MT in RRC-connected) or DRX state of NCR-MT to control the ON-OFF behaviour of NCR-Fwd when the NCR-MT is in RRC-idle/inactive is not precluded.   The above is not meant to imply any signalling design for NCR-Fwd ON-OFF. |   From RAN2 perspective, we suggest to wait for RAN1 and then decide if there is any RAN2 impact. |
| CATT | Option 4 | Same view as ZTE. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Option 4 | To avoid duplicated discussion and contradictory solutions in RAN1 and RAN2, Better to wait for RAN1 first. |
| Futurewei | Option 4 | Or, if we want to capture any agreement made in RAN1 so far, it can be the following:  Option 5. When NCR-Fwd is OFF, NCR-MT can be in any RRC states (e.g. RRC\_CONNECTED or RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE). |
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## SI impacts

For legacy SIB configuration, companies are invited to check the following proposals:

* Proposal 1: NCR-MT should ignore cellBarred indication;
* Proposal 2: NCR-MT should ignore Unified Access Control (UAC) configuration;
* Proposal 3: NCR-MT should ignore cellReservedForOperatorUse, cellReservedForFutureUse，cellReservedForOtherUse and intraFreqReselection indications.

**Q5: Which proposal(s) do you support?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Supported proposals  (P1, P2, P3) | Comments |
| Qualcomm | P1, P2, P3 | Same as IAB |
| ZTE | P1, P2, P3 | Same as IAB |
| CATT | P1~P3 | Same as IAB |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | P1, P2, P3 | Same as IAB |
| Futurewei | P1, P2, P3 | Agree with above companies. |
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## RRM functions

For the following RRC functions, which one(s) should be or can be supported by NCR-MT?

* C1: RRM measurements in RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE;
* C2: RRM measurements in RRC\_CONNECTED;
* C3: Cell (re)selection;
* C4: Handover;
* C5: RLM;
* C6: BFD, BFR

Note: based on the progress in RAN4, most companies suggest to wait for RAN2 input.

**Q5: Which RRM functions should be or can be supported by NCR-MT?**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Supported RRM functions  (answer Yes/No/FFS) | | | | | | Comments |
| C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6 |
| Qualcomm | Optional | Optional | Mandatoary | Optional | Mandatory | Mandatory | C3 is necessary for NCR-MT to connect to the network.  C5 is necessary for NCR-MT to determine RLF, i.e., if it is operational or not.  C6 is necessary for the NCR-MT to keep the BH link stable  C1/C2/C4: This is not necessary for NCR operation. It can be optional and left up to implementation. |
| ZTE | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Optional | C3 must be supported, so NCR-MT can select new cell when change its location;  C1 is the basis for supporting C3;  C4 is needed when operator/network wants to dynamically switch the NCR-MT to serve another overlapping cell or carrier;  C2 is the basis for supporting C4;  C5 must be supported, so NCR-MT can detect the radio link problem and reconnect if necessary;  C6 can be optional for NCR-MT if RLF is supported. |
| CATT | No | No | No | No | No | No | We think that NCR is mainly deployed by operator. And according to the WID, NCR is only single hop stationary network-controlled repeaters. Hence, cell (re)selection, handover RRM measurement may be unnecessary. Considering the cost of supporting more useless function, we prefer not need to support RRM measurement, cell (re-)selection and handover. For the other functions, we fail to see the necessity of mandatory requirement in the current release. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | FFS | FFS | Yes for cell selection | No | FFS | FFS | * The cell selection in C3 should be supported for the NCR-MT to access a cell. * The cell re-selection in C3 should not be supported as the NCR doesn’t move. * C4 should not be supported as the NCR doesn’t move. * C1 should not be supported. According to 38.133, there is no requirement of RRM measurement on NCR-MT to perform cell selection. * C2 should not be supported as the NCR doesn’t move. * C5/C6 should be FFS in RAN2 and wait for RAN1 as at least BFD/RLM is up to RAN1. If BFD/RLM is supported by RAN1, RAN2 can further discuss BFR. |
| Futurewei | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Per the WID, “For only single hop stationary network-controlled repeaters”, we think C3, C5, and C6 are sufficient for the operations of NCR-MT. C4, C1, and C2 are not needed and should be avoided to reduce complexity. |
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# Conclusion

Based on companies’ input, proposals are listed as follows.

**TBD**