3GPP TSG RAN WG1 Meeting #106bis-e R1-2110550

e-Meeting, Oct 11th – Oct 19th, 2021

Agenda Item: 8.15.1

Source: Moderator (MediaTek)

Title: Summary #3 of AI 8.15.1 Enhancements to time and frequency

synchronization

Document for: Discussion and Decision

# Introduction

At the RAN#92 meeting, a new Work Item was approved for IoT Non Terrestrial Network (NTN) [1]. In this meeting, company views on UL synchronization for IoT NTN are summarized and observations/proposals on identified issues are made. Observations and proposals in Company’s TDoc contributions are listed in the Appendix.

# GNSS Measurements

## Backround

In RAN1#106-e, the following agreement was made:

Agreement:

For sporadic short transmission, UE in RRC\_CONNECTED should go back to idle mode and re-acquire a GNSS position fix if GNSS becomes outdated.

There was no further agreement during RAN1#106-e on this issue. Moderator made recommendation as follows (the moderator revised the wording to remove “shall” fromrecommendation as it is too early to discuss specification)

***RAN1#106-e Moderator Recommendation: In order to make progress, companies could focus on what is required to be specified for the following:***

* ***UE behaviour to ensure that it has a valid GNSS position fix for UL transmission***
* ***UE behaviour to ensure it autonomously determines how long a GNSS position fix is valid.***
* ***The UE to autonomously determine how long a GNSS fix is valid*** 
  + ***Option 1: an internal timer in the device is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration***
  + ***Option 2: a specified timer is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration***
* ***The UE to signal to the network the length of time that GNSS position fix is valid for to ensure common understanding on validity of GNSS position fix between the UE and eNB. This allows eNB to schedule UL transmission that starts while the UE has a valid GNSS position fix and ends before the GNSS position fix becomes outdated.***

***In the worst case, the UE always knows how long the scheduled UL transmission is and also knows the duration of validity of the GNSS position fix. The simplest UE behavior is that UE does not starts transmission if it cannot complete it before the GNSS position fix becomes outdated.***

## Company views

### In RRC\_IDLE:

CMCC proposed two approaches for idle UE to acquire GNSS position fix for sporadic short transmission::

* Approach 1: UE performs GNSS Measurement each time it is wake up from IDLE mode even if the GNSS position fix keeps valid.
  + Option 1: an internal timer in the device is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration
  + Option 2: a specified timer is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration
* Approach 2: When UE is wake up from IDLE mode, if the GNSS position fix is outdated, or if the GNSS validity duration is valid but the remaining GNSS validity duration is less than a threshold, it performs GNSS Measurements.
  + Option 2: a specified timer is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration

For sporadic DL traffic, UE may perform GNSS measurements after a paging occasion and only if it has been paged to reduce battery consumption. GNSS measurement duration can be up to 10 seconds. After MME requests the lower layer to start paging, it may receive paging response after a long time (e.g.10 seconds). In specification TS 24.301, to initiate high level paging procedure initiated by the MME, the EMM (EPS Mobility Managed) entity in the network requests the lower layer to start paging and shall start the supervision timer T3413/T3415:

* T3415 for this paging procedure, if the network accepted to use eDRX for the UE and the UE does not have a PDN connection for emergency bearer services.
* Otherwise, T3413 for this paging procedure.

The MME can re-attempt the paging procedure if T3413/T3415 expires before a response is received. The expiry time of T3413/T3415 is implementation dependent and is not specified in 3GPP, network operator may configure expiry time of T3413/T3415 large enough to ensure a sufficient gap considering GNSS measurement duration (e.g., 10 seconds) after decoding the paging message and before initiating UL transmission.in NTN.



**Figure 1: Paging procedure using S-TMSI. (CMCC R1-2109308)**

CATT proposed the UE triggers the GNSS measurement when it is waken up due to T3412 timer expiration, and then enter IoT active state after GNSS measurement.



Figure 2 GNSS signal reception and IoT UE wakeup (CATT R1-2109201)

Nokia proposed UE shall report GNSS measurement gap at prior occasion such that network can allocate sufficient time between sending a paging message and when to expect random access procedure initialization from UE. Network shall not repeat the paging message for a UE during the UE’s GNSS measurement gap.



Figure 1 Illustration of GNSS start delay in a paging scenario. (Nokia R1-2109265)

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| **Assumption for GNSS TTFF** | | **GNSS TTFF** |
| Cold start | No valid ephemeris, almanac | < 30 seconds (first TTFF of GNSS module) |
| Warm start | Valid almanac if used at least once within 180 days of last TTFF | < 5 seconds (at least a few TTFF within 180 days for optimised prediction algorithms)  Up to 30 seconds (un-optimized algorithms) |
| Hot start | Valid ephemeris if used within 4 hours of last TTFF | < 1 second |

***Table 1****: Assumption for GNSS TTFF (MediaTek R1-2107067)*

***Moderator view:*** *Commenting companies have indicated timer-based mechanisms for UE to acquire GNSS measurements during paging procedure. GNSS measurement duration can be up to 10 seconds. After MME requests the lower layer to start paging, it may receive paging response after a long time (e.g., 10 seconds). The MME can re-attempt the paging procedure if T3413/T3415 expires before a response is received. Several approachs were proposed with UE performs GNSS Measurement each time it is wake up from IDLE mode, when UE is wake up from IDLE mode, if the GNSS position fix is outdated based on threshold, or UE shall report GNSS measurement gap at prior occasion. More discussions in RAN1 needed to align companies understanding and oreference on these approaches.*

***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.1:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding on the following for UE in RRC\_IDLE***

***Q1: Is is companies understanding that the network can configure existing supervision timers T3413/T3415 large enough to ensure a sufficient gap to accommodate GNSS acquisition after decoding the paging message and before initiating UL transmission (i.e. 10 seconds or longer)?***

***Q2: Companies views and preference for the considered approaches:***

1. ***UE performs GNSS Measurement each time it wakes up from IDLE mode even if the GNSS position fix keeps valid***
2. ***When UE wakes up from IDLE mode, if the GNSS position fix is outdated, or if the GNSS validity duration is valid but the remaining GNSS validity duration is less than a threshold, it performs GNSS Measurements***
3. ***UE shall report GNSS measurement gap at prior occasion such that network can allocate sufficient time between sending a paging messages.***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | Regarding the Q1: It should be the common understanding that the additional period to accommodate the GNSS acquisition is needed after decoding the paging message and before initiating UL transmission. The only pending issue is whether to specify such behavior clearly as UE’s behavior. In our view, such description with dedicated duration is needed. Otheriwse, the proper UE behavior may not be expected.  As one compromise solution, we can define the additional paramters, e.g., X to inform the extension of such timer and restrict the UE’s behavior for GNSS acquisition during X.  For Q2: The intention of corresponding operation is to ensure the sufficient valid time for GNSS. Then, both A and B seems to be feasible. But to reduce the spec impact, Option-A can be the baseline in Rel-17. |
| MediaTek | Q1: Yes. Onfiguration of paging timers is up to the network.  Q2-A, Q2-B: can be up to implementation simplest option with no impact on specification assuming UE needs valid GNSS position fix and ephemeris/common TA parameters to meet RAN4 UE pre-compensation requirements  Q2-C: This seems not needed and would require specifications. It may also not be workable assuming that irregular satellite flyby periods may result in different GNSS Time To First Fix assumption |
| Qualcomm | For Q1:  These are not RAN1 issues at all. We should not be discussing these in RAN1. [However, the issues raised have merit].  For Q2:  Contingent on higher layer WGs (RAN2, SA/CT) solving the issues in Q1—i.e., providing sufficient time after receiving paging, such that “if required”, the UE may acquire a GNSS fix—there is no need for RAN1 to define any “mandatory” UE behavior, such as the options proposed in Q2. As long as the UE meets the time and frequency (or location accuracy) requirements for uplink synchronization (presumably set by RAN4), what exactly the UE does should be left to the UE. |
| SONY | Q1: sounds reasonable.  Q2: What does “wake up from IDLE” mean? We assume that the UE would only perform a GNSS measurement if it had been paged. The UE would have woken up from IDLE before receiving a paging message, would still be in IDLE while making a GNSS measurement and still be in IDLE when it uses the result of that GNSS measurement to timing advance a subsequent PRACH transmission.  We would be open to either A or B on the understanding that GNSS measurements are only performed if the UE is paged.  For B, the decision on whether to make a GNSS measurement is not related to a threshold, it is related to a UE comparison of whether the remaining GNSS validity duration is greater than the estimated time required to transmit in the UL or not.  The problem with C is that it assumes that the eNB maintains a UE context when the UE is in IDLE mode. We are not sure that the eNB does maintain this context in IDLE mode. |
| CATT | There is the common understanding that GNSS fix position should be acquired before initial UL transmission.  For Q1: If GNSS measurement is performed during the paging, then network must configure timers T3413/T3415 large enough, maybe greater than 40s, related to GNSS receiver start state. UE should request GNSS measurement to network and network should configure timer T3413/T3415 larger value. Moreover, since GNSS measurement may cost several seconds to dozensof seconds, UE must resynchronize with network after GNSS measurement and it will prolong access network time.  For Q2: Both A and B are similar, the intention of corresponding operation is to ensure the sufficient valid time for GNSS and access network quickly. Then, both A and B are feasible. But to reduce the spec impact, Option-A should be the baseline in Rel-17.  C is similar to Q1. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Q1, Yes. T3413/T3415 can be set large enough taking into account the GNSS position fix time.  Q2:  A can work but it is not clear what should be done from specification point of view.  For B, it is difficult to define a threshold as it is related to the UE speed and the duration of the following transmission.  For C, it is not clear what “***prior occasion***” means. |
| GateHouse | Q1: Yes in principle. Another solution is to schedule as per usual and then leave it up to the UE to wake up early enough for GNSS measurement.  Q2: B is preferred over A. |
| CMCC | Q1: Yes. The expiry time of T3413/T3415 is implementation dependent and is not specified in 3GPP, network operator may configure expiry time of T3413/T3415 considering GNSS measurement duration (e.g., 10 seconds) impact in NTN scenario. Thus, for sporadic DL traffic, the paging timers (e.g., T3413/T3415) can be configured large enough to ensure a sufficient gap to accommodate GNSS acquisition after decoding the paging message and before initiating UL transmission.  Q2:  Option A is preferred for no spec impacts. Thus, Option-A should be the baseline in Rel-17.  For Option B, the timer used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration may need to be specified and reported to the network.  For Option C, it seems not needed and would require specifications since the paging timers (e.g., T3413/T3415) can be configured large enough as discussed in Q1. |
| Nokia, NSB | Q1: Not exactly. The GNSS acquition time for UEs in different environment could be different. There could be an gap but the the duration of the gap should be aligned between UE and network, or otherwise the timer should be cover the UE that need the largest time for GNSS measurement and therefore there will be large unnecessary latency for most of the other UE.  Q2: Approach C is preferred as network can know the time needed by UE for GNSS measurement, considering different GNSS acquisition time needed by UEs in different environment, where no need to always reserve the largest unnecessary latency corresponding to the worst UE. Both approach A and B can not solve the issue when network need to resend the paging if not receive the response and will lead to unnecessary GNSS acquisition even if UE is not paged. Additionally, approach A will waste power of IoT UE even if there is no need for new GNSS. |
| Novamint | Q1: yes sounds reasonable – we like as well the proposal from Gatehouse  Q2: A & B have no/imited impact on the specifications. However, we believe A is creating more unnecessary burden on the power consumption and battery life and we would prefer definitely B |
| Ericsson | Q1: Yes, as they are implementation dependent, this is possible.  Q2: B is preferred over A since A would waste UE battery. C is difficult to realize since the required measurement gap length depends on the time elapsed before the UE is paged. |
| Hughes/Echostar | Q1: Yes, configuration of paging timers is up to the network.  Q2: A and B seem OK |
| Apple | Q1: Yes. We think it could be by network configuration.  Q2: Either A or B is fine. B may have spec. impact to define a threshold. |
| OPPO | Q1: agree  Q2: A or B are fine. |
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### In RRC\_CONNECTED:

