**3GPP TSG-RAN WG3 Meeting #119 *R3-230832***

**Athens, Greece, 27th February – 03 March, 2023**

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| *CR-Form-v12.2* | | | | | | | | |
| **CHANGE REQUEST** | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **37.340** | **CR** |  | **rev** | **-** | **Current version:** | **17.3.0** |  |
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| *For* [***HE******LP***](http://www.3gpp.org/3G_Specs/CRs.htm#_blank)*on using this form: comprehensive instructions can be found at* [*http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests*](http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests)*.* | | | | | | | | |
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| ***Proposed change affects:*** | UICC apps |  | ME |  | Radio Access Network | **x** | Core Network |  |

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| ***Title:*** | Clarifications on prepared PSCell addition by candidate SN in CPC-A | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Source to WG:*** | NEC, ZTE, CATT, Ericsson, Huawei, Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell, Google Inc. Intel Corporation, Lenovo | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Source to TSG:*** | R3 | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | |
| ***Work item code:*** | LTE\_NR\_DC\_enh2-Core | | | | |  | ***Date:*** | | | 2022-02-27 |
|  |  | | | |  | |  | | |  |
| ***Category:*** | **F** |  | | | | | ***Release:*** | | | Rel-17 |
|  | *Use one of the following categories:* ***F*** *(correction)* ***A*** *(mirror corresponding to a change in an earlier release)* ***B*** *(addition of feature),* ***C*** *(functional modification of feature)* ***D*** *(editorial modification)*  Detailed explanations of the above categories can be found in 3GPP [TR 21.900](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/21900.htm). | | | | | | | | *Use one of the following releases: Rel-8 (Release 8) Rel-9 (Release 9) Rel-10 (Release 10) Rel-11 (Release 11) … Rel-16 (Release 16) Rel-17 (Release 17) Rel-18 (Release 18) Rel-19 (Release 19)* | |
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| ***Reason for change:*** | | Regading the prepared PSCell addition by target (= candidate) SN, in 37.340, e,g, for EN-DC case, it is described that “In case of CPA or inter-SN CPC, this procedure may also be triggered by the candidate SN to add some prepared PSCells from the suggested list or cancel part of the prepared PSCells”.  However, for **SN-initiated inter-SN CPC** case, it is not clear how and whether the MN can handle the request to add more prepared PSCells from the candidate SN.  - option 1) the MN forwards to the source SN, the request to add more prepared PSCells from the candidate SN in SN-initiated CPC or  - option 2) the MN does not forward to the source SN, but directly send the added prepared cells to the UE including the execution condition that was stored in the MN early received from the source SN in SN initiated CPC procedure.  Considering it should give a chance to the source SN to decide whether to accept the added candidate cells from candidate SN e.g. due to the limitation that have been used by other candidate SN which may not be possible to add more, and in fact, RAN2#119e concluded that (RAN2#119e minutes) “***RAN2 confirms that the source SN replies with execution condition(s) for additional prepared PSCell(s) triggered by the candidate SN in SN-initiated CPC*.**”, therefore option 1 should be the best way to take.  Therefore, it should be clarified how the MN can behave in the stage 2 37.340. | | | | | | | | |
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| ***Summary of change:*** | | A NOTE is added to clarify that the MN forwards to the source SN, the request to add more prepared PSCells from the candidate SN in SN-initiated CPC  The same apply for removing some prepared PSCells from the candidate SN in SN-initiated CPC  Impact Analysis:  Impact assessment towards the previous version of the specification (same release):  This CR has isolated impact with the previous version of the specification (same release) on the Inter-SN Conditional PSCell Change (CPC), this corrects clarifies where the specification ambiguous. | | | | | | | | |
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| ***Consequences if not approved:*** | | Specification remains ambiguous regarding how and whether the MN can handle the request to add more prepared PSCells from the candidate SN in SN-initiated inter-SN CPC. | | | | | | | | |
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| ***Clauses affected:*** | | 10.3.1, 10.3.2 | | | | | | | | |
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|  | | **Y** | **N** |  | | | |  | | |
| ***Other specs*** | |  | **x** | Other core specifications | | | | TS/TR ... CR ... | | |
| ***affected:*** | |  | **x** | Test specifications | | | | TS/TR ... CR ... | | |
| ***(show related CRs)*** | |  | **x** | O&M Specifications | | | | TS/TR ... CR ... | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Other comments:*** | |  | | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | | | |
| ***This CR's revision history:*** | |  | | | | | | | | |

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| *Start of change part* |

## 10.3 Secondary Node Modification (MN/SN initiated)

### 10.3.1 EN-DC

The Secondary Node Modification procedure may be initiated either by the MN or by the SN and be used to modify, establish or release bearer contexts, to transfer bearer contexts to and from the SN or to modify other properties of the UE context within the same SN. It may also be used to transfer an NR RRC message from the SN to the UE via the MN and the response from the UE via MN to the SN (e.g. when SRB3 is not used). In case of CPA or inter-SN CPC, this procedure is used to modify CPA or inter-SN CPC configuration within the same candidate SN. In case of CPA or inter-SN CPC, this procedure may also be triggered by the candidate SN to add some prepared PSCells from the suggested list or cancel part of the prepared PSCells. This procedure may be initiated by the MN or SN to request the SN or MN to deactivate or activate the SCG.