Ericsson observed that the short connection can be defined by considering the validity durations of GNSS position fix, common TA (if indicated) and satellite ephemeris, and proposed to send an LS to RAN4 on time and frequency error requirements for IoT NTN before discussing the details of validity duration for GNSS position. For connections which do not qualify as short sporadic, further discussions on acquiring GNSS position fix during RRC Connected mode are needed. These discussions can be deferred until the start of Release 18.

Huawei, ZTE,Qualcomm, Nokia, NEC, SONY proposed UE can report the validity duration of GNSS position fix. This helps eNB scheduling. when UE needs to refresh its GNSS position fix if it becomes outdated. ZTE, Huawei, NEC further propose eNB schedule gaps for GNSS measurements;

Intel, MediaTek proposed to rely on UE implementation for GNSS validity. Before commencing an UL transmission, the UE shall ensure it has a GNSS position fix that is valid for the duration of that UL transmission

Apple proposed UE autonomously determines the validity of GNSS position fix, based on UE’s mobility patterns (e.g., UE speed).

Huawei observed that when GNSS position becomes outdated at the UE, the UL synchronization may still be maintained given that closed-loop TA adjustment can also compensate the error of UE self-calculated TA. There is no need to specify the UE behavior when GNSS becomes out-of-dated

ZTE discussed UE stays in RRC\_CONNECTED mode but suspends the UL transmission when validity duration of GNSS is over.

Qualcomm proposed RAN2 specify mechanism that declares RLF when the UE’s GNSS-based geolocation validity expires. Intel proposed UE declares RLF if UE GNSS measurements are not valid.

Nokia proposed UE goes back to IDLE to acquire a new GNSS and initiate CFRA to move back to RRC\_CONNECETED. GNSS measurement window for both initial access phase and in CONNECTED mode should be specified.

OPPO observed if the eNB does not know the UE GNSS validity duration, whether UE autonomously go back to idle mode should be discussed and confirmed by RAN2.



Figure 8 Illustration of GNSS update in RRC\_CONNECTED mode (ZTE R1-2109847)

MediaTek provided some analysis showing that the validity of the GNSS position fix duration can be in the order of 60 seconds for high-velocity UEs depending on assumptions for UE algorithms (i.e. dead reckoning). Apple also provided some analysis showing worst-case could be in the order of 5 seconds.

MediaTek proposed two ways for UE to move to RRC\_IDLE to re-acquire GNSS Position fix if GNSS Position fix needs refresh:

Rel-15 NB-IoT specified UE differentiation feature in TS 36.413. The stationary indication is provided by the NB-IoT module vendor in Subscription Based UE Differentiation Information and is stored in UE context.

* This information is included in INITIAL CONTEXT SETUP REQUEST message , CONNECTION ESTABLISHMENT INDICATION message , UE INFORMATION TRANSFER message , HANDOVER REQUEST message, RETRIEVE UE CONTEXT RESPONSE message, …
* There is no impact on UE since these messages are not exchanged over the Uu interface – i.e. no dedicated signalling. These are S1/X2 messages specified in TS 36.413. This implies the network knows the UE is stationary, but the UE does not know it is stationary.

RAI(Release Assistant Indication) feature**:** In RAI, when the UE is aware of there is no more data to be received or transmitted, then UE can notify the network(by NAS signaling, MAC CE BSR) which can then release the connection faster for the purpose of power saving.

* For Rel-14, If RAI is configured in MAC-MainConfig Information Element (TS 36.331 Section 6.3.2), a BSR with a buffer size of zero indicates implicit “Release Assistance Indication” and the network can release the connection right away (TS 36.321 Section 5.4.5).
* For Rel-16, a new mac CE for RAI is specified for explicit Release Assistance Indication (TS 36.321 Section 6.1.3.19).

TS 36.321 V16.3.0 Table 6.1.3.19-1: Values for AS RAI

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| --- | --- |
| Codepoint/Index | Value |
| 00 | No RAI information |
| 01 | No subsequent DL and UL data transmission is expected |
| 10 | A single subsequent DL transmission is expected |
| 11 | Reserved |

***Moderator view:*** *Commenting companies have indicated a preference to move to idle, stay in connect, or trigger RLF. It was discussed whether UE waits for GNSS position fix to become outdated or provides some assistance signalling before GNSS position fix becomes outdated to stay in RRC\_CONNECTED with a scheduling gap to allow GNSS measurements or request network to release connection. For sporadic short transmission, it was proposed RAN1 send an LS to RAN4 on time and frequency error requirements for IoT NTN before discussing the details of validity duration for GNSS position. For connections which do not qualify as short sporadic, further discussions on acquiring GNSS position fix during RRC Connected mode are deferred until the start of Release 18.*

***Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:***

***If GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE triggers RLF.***

* ***RAN2 specify mechanism to declare RLF***

***Before GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE may send UE assistance signalling to request eNB to do one of the following:***

* ***Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages***
* ***FFS Configures scheduling gap window to re-acquire GNSS position fix without releasing connection***

***FFS Re-use spare bit of Rel-16 MAC CE Release Assistance Indication for IoT NTN (TS 36.321 Section 5.4.5) or specifiy new MAC CE***

***FFS UE can report GNSS position fix validity duration***

***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding on the following for UE in RRC\_CONNECTED***

***Q1: UE behaviour when GNSS position fix for UL transmission become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED***

* ***No need to specifiy UE behaviour***
* ***Suspends the UL transmission***
* ***Others? Please say what and why***

***Q2: For sporadic short transmission, RAN1 send an LS to RAN4 on time and frequency error requirements for IoT NTN before discussing the details of validity duration for GNSS position***

***Q3: For connections which do not qualify as short sporadic, further discussions on acquiring GNSS position fix during RRC Connected mode are deferred until the start of Release 18.***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | For the ***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:*** In our view, the only difference between following two options is up to the assumption that whether multiple sporadic transmission will be done during the RRC connected state. If so, the frequently release connection will lead to significant overhead and latency for service.   * ***Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages*** * ***Configures ~~UL scheduling gap~~ GNSS measurement gap (or Scheduling gap) window without releasing connection***   Otherwise, (one shot transmission during the RRC connected state), what we need to do is to ensure the validity of the GNSS positioning during such transmission as we expected in previous meeting, then, suspends the UL transmission till the new GNSS is more proper to avoid the “interruption” during the transmission if there is possibility that GNSS position fix for UL transmission become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED   * ***Suspends the UL transmission***   For the ***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:***  Q1: We support to suspend the UL transmission to avoid the waste of signaling during the time when UE cannot ensure UL synchronization.  Q2: No need. The time/frequency error requirements for ephemeris also apply for GNSS. The discussion of GNSS validity duration can refer to that for ephemeris and common TA.  Q3: It’s one possible way to do it if group share the views. |
| MediaTek | Revised proposal 2.2.2-1/2: Support.   * At a minimum support UE triggers RLF if GNSS becomes outdated; and support UE assistance signaling to request eNB to release connection before GNSS becomes outdated. This seems better way than a high-velocity UE potentially triggering RLF several times within coverage of the same satellite.   + Existing Rel-16 MAC CE Release Assistantance indication can be used (this is normally used when UE buffer is empty, but a spare bit can be used for IoT NTN for a different purpose like making GNSS measurements or re-acquiring ephemeris / common TAparameters on SIB) , or a new MAC CE can be specified.   + RAN1 can send LS to RAN2 to discuss specification of MAC CE to release connection in IoT NTN before GNSS position fix becomes outdated. * Whether eNB can schedule a scheduling gap where UE will not receive anything or transmit anything to allow UE to make GNSS measurements can be further discussed.   Q1: No need to specify UE behavior or suspend UL transmission, because anyway UE cannot transmit as it would most likely fail to meet RAN4 time requirements. The correct UE behavior and implementation can be ensured by RAN4 testing.  Q2: When NR NTN concludes work on timing requirements for Te\_NTN = Te + Te\_GNSS + Te\_SAT, it can be likely assumed the relaxation of transmit timing error is of similar order for IoT NTN. The exact value is not necessary to discuss and make agreement on the validity timer mechanisms. We would suggest to first make agreements on validity timer in RAN1 and then send LS to RAN4 as this would be helpful to then define RRC parameters for validity duration range.  Q3: The cases of high-velocity UEs and real-time services like voice should be deferred to Rel-18. Priority should be for non sporadic short transmissions in Rel-17 timeframe. |
| Qualcomm | On 2.2.2-1/2:   1. RLF triggering (as a UE behavior) is required, since solutions such as releasing the UE by the network may not always succeed (e.g., messages in any direction—UL/DL—may be missed), and the UE—while still in connected state—may have its GNSS outdated. Note that, the biggest issue if the UE continues to transmit in the UL with outdated GNSS, is that it will interfere (in time and frequency) with the useful transmissions from other UEs to the base station. 2. If a “new cause” for releasing the connection is needed in this situation, RAN2 is the correct WG to figure this out—not RAN1. 3. As we mentioned before, with the Rel 17 assumptions of non-simultaneous operation of cellular and GNSS, we don’t think gaps to reacquire GNSS make much sense: to reacquire GNSS, the UE would have to disconnect from cellular. As a result, when it reconnects, it is essentially doing so from IDLE, since it cannot be expected to retain context from the previous cellular connection. 4. GNSS validity reporting (including validity start time and duration) is an important aspect associated with the very notion of GNSS validity. This should not be appended as an FFS under this proposal. This should be treated together with the aspects related to UE-autonomous determination of GNSS validity duration—preferably in a dedicated proposal, such as the one discussed in the previous meeting.   On 2.2.2-3:   1. UE behavior has to be specified, since the UE cannot be allowed to transmit with outdated GNSS and interfere (in time and frequency) at the base station with useful transmissions from other UEs. As described in the comments above (for 2.2.2-1/2), such behavior is required even if mechanisms for releasing the UE are in place (since these mechanisms are not fail-safe). The simplest such UE behavior is the UE declaring RLF—essentially, going to IDLE, which is already agreed in the previous meeting. 2. The “values” for any validity duration may be discussed further, but we don’t believe that RAN4 input is needed to see that the “notion” of GNSS validity—and associated items such as a UE-autonomous timer, UE🡪base station reporting of validity, and UE behavior upon validity expiry—need input from any other WG. These are essential notions that RAN1 needs to agree on. 3. Long connections don’t need to be discussed, but please keep in mind that the very way to ensure a short connection is precisely via the notions of validity on GNSS (and ephemeris). |
| Intel | We support Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2 provided by the moderator.  In our view it makes sense to release connection, turn off IoT module and do GNSS measurements. Other details as well as spec change to specify RLF are TBD in RAN2. |
| SONY | We are generally supportive of ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2*** and have the following comments:  ***If GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE triggers RLF.***   * ***RAN2 specify mechanism to declare RLF***   What is the difference between “trigger” and “declare”? Shouldn’t the proposal just use same verb twice (i.e. use declare / declare or trigger / trigger)?  We think it is useful for the UE to be able to send assistance information before the GNSS position fix becomes outdated. Why drive off a cliff if you can see it coming? It would be useful to allow the UE enough time to perform a GNSS position fix by either of the two methods:   * RRC suspend and the UE sends RRC resume once it has acquired a GNSS position fix * Scheduling gap. The UE assistance information would presumably need to indicate how long this gap would need to be as different GNSS modules would require different times to perform a fix.   For the ***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:***  Q1. The safest thing to do is for the UE to suspend the UL transmission. While closed loop TA in RRC\_CONNECTED could maintain the timing advance, it is not clear that Doppler correction could be maintained when the GNSS position is not known.  Q2. No need for this. When would RAN1 get an LS reply anyway? RAN1 would need a reply before the end of the work item in RAN1.  Q3. We can consider enhancements in Rel-18. It is not clear what the definition of “short sporadic transmission” is anyway. Even if the UE thinks that it can transmit something in the UL in a short time, the eNB might not schedule the UE in a way that allows that data to be transmitted in a short time. The UE is hence unable to determine by itself whether it can complete an UL transmission within the validity duration of a GNSS position fix. |
| CATT | ***For Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:***  We think that network should ensure UL transmission not to be interrupted during the validity of GNSS position fix, certainly behavior of UE also needs to be defined as bottom behavior when GNSS position fix is outdated.We propose to revise the following description:  ***If GNSS position fix is going to be outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE triggers GNSS measure:***   * ***Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages*** * ***Suspends the transmission*** * ***Return the idle state***   ***If GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED,…………***  ***For Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:***  Q1:We support to suspend UL transmission.  Q2: No need. ***For sporadic short transmission, RAN1 may discuss the validity timer for GNSS position fix firstly and confirm the detailed values after RAN4 conlusions on time and frequency synchronization requirements for IoT NTN .***  ***Q3: Agree.*** |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | ***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:***  Regarding whether UE shall trigger RLF when GNSS position fix becomes outdated, we still have some doubt on the necessity to capture the UE behavior in specification since it is arguable that this can be viewed as a UE internal behavior which does not require any interaction with the NW. We also understand this may be the simplest thing for UE to do and this is also similar to the situation when the validity timer for satellite ephemeris and common TA becomes invalid for IoT-NTN UEs.  On the second proposal, we are fine to discuss it further. The assistance signaling for UL scheduling gap configuration can also be indicated at an earlier stage e. g. during initial access.  In addition, another issue that is worth discussing (last FFS bullet) is whether there is a benefit for a UE to to report its GNSS validity duration to the network. Our view is that there is a clear benefit that the eNB can perform more efficient scheduling.  ***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:***  Q1: In addition to the comment above, there may be a need to discuss the UE behavior if eNB has the GNSS validity duaration information (if supported) and schedule a GNSS measurement gap for the UE.  Q2: It is not clear what is expected to be answered by RAN4.  Q3: It seems difficult to qualify a connection as short sporadic. |
| GateHouse | 2.2.2.-1: Agree  2.2.2.-2: Agree  2.2.2.-3:  - Q1: Suspends the UL transmission  - Q2: Certainly, the LS is required anyway to determine the granularity and delivery rate of ephemeris information. However the 200Hz from the specification might be sufficient for study and discussion.  - Q3: Agree. An infinite validity timer for stationary devices doing long transmissions is sufficient for Rel-17 |
| CMCC | ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:***  In line with the definition on sporadic short transmission as agreed in RAN1#105-e meeting,  Agreement:  For sporadic short transmission:   * The idle UE wakes up from idle DRX / PSM, access the network, perform uplink and/or downlink communications for a short duration of time and go back to idle. * Before accessing the network, the UE acquires GNSS position fix and does not need to re-acquire a GNSS position fix for the transmission of the packets.   For sporadic short transmission, GNSS position fix outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED should be an extremely rare case. The network should ensure UL transmission to be terminated before GNSS position fix outdate. When the UL transmission finished, the UE will go back to IDLE as agreed in RAN1#105-e meeting.  Agreement:  For sporadic short transmission:   * The idle UE wakes up from idle DRX / PSM, access the network, perform uplink and/or downlink communications for a short duration of time and go back to idle.   If network gets wrong to schedule an extreme long UL transmission that UE cannot complete the UL transmission before GNSS position fix outdated, the following options can be considered.   * Option 1: The UE may drop the UL transmission, and trigger RLF to avoid meaningless UL transmission which would waste UE power and network spectrum resource. In this case, the issue for GNSS position fix gets outdated may won’t happen. * Option 2: The UE performs the UL transmission, and trigger RLF when GNSS position fix becomes outdated. In this case, the UE may further drop UL transmission, and return to IDLE state to avoid interfering (in time and frequency) the useful transmissions from other UEs to the base station.   Option 1 is preferred to avoid meaningless UL transmission for saving UE power and network spectrum resource.  ***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:***  Q1: If GNSS position fix for UL transmission become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE should drop the UL transmission if any to avoid interfering (in time and frequency) the useful transmissions from other UEs to the base station.  Q3: Support. Furthermore, FFS: whether to support multiple (sporadic) short transmission in Rel-17. |
| Nokia, NSB | If GNSS position fix is outdated in CONNECTED mode, then “Suspends the UE transmission” should be the first step to avoid the UL interference from possible UL unsync UE. This first step is needed for all the possible cases. Then after UL is suspended, additional UE behavior is needed to firstly keep the RRC connection and require GNSS position fix. As DL sync is still accurate, no need for RLF but a CFRA is more suitable instead of the latency/power for CBRA after RLF, to save the power consumption and latency in limited coverage of NTN cell for contention based repetitions and RRC reconnection. Considering there should be common understanding on validity timer of GNSS between UE and network (for the reason of effective scheduling with non-simultaneous operation), which is different from TN RLF issue, network can configure the CFRA. RLF is only needed if CFRA can not work. Then go to IDLE mode is the last choice to select.  Before GNSS position fix is outdated in CONNECTED mode, no need for RRC release but configure the gap to require the GNSS position fix.  The above procedure should be good for cases that may last for some time, e.g. packet not small or the short packet divided into multiple smaller packets by scheduler.  ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:***  Based on above, No need for RLF and RRC connection to waste resource/latency. It is suggested to remove the FFS for “***Configures scheduling gap window to re-acquire GNSS position fix without releasing connection***” which is the best choice.  For RAI, as we mentioned, it is for assistance to release the RRC connection but not to keep the connection.  We also suggest to remove the FFS for “***FFS UE can report GNSS position fix validity duration”*** as it is needed as common understanding between UE and network.  ***Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:***  Q1: Suspends the UL transmission and CFRA.  Q2: UE behavior should be defined in RAN1, then RAN4 to discuss the requirement. No need to send LS to RAN4 now.  Q3: the above 2 questions should be discussed. We are OK to postpone other non-critical discussion in Rel18. |
| Novamint | **Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:**  We are ok with the revised proposals  **Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:**  Q1: We tend to support “Suspends the UL transmission”  Q2: Not sure there is a need to send a LS at this stage  Q3: Agree |
| Ericsson | * Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2: We propose that focus is on short connection in Rel-17 while long connection can be deferred to Rel-18. For short connection, it can be assumed that the GNSS position fix is valid for the duration of the transmission. Therefore, GNSS scheduling gaps in RRC\_CONNECTED need not be considered. If the GNSS position fix is no longer valid, which should be a rare case, the UE could declare RLF. The possibility of the UE notifying the network before the GNSS position fix is outdated is fine but the detailed solution for this needs further consideration before concluding. We propose the following modified proposal:   ***If GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE triggers RLF.***   * ***RAN2 specify mechanism to declare RLF***   ***FFS: Whether and how UE should notify the network before GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED.***   * Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:   + Q1: UE should stop transmitting and go to RRC\_IDLE.   + Q2: An LS should be sent to RAN4 but discussions can take place in parallel.   Q3: We support this. |
| Apple | **Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:**  Just a clarification question: When UE declares RLF, will it send “RRC\_connection\_reestablishement\_request” via transport channel UL-SCH? If so, this uplink transmission is not synchronized.  **Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3:**  Q1: Suspends the UL transmission  Q2: Not sure it is needed at this stage  Q3: Agree considering time limitation. |
| OPPO | ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 2.2.2-1/2:***  During the discussion, we may make an assumption that the gNB is aware of the remaining duration of the GNSS timer for the UE. Then the UE does not need to declare RLF, and the gNB will be responsible for releasing the connection for the UE. In case the UE does not receive the release, we think that RAN2 has already similar mechanisms for the UE to swtich back to idle mode. In this respect, the UE only needs to inform the gNB about the remaining GNSS duration. No further spec change seems necessary.  ***nitial proposal – Section 2.2.2-3***  ***Q1:***   * ***UE is not expected to be scheduled for UL transmisiosns outside the GNSS validity duration.*** * ***no new UE behavoir is needed. The legacy mechanism can be reused, e.g. gNB releasing connection for the UE.***   Q2: we don’t have strong opinion.  Q3: agree. |
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## FIRST ROUND- GNSS Measurements