The Secondary Node modification procedure does not necessarily need to involve signalling towards the UE.

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**SN initiated SN Modification with MN involvement**



Figure 10.3.1-2: SN Modification procedure - SN initiated with MN involvement

The SN uses the procedure to perform configuration changes of the SCG within the same SN, e.g. to trigger the release of SCG bearer(s) and the SCG RLC bearer of split bearer(s) (upon which the MN may release the bearer or maintain current bearer type or reconfigure it to an MCG bearer, either MN terminated or SN terminated), to trigger the release of SCG resources (e.g., release SCG lower layer resources but keep SN), and to trigger PSCell change (e.g. when a new security key is required or when the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery). The MN cannot reject the release request of SCG bearer and the SCG RLC bearer of a split bearer and the release request of SCG resources. The SN also uses this procedure to activate or deactivate the SCG. The MN shall either accept modification of all of the requested SCG bearer(s) and the SCG RLC bearer of split bearer(s) and the request of activation or deactivation of the SCG, or fail the procedure. Figure 10.3.1-2 shows an example signalling flow for an SN initiated SgNB Modification procedure, with MN involvement.

1. The SN sends the *SgNB Modification Required* message including a NR RRC configuration message, which may contain bearer context related, other UE context related information and the new SCG radio resource configuration. The SN may request the SCG to be activated or deactivated. For bearer release or modification, a corresponding E-RAB list is included in the *SgNB Modification Required* message. In case of change of security key, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that a S-KgNB update is required. In case the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that PDCP data recovery is required. In case SN decides to trigger SCG release, the E-RABs to be modified list includes all the E-RABs of the UE with SCG resource indicated as not present for each E-RAB.

The SN can decide whether the change of security key is required.

NOTE 1a: In case SN includes the indication of full RRC configuration in *SgNB Modification Required* message to MN e.g. comprehension failure upon intra-CU inter-DU change, MN performs release and add of the NR SCG part of the configuration but does not release SN terminated radio bearers towards the UE.

NOTE 1b: In case that either CHO or any conditional reconfiguration is prepared, and if a prepared SN initiated intra-SN CPC procedure or reconfiguration with sync of the SCG using SRB3 is executed, the SN shall notify to the MN via the SgNB Modification Required message. The SgNB Modification Required message may include the SCG configuration that has been applied in the UE. The MN considers that a conditional reconfiguration, if any configured in the UE, has been released due to the execution of the (conditional) SCG reconfiguration.

NOTE 1c: In case of SN initiated CPC and in case that a candidate SN triggered the SN Initiated SN Modification procedure to include some more prepared PSCells (within the candidate cells suggested by the SN i.e. the source SN in SN initiated CPC) or to remove some prepared PSCells, the MN may decide to trigger the step 2 towards the source SN.

2/3. The MN initiated SN Modification procedure may be triggered by the *SN Modification Required* message (e.g. to provide information such as data forwarding addresses, new SN security key, measurement gap, etc...)

NOTE 2: If only SN security key is provided in step 2, the MN does not need to wait for the reception of step 3 to initiate the RRC connection reconfiguration procedure.

4. The MN sends the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message including a NR RRC configuration messageto the UE including the new SCG radio resource configuration.

5. The UE applies the new configuration and sends the *RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete* message, including an encoded NR RRC response message, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the *RRCConnectionReconfiguration* message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

6. Upon successful completion of the reconfiguration, the success of the procedure is indicated in the *SgNB Modification Confirm* message containing the encoded NR RRC response message, if received from the UE.

7. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell of the SN as described in SN addition procedure. Otherwise, the UE may perform UL transmission after having applied the new configuration.

8. If PDCP termination point is changed for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the SN Status Transfer takes place between the MN and the SN (Figure 10.3.1-2 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

NOTE 2a: The SN may not be aware that a SN terminated bearer requesting to release is reconfigured to a MN terminated bearer. The SN Status for the released SN terminated bearers with RLC AM may also be transferred to the MN.

9. If applicable, data forwarding between MN and the SN takes place (Figure 10.3.1-2 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

10. The SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message to the MN and includes the data volumes delivered to and received from the UE over the NR radio for the E-RABs to be released.

NOTE 3: The order the SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message and performs data forwarding with M N is not defined. The SN may send the report when the transmission of the related bearer is stopped.