### In RRC\_IDLE

Q1: Is is companies understanding that the network can configure existing supervision timers T3413/T3415 large enough to ensure a sufficient gap to accommodate GNSS acquisition after decoding the paging message and before initiating UL transmission (i.e. 10 seconds or longer)?

* Yes: CMCC, Huawei, Gatehouse, SONY, MediaTek, ZTE (specify UE behaviour), CATT (large enough configuration),
* Partly yes: Nokia (configuration depends on environment), Qualcomm (not RAN1 issue)

Q2:

* A: UE performs GNSS Measurement each time it wakes up from IDLE mode even if the GNSS position fix keeps valid
* B. When UE wakes up from IDLE mode, if the GNSS position fix is outdated, or if the GNSS validity duration is valid but the remaining GNSS validity duration is less than a threshold, it performs GNSS Measurements
* UE shall report GNSS measurement gap at prior occasion such that network can allocate sufficient time between sending a paging messages.

A&B: ZTE / CATT (A can be baseline for Rel-17), MediaTek / Qualcomm (up to UE implementation, should meet RAN4 requirements), SONY

A: Huawei / CMCC (no clear / no impact on specifications)

B: Gatehouse

C: Nokia(flexibility in different environments)

Moderator view is that there is near consensus of contributing companies for either method A or B which can be up to UE implementation with no clear / no impact on specifications. One company proposed further enhancements in method C which could be in scope of Rel-18. Since after RAN1#106bis-e meeting, there will be only one meeting moderator view is to have a conclusion in this meeting as there seems to be no significant issue for this topic.

***First Round Proposal– Section 2.3-1***

***Conclusion***

***Acquisition of GNSS position fix during paging procedure is up to UE implementation and network configuration of paging timers.***

### In RRC\_CONNECTED

Moderator summarize feedback from companies on 2.2.2-1/2 and 2.2.2-3 for the following:

If GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED

UE triggers RLF (specify RLF mechanism in RAN2).

* Support: Qualcomm, MediaTek, Intel, SONY, Gatehouse, Huawei (maybe UE internal behaviour)

Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages

* Support: MediaTek / Qualcomm / Intel, Gatehouse (if needed, RAN2 discussion)

Configures scheduling gap window to re-acquire GNSS position fix without releasing connection

* Support: ZTE (avoid frequent release RRC connection)
* Not Support: Qualcomm (to re-acquire GNSSS, UE goes to and reconnect from IDLE)

Suspend UE transmission when GNSS position fix for UL transmission become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED

* ZTE / MediaTek / CATT /SONY (UE behaviour), Qualcomm / CMCC (via RLF) , Nokia (keep UE in connected with scheduling gap to re-acquire GNSS position fix and re-connect via CFRA)

Report GNSS validation to network

* Support: Huawei, Nokia, Qualcomm, MediaTek, Nokia, SONY / Ericsson (Rel-18 enhancement)

RAN1 send an LS to RAN4 on time and frequency error requirements for IoT NTN before discussing the details of validity duration for GNSS position

* Not support: ZTE, Qualcomm, CATT, SONY, MediaTek

Based on the above, the moderator makes the following first round proposals:

***First Round proposal – Section 2.3.2-1:***

***RAN1 LS to RAN2 asking RAN2 to specify the following:***

* ***Mechanisms for UE to declare RLF If GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED***
* ***Mechanism for network to release connection, where UE may send UE release assistance indication signalling before GNSS position fix becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED.***

***First Round proposal – Section 2.3.2-3:***

***UE can report one of the following:***

* ***GNSS position fix validity duration including time of last GNSS fix***
* ***The time at which GNSS position fix will become invalid***

***FFS details of signalling***

***FL Recommendation – Section 2.3.2-4:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss on what would be need to configure scheduling gap window to re-acquire GNSS position fix without releasing connection and whether this can be done realistically within Release 17 or deferred to Release 18.***

## SECOND ROUND-GNSS Measurements

### In RRC\_IDLE

The First Round Proposal– Section 2.3-1 was discussed on RAN1 reflector for 1st check point Oct-24

ZTE commented that the UE may or may conduct the GNSS position fix. But without any restriction or guidance from spec, it's confusing to assume that there will be proper configuration on the paging timer always to enable the GNSS position fix to cover the different needs per UE. Then, we still prefer to specify the potential behavior for UE with following updated version:

**Moderator view:** as mentioned by CMCC in R1-2109308 is that the expiry time of paging timer solution is not specified in 3GPP for cellular. The moderator understanding is that these timers will need to be properly configured by the core network implementation for IoT NTN. If still some concern, it is fine to further discuss in this meeting and we can drop proposal for 1st checkpoint.

* Note that the expiry time of T3413/T3415 is implementation dependent and is not specified in 3GPP, network operator may configure expiry time of T3413/T3415 considering GNSS measurement duration (e.g., 10 seconds) impact in NTN scenario.

***Second Round Proposal– Section 2.4-1***

***Conclusion***

***Acquisition of GNSS position fix during paging procedure is up to UE implementation and network configuration of paging timers considering GNSS measurement duration (e.g. GNSS Time To First Fix with cold start of typically 10 seconds) impact in NTN scenario. These paging timers are not specified in 3GPP in legacy paging procedure (i.e. T3413 / T3415).***

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| Companies | Comments |
| Nokia, NSB | We do not think it should always reserve the maximum gap for UE to re-acquire GNSS position fix after paging corresponding to the worst UE case. While the largest gap may cause paging failure in the cell that cover the UE because of the limited coverage time from one cell in LEO scenario. We do not agree this conclusion. Considering different UE capability on GNSS acquisition of IoT UE, also considering different channel status of UE, network need to configure the paging timer based on UE reported capability for GNSS instead of a max fixed gap with risk for paging failure. |
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### In RRC\_CONNECTED

The First Round Proposal– Section 2.3-2-1 was discussed on RAN1 reflector for 1st check point Oct-24

Qualcomm discussed that “UE behavior upon timer expiry” (in Release 17) has to meet the following constraints:

* We cannot leave this “unspecified”—since if other mechanisms fail, and the UE continues to transmit with outdated ephemeris/GNSS, it will jam (cause interference to) other UEs in time and frequency at the base station.
* Any behavior we specify must respect the fact that we cannot read SIB in CONNECTED mode.
* Any behavior we specify must respect the fact that closed-loop frequency correction is not supported up to Release 17.

In legacy RLF, gaps and T31x timers are typically started by the UE, during which the UE can attempt to recover that could be used for re-acquiring ephemeris (not re-acquire GNSS). For GNSS, however, things are different. When you have non-simultaneous operation, and the UE has to "re-acquire" GNSS, it has to first shut down the cellular part of the UE and start the GNSS part. As a result, you lose context of cellular. And you are therefore going to be in IDLE, w.r.t cellular, and have to reconnect from the beginning, after GNSS re-acquisition. So "gaps in connected mode for GNSS" are not relevant for Release 17. However, if in future, simultaneous context is supported, this can be a good solution.

Also mentioned it makes sense as suggested, to merge 3.3-1 and 2.3.2-1 together, and 3.3-2 and 2.3.2-2 on UE supspends UL transmission are not needed. Once RAN2 decides on UE behavior related to timer expiry, that solves all issues..

Moderator View: Moderator view is that comments on “UE behavior upon timer expiry” (in Release 17) has to meet constraints are very helpful to align company understanding. Proposals 3.3-2 and 2.3.2-2 on UE suspends UL transmission can be dropped once RAN2 discuss and decide on UE behavior related to timer expiry and GNSS position fix becoming outdated. It makes sense to merge 3.3-1 and 2.3.2-1 together

Xiaomi, Ericsson: (Xiaomi) commented that UE may ask network to release the connection via assistance signalling before the validity timer expires based on its performance of its UE-specific implementation algorithms for UE pre-compensation. The duration of the validation timer is related to maximum tolerate timing error provided by RAN4 requirements. If it is configured to the UEs, all the UEs should be able to maintain the sync during the validation timer, then the UE report may not be needed.(Ericsson) further commented that the RAN4 requirements on TX timing accuracy should guarantee that all UE can maintain the sync during the validity duration for UL sync configured by the network. The network should not set the validity duration to a value that would work for most UEs but for all UEs that fulfil the RAN4 requirements. So it should not be necessary to send a notification from UE to network. In our view, the normal case should be that the (short) transmission is finished before the validity timer expires, and if not, the network should release the connection without need for notification from the UE.

Moderator view: The internal behaviour of UE is to determine a validity for its UE-specific validity duration, Validity\_Duration\_UE, of calculated TA and frequency correction for the UE pre-compensation to meet RAN4 requirements. The eNB does not know Validity\_Duration\_UE unless it is reported by the UE. The network may configure typical validity duration Validity\_Duration\_eNB that would work for most UE implementations. The UE cannot autonomously release RRC connection if Validity\_Duration\_UE < Validity\_Duration\_eNB. This is not a specified functionality in cellular IoT. Only the network can release RRC connection for the UE via specified RRC messages. To moderator understanding, for the network to set the validity duration to a value that would work for all UEs that fulfil the RAN4 requirements it is needed to  reverse the RAN1#106-e agreement for IoT NTN as working assumption.

RAN1#106-e agreement:

The following agreements from NR NTN are re-used for IoT NTN as working assumption.

b) The orbital propagator model to be used at UE side can be left to implementation.

GNSS position fix and satellite ephemeris / common TA parameters, and other factors like UE velocity could all impact the validity duration. It may be difficult for the network to set the validity duration to a value that is reasonably large that would work for all UEs that fulfil the RAN4 requirements. If the value is too conservative, then the network may move UE to idle so it can re-acquire SIB and GNSS position fix even if not needed; or UE will be forced to declare RLF.  RAN1 still need to discuss how the validity timer is configured based on RAN1#106-e agreement – i.e. via SIB or via dedicated RRC signaling. If network configures validity duration via SIB, some UEs may send assistance signalling to request network to release RRC connection to avoid loss of UL sync if that value is too long to meet RAN4 timing requirements . Otherwise, if network request UE to send assistance signalling to indicate what its validity timer duration should be, then it can configure validity timer duration to UE via dedicated RRC signalling

RAN1#106-e Agreement:

The validity timer of UL synchronization is configured by the network

* FFS: Whether a single validity timer or separate validity timers are used for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters

On merged first round proposals  3.3-1/2.3.2-1 for 1st check point

* On release connection, several companies have concern: Ericsson, ZTE, Xiaomi (not needed), Nokia (still data to transmit),
* On RLF, it is more stable, Nokia commented fine if no data to transmit.
* On including scheduling gap in 2.3.2-1 proposed by Nokia: This was discussed in GTW. There was concern whether this can be done for RAN1 parts in Rel-17 (in next few days, and in RAN1#107-e).

Moderator view for scheduling gap is that more discussions in RAN1 needed to align company understanding on potential RAN1 impact. As commented by Qualcomm, in legacy RLF, gaps and T31x timers are typically started by the UE, during which the UE can attempt to recover that could be used for re-acquiring ephemeris (not re-acquire GNSS). MERGED Proposal 1st Checkpoint Oct-24– Section 2.4.2-1/3.4-1-Ver4: is discussed in Section 3.4

***FL Recommendation – Section 2.4.2-4:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss on what would be need to configure scheduling gap window to re-acquire GNSS position fix without releasing connection and whether this can be done realistically within Release 17 or deferred to Release 18.***

**Moderator view:**On UE report of of GNSS position fix validity duration, it can be discussed further. In case of stationary UE or low velocity UE, indicating the time of last GNSS fix, the time at which GNSS position fix will become invalid may not be needed or may increase the overhead for the UE report un- necessarily. The SFN is indicated in a 10-bit field with values 0, 1, .., 1023 on MIB indicated. The SFN counter wraps round after 10.24 seconds. Over 10 seconds or so, a stationary UE or a low-velocity UE that has a negligible change in UE position. Indicating an absolute time (e.g. GNSS time year, monthm, day, hour, minute, second) ) would increase significantly the overhead. The GNSS position fix should be considered to be valid for several 10s of seconds in typical cases. The initil proposal effectively was that the GNSS position fix validity duration is determined by the UE at the time it is reported by the UE. This can be up to UE implementation and may be sufficient.

***~~Revised Second round Proposal– Section 2.4.2-3:~~***

***~~UE can report one of the following:~~***

* ***~~GNSS position fix validity duration including time of last GNSS fix~~***
* ***~~The time at which GNSS position fix will become invalid~~***

***~~FFS details of signalling~~***

***Revised Second round Proposal– Section 2.4.2-3-Ver2:***

***UE reports GNSS position fix validity duration***

* ***FFS further details of contents - e.g. at least the following can be considered***
  + ***GNSS position fix validity duration is determined by the UE at the time it is reported by the UE***
  + ***Including the time of last GNSS fix,***
  + ***Including the time at which GNSS position fix will become invalid,***
* ***FFS signalling for UE report via MAC CE or RRC signalling***

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| Companies | Comments |
| Nokia, NSB | ***Second round Proposal– Section 2.4.2-3:***  There should be full common understanding between UE and network on following information so that network can know when UE’s GNSS is valid and UE’s behavior with a valid scheduling for UE: when the last time for GNSS fix, the validitity duration, and when the GNSS position fix will be invalid, how long UE need to require an new GNSS position fix.  Suggest to update as  ***UE reports GNSS position fix validity duration***   * ***FFS further details of contents - e.g. at least the following can be considered***   + ***GNSS position fix validity duration is determined by the UE at the time it is reported by the UE***   + ***Including the time of last GNSS fix,***   + ***Including the time at which GNSS position fix will become invalid,***   + ***GNSS measurement gap needed to re-acquire a new GNSS position fix after invalid*** * ***FFS signalling for UE report via MAC CE or RRC signalling***   ***FL Recommendation – Section 2.4.2-4:***  We think it should be defined in Rel17 considering it can not be guarangeed that GNSS become invalid only when there is no data any more. As there will be data in UL or DL, if RRC connection is released because of GNSS invalid instead of UL or DL channel issue, it is not reasonable and will cost much resource/energy/latency for initial access and new RRC connection, which is not the objective of IoT UE in NTN. |
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# Validity timer for UL synchronization

## Background

The following agreements were made in RAN1#106e.