11. If applicable, a path update is performed.

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### 10.3.2 MR-DC with 5GC

The SN Modification procedure may be initiated either by the MN or by the SN and be used to modify the current user plane resource configuration (e.g. related to PDU session, QoS flow or DRB) or to modify other properties of the UE context within the same SN. It may also be used to transfer an RRC message from the SN to the UE via the MN and the response from the UE via MN to the SN (e.g. when SRB3 is not used). In NGEN-DC and NR-DC, the RRC message is an NR message (i.e., *RRCReconfiguration*) whereas in NE-DC it is an E-UTRA message (i.e., *RRCConnectionReconfiguration*). In case of CPA or inter-SN CPC, this procedure is used to modify CPA or inter-SN CPC configuration within the same candidate SN. In case of CPA or inter-SN CPC, this procedure may also be triggered by the candidate SN to add some prepared PSCells from the suggested list or cancel part of the prepared PSCells. This procedure may be initiated by the MN or SN to request the SN or MN to activate or deactivate the SCG.

The SN modification procedure does not necessarily need to involve signalling towards the UE.

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**SN initiated SN Modification with MN involvement**



Figure 10.3.2-2: SN Modification procedure - SN initiated with MN involvement

The SN uses the procedure to perform configuration changes of the SCG within the same SN, e.g. to trigger the modification/release of the user plane resource configuration, to trigger the release of SCG resources (e.g., release SCG lower layer resources but keep SN), and to trigger PSCell changes (e.g. when a new security key is required or when the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery). The MN cannot reject the release request of PDU session/QoS flows and the release request of SCG resources. The SN also uses the procedure to request the MN to provide more DRB IDs to be used for SN terminated bearers or to return DRB IDs used for SN terminated bearers that are not needed any longer. The SN also uses this procedure to activate or deactivate the SCG. Figure 10.3.2-2 shows an example signalling flow for SN initiated SN Modification procedure.

1. The SN sends the *SN Modification Required* message including an SN RRC reconfiguration message, which may contain user plane resource configuration related context, other UE context related information and the new radio resource configuration of SCG. The SN may request the SCG to be activated or deactivated. In case of change of security key, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that an SN security key update is required. In case the MN needs to perform PDCP data recovery, the *PDCP Change* *Indication* indicates that PDCP data recovery is required.

The SN can decide whether the change of security key is required.

NOTE 3a: In case that either CHO or any conditional reconfiguration is prepared, and if a prepared SN initiated intra-SN CPC procedure or reconfiguration with sync of the SCG using SRB3 is executed, the SN shall notify to the MN via the SN Modification Required message. The SN Modification Required message may include the SCG configuration that has been applied in the UE. The MN considers that a conditional reconfiguration, if any configured in the UE, has been released due to the execution of the (conditional) SCG reconfiguration.

NOTE 3b: In case of SN initiated CPC and in case that a candidate SN triggered the SN Initiated SN Modification procedure to include some prepared PSCells (within the candidate cells suggested by the SN i.e. the source SN in SN initiated CPC ) or to remove some prepared PSCells, the MN may decide to trigger the step 2 towards the source SN.

2/3. The MN initiated SN Modification procedure may be triggered by *SN Modification Required* message, e.g. when an SN security key change needs to be applied.

NOTE 3: For SN terminated bearers to be setup for which PDCP duplication with CA is configured in NR MCG side, the SN allocates up to 4 separate Xn-U bearers and the MN provides a logical channel ID for primary or split secondary path to the SN via the nested MN-initiated SN modification procedure.

4. The MN sends the MN RRC reconfiguration message to the UE including the SN RRC reconfiguration message with the new SCG radio resource configuration.

5. The UE applies the new configuration and sends the MN RRC reconfiguration complete message, including an SN RRC response message, if needed. In case the UE is unable to comply with (part of) the configuration included in the MN RRC reconfiguration message, it performs the reconfiguration failure procedure.

6. Upon successful completion of the reconfiguration, the success of the procedure is indicated in the *SN Modification Confirm* message including the SN RRC response message, if received from the UE.

7. If instructed, the UE performs synchronisation towards the PSCell configured by the SN as described in SN Addition procedure. Otherwise, the UE may perform UL transmission directly after having applied the new configuration.

8. If PDCP termination point is changed for bearers using RLC AM, and when RRC full configuration is not used, the SN Status Transfer takes place between the MN and the SN (Figure 10.3.2-2 depicts the case where a bearer context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

9. If applicable, data forwarding between MN and the SN takes place (Figure 10.3.2-2 depicts the case where a user plane resource configuration related context is transferred from the SN to the MN).

10. The SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message to the MN and includes the data volumes delivered to and received from the UE as described in clause 10.11.2.

NOTE 4: The order the SN sends the *Secondary RAT Data Usage Report* message and performs data forwarding with MN is not defined. The SN may send the report when the transmission of the related QoS flow is stopped.

11. If applicable, a PDU Session path update procedure is performed.

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| *End of change part* |