Agreement:

* Satellite ephemeris read on SIB are valid for the duration of sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED.
* Common TA parameters if indicated and read on SIB are valid for the duration of sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED.
* Note: The duration of the short transmission is not longer than the “validity timer for UL synchronization” referred to in the WID objective (but which still needs further discussion for specifying further details)

Agreement:

The validity timer of UL synchronization is configured by the network

* FFS: Whether a single validity timer or separate validity timers are used for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters

Agreement:

UE in RRC\_IDLE reads the satellite ephemeris on SIB and the common TA parameters if indicated on SIB and (re-)start the validity timer(s) for UL synchronization before moving to RRC\_CONNECTED.

* FFS: Details of the precise (re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization to ensure a common understanding between gNB and UE.
* Other signaling details for validity timer are up to RAN2

## Company views

Indication of of start time / validity durationof ephemeris / common TA parameters on SIB, re-acquisition of SIB:

SONY discussed that SIB signals (1) the start time of transmission of the ephemeris information and (2) the ephemeris validity duration. Before starting a transmission, the UE should estimate:

* TULTX: The time it will take to transmit the short transmission. It can be estimated based on the UE’s understanding of its coverage derived from measurements and estimates of the number of repetitions required for transmission
* Tvalid: The remaining time for which the satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters will be valid. It can be calculated from the validity duration of the ephemeris information of Tvalid = TD – (T1 – T0), where T0 and T1 are the times at which that ephemeris information was first transmitted and when the UE reads it respectively

In order to be confident of completing the transmission, the UE should only start the UL transmission if Tvalid > TULTX.



Figure 1 – Determination of whether PUSCH can be transmitted based on ephemeris validity (SONY R1-2109804)

ZTE proposed similarly to SONY that the activation time instant of validity duration for assistance information broadcast by SIB can be implicitly known as a reference time linked to DL subframe where initial SIB carrying the assistance information is broadcast. If the residual duration of validity timer is shorter than the time duration of following UL transmission, UE will postpone the access to network until new assistance information is activated.



Figure 4 Illustration of indication of assistance information (ZTE R1-2109847)

Nokia proposed UE can report the validity duration of satellite ephemeris. This helps eNB scheduling, which can schedule a gap to allow UE to re-acquire the satellite ephemeris on SIB if it becomes outdated. The UE can keep in RRC\_CONNECTED and perform a new synchronization via CFRA.

Intel proposed there is no need for eNB to be aware of the state of the validity timer (i.e. particular time instances where timer starts/restarts/ends).

OPPO observed that in legacy IoT system the UE is not required to acquire any system information updates. For IoT NTN, the eNB should be aware of when the UE updates the satellite ephemeris, and updates the UL sync validity timer accordingly. eNB may inform the UE that an acquisition is needed and then the UE starts to read the new SIB.

Mavenir proposed if validity timer(s) for UL synchronization expires, UE stays in RRC\_CONNECTED state and reads SIB to refresh ephemeris / common TA parameters.

CATT proposed the duration of short transmission should be defined by the number of RU scheduled and repetition further.

CMCC proposed that for sporadic short transmission, UE read the satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters once before accessing the network and doesn’t re-read SIBs in RRC\_CONNECTED. A single validity timer for both satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters is set to minimum validity duration of the both parameters.

Ericsson proposed IoT NTN UE can use the ephemeris Epoch time as a reference for starting the validity timer. It was agreed in RAN1#106-e that the serving satellite ephemeris Epoch time is implicitly known as a reference time defined by the starting time of a DL slot and/or frame.

The moderator further summarize companies views on the following:

What does UE do if validity timer expires / before validity timer expires?

* UE goes to RRC\_IDLE: NEC, MediaTek (via Rel1-6 MAC CE Release Assistance Indication), OPPO (autonomously), FGI, APT, III, ITRI
* UE stays in RRC\_CONNECTED: ZTE (activation time, validity duration with shceduling gaps to re-read SIB), Xiaomi (re-read SIB)
* UE in RRC\_CONNECTED may trigger RLF: Huawei, Qualcomm, Intel

Network controlled SIB acquisition mechanism for UE updates of the satellite ephemeris data: OPPO

* eNB indicates to the UE that an acquisition is needed

(re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization

* upon reading ephemeris / common TA information on the SIB:
  + Immediately: Huawei, FGI, APT, III, ITRI, Apple, Nordic semiconductor ASA
  + counting starting from first repetition: Qualcomm, NEC
  + Activation time: ZTE
  + Based on ephemeris Epoch time implicitly known as a reference time: Ericsson

Single / Separate validity timers:

Ericsson proposed separate validity timers are preferred if ephemeris and common TA are transmitted in different SIBs, otherwise a single validity timer can be used for both ephemeris and common TA.

CMCC proposed that if long connection or multiple (sporadic) short transmissions is to be further supported, separate validity timers for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters can be considered for indication flexibility, since satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters may have different validity duration.

CMCC indicated preference to indicate both satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters in the same SIB or in the SI same window.

SONY observed that since the common TA parameters can change more quickly than the ephemeris information, the frequency / periodicity of ephemeris information and common TA parameter signalling can be different.

Apple discussed that common TA mainly indicate the RTT between satellite and timing reference point. If the timing reference point is configured to be at satellite, then the common TA is always equal to 0 and it has infinite validity duration. This is different from the validity duration for satellite ephemeris.

Single/separate timers for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters

* Single validity timer: Huawei, ZTE, Spreadtrum, MediaTek, CMCC (for shor sporadic connection), Samsung, Intel, Ericsson (if transmitted on same SIB)
* Separate validity timers: CATT, Lenovo, CMCC (for long or multiple sporadic short transmissions), SONY, FGI, APT, III, ITRI, Ericsson (if transmitted on different SIB), Apple, Nordic semiconductor ASA
* Up to RAN2: Xiaomi

***Moderator view:*** *Commenting companies have indicated a preference for UE stay in connected and read SIB to refresh ephemeris / common TA parameters, while other companies preference is to trigger RLF. Both satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters may be indicated in the same SIB or in the SI same window. It was discussed whether UE waits for validity timer to expire or provides assistance signalling before validity timer expires to stay in RRC\_CONNECTED with a scheduling gap to allow re-acquisition of SIB or request network to release connection. There is not enough consensus on single timer or separate timers. To help with this issue more understanding on what is needed for a signle timer would be helpful.*

***Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:***

***If validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE triggers RLF.***

* ***RAN2 specify mechanism to declare RLF***

***Before validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE may send UE assistance signalling to request eNB to do one of the following:***

* ***Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages***
* ***FFS Configures UL scheduling gap window to re-acquire ephemeris on SIB without releasing connection***

***FFS Re-use spare bit of Rel-16 MAC CE Release Assistance Indication for IoT NTN (TS 36.321 Section 5.4.5) or specify new MAC CE***

***~~FFS UE can report GNSS position fix validity duration~~ (MODERATOR: this is typo)***

***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:***

***(re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization upon reading ephemeris information on the SIB – FFS options***

* ***Immediately***
* ***Counting starting from first repetition***
* ***Activation time instant***

***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding on the following***

* ***Q1: What would be ways to only use a single validity timer for ephemeris and common TA parameters?***
  + ***Similar validity time assumption for prediction error for ephemeris and common TA parameters based on analysis provided by companies in AI 8.4.2 in NR NTN?***
  + ***Satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters in the same SIB or in the SI same window?***
  + ***Need some discussions in RAN2***
* ***Q2: Network controlled SIB acquisition mechanism where eNB indicate to UE to re-acquire the satellite ephemeris data based on UE location.***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | For the ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1:*** and ***3.2-2,*** similar question as the proposal in section 2.3 is expected that whether multiple sporadic transmission will be done during the RRC connected state. If so, the frequently release connection will lead to significant overhead and latency for service.   * ***Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages*** * ***Configures ~~UL scheduling gap~~ Scheduling gap window without releasing connection***   For the case that one shot transmission during the RRC connected state, what we need to do is to ensure the validity of the indicated information during such transmission as we expected in previous meeting. Then, after the end of transmission, UE can directly go to idle mode instead of RLF.  Then, we prefer to introduce scheduling gap to handle this issue as generic solution.  Regarding ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:,*** as shown in our contribution below, the intention to introduce the validility timer is to reduce the frequency for SIB reading and simplify the SIB udpates at gNB side also. Then, by assuming the same content will be delivered over the a series of SIB within the same update period, it’s not reasonable to (re-)start the valid timer once the SIB is received. The behaviour should be done based on the defined activaition time.  valid time  For the ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  Regarding Q1: same SIB is preferred.  Regarding Q2: the location based solution is not feasible due to the lack of information at RAN side. Moreover, the accuracy of location is also not sufficient to enable such scheduling. |
| MODERATOR | Last bullet in Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2 was typo and is removed. |
| Mavenir | On the first part of the ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2*** i.e.  ***If validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE triggers RLF.***   * ***RAN2 specify mechanism to declare RLF***   since this is a cell-specific event (assuming that the start time and duration of the timer is cell-specific), all the UEs in the cell will need to trigger RLF almost at the same time (which will happen periodically) and go to RRC\_IDLE (and potentially re-attempt initial access). This is an unnecessary interruption of the UE connectipns across the cell.  Instead, to avoid such cell-wide interruption, the UE can re-read the SIB again and make the determination if its UL synchronization is still OK using new ephemeris info/common TA.  On the second part of ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2*** i.e.  ***Before validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE may send UE assistance signalling to request eNB to do one of the following:***   * ***Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages*** * ***FFS Configures UL scheduling gap window to re-acquire ephemeris on SIB without releasing connection***   ***FFS Re-use spare bit of Rel-16 MAC CE Release Assistance Indication for IoT NTN (TS 36.321 Section 5.4.5) or specify new MAC CE***  It is not clear what is the role of the “UE assistance signaling”, because the eNB knows the status of the validity timer (assuming that the start time and duration of the timer is cell-specific). |
| MediaTek | Revised proposal 3.2-1/2: Support. As discussed for GNSS position fix, similarly   * At a minimum support UE triggers RLF if validity time becomes outdated; and support UE assistance signaling to request eNB to release connection before validity timer becomes outdated. This seems better way than a high-velocity UE potentially triggering RLF several times within coverage of the same satellite.   + Existing Rel-16 MAC CE Release Assistantance indication can be used (this is normally used when UE buffer is empty, but a spare bit can be used for IoT NTN for a different purpose like making GNSS measurements or re-acquiring ephemeris / common TAparameters on SIB) , or a new MAC CE can be specified.   + RAN1 can send LS to RAN2 to discuss specification of MAC CE to release connection in IoT NTN before validity timer becomes outdated. * Whether eNB can schedule a scheduling gap where UE will not receive anything or transmit anything to allow UE to re-acquire ephemeris / common TA parameters on SIB can be further discussed.   Proposal 3.2-3: Support (re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization upon reading ephemeris information on the SIB. Second bullet “Counting starting from first repetition” is clearer and simle to specify.  Proposal 3.2-4:   * Q1: first and second bullet are correct understanding and motivation for single timer. RAN2 can further discuss once RAN1 has made agreement. * Q2: This way seems not necessart if RAN1 can agree proposal 3.2-3. Then, UE and eNB have same understaning on validity duration. It saves signaling. |
| Qualcomm | On 3.2-1/2:   1. Agree on the need to specify UE behavior (RLF triggering) upon timer expiry. Please refer to similar comments we made, supporting the necessity of this, under Proposal 2.2.2-1/2 for GNSS. 2. For network releasing the connection (with/without UE assistance): similar comments as for Proposal 2.2.2-1/2. RAN2 should decide on this. 3. For “gaps” to reacquire ephemeris, this may be handled by RAN2 as part of the “RLF recovery” procedure—e.g., T31x timers may be started, within which the UE may read SIB to reacquire ephemeris. However, these should be left to RAN2, since this would be part of the RLF procedures. We shouldn’t specify additional gaps in RAN1.   On 3.2-3:   1. Counting has to start from the time that the UE “starts” reading the SIB, for the most accurate validity duration that can be assumed from that reading. Since SIBs can have multiple repetitions in eMTC/NB-IoT, the “start” of the SIB that the UE reads corresponds to the first repetition of that SIB. Hence, it makes logical sense to start counting from the first repetition.   On 3.2-4:   1. First off, we re-iterate a well-established point—asking the UE to compensate for the common TA drift rate (which is essentially why this common TA validity timer is under discussion in the first place) is a terrible design idea. In any reasonable implementation, this should be compensated by the base-station, thereby removing this needless uncertainty (which causes several issues, not least among them, reducing the segment duration unnecessarily for segment-based uplink precompensation in IoT-NTN).   Having said this, if a bad implementation based on common TA drift compensation by the UE is supported, it makes sense for the information associated with the common TA to come together with the ephemeris information in the same SIB. In that case, it seems convenient for the network to indicate a common synchronization validity timer (whereby the duration would naturally be dictated by the quantity that expires first, but to the UE, it just appears as one validity duration).   1. Q2 violates current NB-IoT assumptions that SIBs will not be read in CONNECTED mode. We also made a similar agreement previously, for NTN-IoT. We don’t understand why we are now suddenly discussing the network asking UE to reacquire SIBs for the short sporadic connection use case in Rel 17! |
| Intel | We support Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2.  For Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3, any option is fine for us since gNB will determine validity duration considering the starting point. |
| SONY | ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:***  It was agreed in RAN1#106e that:  Satellite ephemeris read on SIB are valid for the duration of sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED.  This agreement partly defines what a short transmission is (a short transmission is something that can be transmitted before the satellite ephemeris on SIB becomes invalid). It hence seems like there doesn’t need to be any agreement on this proposal. Any RRC connection associated with a short sporadic transmission will have been terminated before satellite ephemeric information becomes invalid.  The UE needs to determine whether short transmission can be completed before the satellite ephemeris information becomes invalid. If the UE cannot complete its transmission in time, it needs to wait for an update of satellite ephemeris information before starting its transmission.  For the UE to know how long the satellite ephemeris information on SIB will remain valid, the SIB needs to signal:   * Validity duration of satellite ephemeris information * When the satellite ephemeris information was first transmitted on SIB   ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:***  The start time of the validity timer should be the time at which the satellite ephemeris information was first transmitted on SIB (is this what “counting from first repetition” means?).  We are not clear what the term “activation time” means.  The validity timer should start “immediately”. We assume the validity timer counts down until it expires. The issue is which value is used for the validity duration when the validity timer is started, i.e. what value, *Tvalid*, does the validity timer count down from? We think the validity timer should count down the remaining validity of ephemeris information. Assuming:   * Ephemeris information first transmitted at time *T0*. *T0* is signalled in SIB. * UE reads ephemeris information at *T1* (*T1* is the “immediate” time) * Ephemeris information is valid for a duration *TD*. *TD* is signalled in SIB.   Then:  *Tvalid* = *TD* – (*T1* – *T0*)  The UE resets the validity timer with *Tvalid* and counts down from this value. The validity timer expires when it reaches zero.  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  Q1: ephemeris and common TA need separate validity timers. The common TA validity can get out of date more quickly than the epehemeris information. RAN2 can discuss whether common TA and ephemeris are sent on the same or different SIBs, based on the understanding that the ephermeris and common TA can change at different times.  Q2: This is not required in IDLE mode. In CONNECTED mode, for a short spoaradic transmission, as per the RAN1#106e agreement, the satellite ephemeris information is assumed to remain valid. Hence the UE will not be required to re-acquire SIB. |
| CATT | ***For Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:***  We think that network should ensure UL transmission not to be interrupted during the validity timer duration, certainly behavior of UE also need be defined as bottom behavior when validity timer is outdated.We propose to revise the following description:  ***Before validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE may send UE assistance signalling to request eNB to do one of the following:***   * ***Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages*** * ***Suspends the transmission*** * ***Return the idle state*** * ***FFS Configures UL scheduling gap window to re-acquire ephemeris on SIB without releasing connection***   ***For Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:***  We have different understanding on ephemeris validity duration. We think that ephemeris validity duration should be equal to the validity timer duration, and network broadcast different ephemeris contents in every SIB with satellite ephemeris, rather than network broadcast the same ephemeris contents in ephemeris validity duration. We should make the coincident undersanding on ephemeris validity duration firstly. About (re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization upon reading ephemeris information on the SIB , we prefer to define the activation time instant. Whether counting starting from first repetition, is up to the meaning of ephemeris validity duration.  ***For Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  Q1: a single validity timer for both common TA and ephemeris can be considered if they are broadcast in same SIB. It is favorable for UE processing.  Q2: We think that the location based solution need cost too overhead on signalling and process is complicat .We prefer that UE read SIB according the validity timer configured by netwok and there should be handshaking mechanism to inform network validity timer activation. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:*** Support  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:*** Support. The first two options can work it is just how the value of the validity timer shall be determined accordingly considering the epoch time and the propogation delay. We are not sure what “***Activation time instant***” means.  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  ***Q1:*** The error from both common TA and ephemeris will have an impact on UL synchronization. Even though the valid time might be different for common TA and satellite ephemeris, they can be still carried in the same SIB. Then the validity timer can be the smaller validity duration between common TA and satellite ephemeris.  ***Q2:*** Further clarification is needed on the intention of the proposal. It is not clear how a UE would re-acquire the satellite ephemris and why UE location information is relavant. |
| GateHouse | 3.2-1: Yes  3.2-2: Agree  3.2-3: Either “Counting starting from first repetition” or an “Activation time instant”, which is transmitted along the ephemeris or pre-agreed upon (as a function of TA, K\_offset or similar. FFS  3.2-4:  - Q1: No clear opinion before further study  - Q2: Possibly, FFS |
| CMCC | ***For Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:***  In line with the definition on sporadic short transmission as agreed in RAN1#106-e meeting,  Agreement:   * Satellite ephemeris read on SIB are valid for the duration of sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED. * Common TA parameters if indicated and read on SIB are valid for the duration of sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED.   For sporadic short transmission, validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED should be an extremely rare case. The network should ensure UL transmission to be terminated before validity timer expires. When the UL transmission finished, the UE will go back to IDLE as agreed in RAN1#105-e meeting.  Agreement:  For sporadic short transmission:   * The idle UE wakes up from idle DRX / PSM, access the network, perform uplink and/or downlink communications for a short duration of time and go back to idle.   If network gets wrong to schedule an extreme long UL transmission that UE cannot complete the UL transmission before validity timer becomes expired, the following options can be considered.   * Option 1: The UE may drop the UL transmission, and trigger RLF to avoid meaningless UL transmission which would waste UE power and network spectrum resource. In this case, the issue for validity timer expired may won’t happen. * Option 2: The UE performs the UL transmission, and trigger RLF when validity timer becomes expired. In this case, the UE may further drop UL transmission, and return to IDLE state to avoid interfering (in time and frequency) the useful transmissions from other UEs to the base station.   Option 1 is preferred to avoid meaningless UL transmission for saving UE power and network spectrum resource.  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:***  We support this proposal, and prefer to the second option, i.e.,  • Counting starting from first repetition  ***For Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  Q1: A single validity timer for both common TA and ephemeris can be considered if they are broadcast in same SIB or in the SI same window.  Q2: We share the same view with Qualcomm and SONY that the UE will not be required to re-acquire SIB. |
| Nokia, NSB | ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:***  Same comments as for GNSS outdated cases. No need for RLF while “***Configures UL scheduling gap window to re-acquire ephemeris on SIB without releasing connection”*** should be done. For validity timer of UL sync, whether it is needed for UE to report, it should be further discussed considering different channel status of IoT UE.  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:***  OK. The most important is common understanding between UE and network on the validity timer.  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  Q1: It should be OK and preferred to have single validity timer if ephemeris and common TA are in same SIB, considering HD-FDD of IoT operation. Then one time SIB reading for both of them to be updated and ready for UL transmission.  Q2: It should be: network configured UL gap for ephemeris/common TA SIB reading should be considered at same time, considering the HD-FDD operation for IoT UE. |
| Novamint | ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:***  Agree  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:***  We tend to agree wth Qualcomm to “start counting from the first repetition” but “Activation time instant” is fine for us too  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  Q1: requires further study  Q2: requires further study |
| Ericsson | * *Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:* It has been agreed that ephemeris and common TA are valid for the duration of a short transmission and our view is that support for long connections could be deferred to Rel-18. Therefore, the case that the validity timer expires can be considered an abnormal case. RLF is fine in this situation. Solutions to let the UE notify the network should not be needed since the validity timer is configured by the network. We propose the following modified proposal:   ***If validity timer expires in RRC\_CONNECTED, UE triggers RLF.***   * ***RAN2 specify mechanism to declare RLF*** * *Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:* We propose that the validity timer is started at epoch time. * *Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:*   + Q1: Satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters in the same SIB or in the SI same window. This should be discussed in RAN2.   Q2: This discussion can be deferred to Rel-18. |
| Apple | **Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:**  We have the same clarification question as in Section 2.2.2.  **Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:**  Fine with the proposal  **Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:**  Q1: Common TA and ephemeris may have different validity timers. For example, common TA may be equal to 0 for a long time when timing reference point is at satellite, while ephemeris may have short validity timer.  Q2: Share same view as Qualcomm. |
| OPPO | ***Revised Initial proposal – Section 3.2-1/2:***  we think when the UL validity timer expires, the UE should be allowed to declare UL synchronization lost, and then follows the RAN2 mechanisms relevant to UL sync lost. There is no new mechanism is needed.  It is not needed to declare RLF nor for connection releasing. Regarding the scheduling gap  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-3:***  We think the time should restart from the subframe carrying the SIB.  ***Initial proposal – Section 3.2-4:***  Q1: from our understanding, same validity timer means a same time duration and timer is restarted whenever either ephemeris or CTA is updated.  Q2: a simple solution is eNB informing UE about the SIB updating, and then UE reads the SIB. But there should also be discussed whether eNB can directly send the updated parameters to UE via RRC. |
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## FIRST ROUND - Validity timer for UL synchronization

Moderator understanding is that this discussion is closely related to the discussion on GNSS position fix validity in RRC\_CONNECTED discussed in Section 2.3.2

If validity timer becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED

UE triggers RLF (specify RLF mechanism in RAN2).

* Support: Qualcomm, MediaTek, Intel, SONY, Gatehouse, Huawei (maybe UE internal behaviour), Gatehouse

Release connection – e.g. Release/resume RRC messages (specify mechanism in RAN2)

* Support: MediaTek / Qualcomm / Intel, Gatehouse/ SONY / CATT

Configures scheduling gap window to re-acquire GNSS position fix without releasing connection

* Support: ZTE (avoid frequent release RRC connection), Qualcomm (RLF recovery” procedure—e.g., T31x timers may be started, within which the UE may read SIB to reacquire ephemeris.), MediaTek, SONY, Gatehouse

Suspend UE transmission when validity timer for UL transmission become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED

* ZTE (via scheduling gap), MediaTek / CATT /SONY (UE behaviour), Qualcomm / CMCC (via RLF) , Nokia (keep UE in connected with scheduling gap to re-acquire ephemeris)

re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization upon reading ephemeris information on the SIB – FFS options

* Counting starting from first repetition: Qualcomm, MediaTek, ZTE, Gatehouse, CATT (if SIB contents repeated), Huawei, CMCC, Nokia
* Immediately: SONY, Huawei, Gatehouse, Nokia

Report validity timer to network where eNB indicate to UE to re-acquire the satellite ephemeris data based on UE location

* Support: Nokia
* Not support: Qualcomm / MediaTek / CMCC/ SONY (goes against current NB-IoT assumptions that SIBs will not be read in CONNECTED mode), ZTE (location accuracy and avalaibility issues), CATT (complexity and overhead)

Ephemeris and common TA parameters:

* On same SIB: Qualcomm, MediaTek, ZTE, CATT, Huawei (smaller validity duration), CMCC (if single validity timer), Nokia
* Separate SIBs: SONY (valid time might be different for common TA and satellite ephemeris)

Based on the above, the moderator makes the following first round proposals:

***First Round proposal – Section 3.3-1:***

***RAN1 LS to RAN2 asking RAN2 to specify the following:***

* ***Mechanisms for UE to declare RLF If validity timer becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED***
* ***Mechanism for network to release connection, where UE may send UE release assistance indication signalling before validity timer becomes outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED.***

***First Round proposal – Section 3.3-2:***

***UE suspends transmission when validity timer for UL transmission become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED***

***First Round proposal – Section 3.3-3:***

***(re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization upon reading ephemeris information with counting starting from first repetitionon the SIB.***

***First Round proposal – Section 3.3-4:***

***Satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters are indicated in the same SIB***

***FL Recommendation – Section 3.3-5:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss on what would be need to configure scheduling gap window to re-acquire satellite ephemeris / common TA parameters without releasing connection and whether this can be done realistically within Release 17 or deferred to Release 18.***

## SECOND ROUND - Validity timer for UL synchronization

For First round proposal 3.3-1, the discussions and comments on RAN1 reflector for 1st checkpoint Oct-24 were closely related to that for First round proposal 2.3.2-1 as discussed in Section 2.4.2. To avoid repeated the same discussions, please refer to section 2.4.2

Moderator view is that more comments are needed in 2nd round for release connection. We updated MERGED First Round proposal – Section 3.3-1/2.3.2-1 in Ver2 below:

MERGED Proposal 1st Checkpoint Oct-24– Section 2.4.2-1/3.4-1-Ver4 was discussed in GTW without agreement

The Second Round Proposal – Section 3.4.2, Section 3.4.3, Section 3.4.4 were agreed with some revisions in GTW Session.

Agreement:

The validity timer for UL synchronization is started/restarted with configured timer validity duration at the epoch time of the assistance information (i.e. serving satellite ephemeris data).

* FFS: Precise definition of epoch time taking into account SIB repetitions

Agreement:

A single validity duration for both serving satellite ephemeris and common TA related parameters is defined at least if serving satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters are signalled in the same SIB message.

Agreement:

Configuration of UL transmission segment is indicated on SIB at least for initial access

* FFS via UE-specific RRC signalling in RRC\_CONNECTED.

GTW Proposal:

RAN1 has discussed the following aspects and leaves it up to RAN2 to specify UE behaviour related to expiry of UL synchronization validity timer and determine which of the following aspects are to be specified:

* Mechanisms for UE to declare loss of UL synchronization (including mechanisms for ephemeris recovery, and UL synchronization loss reporting to the network) after loss of UL synchronization if UL synchronization validity timer or GNSS position fix become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED
* Solutions discussed in RAN1 without reaching consensus are RLF, Release assistance indication signalling, and scheduling gap without releasing the RRC connection

~~Mechanism for network to release connection, where UE may send UE release assistance indication signalling before UL synchronization validity timer or GNSS position fix become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED~~

Moderator View: Based on GTW Session, the moderator understanding is that scheduling gaps without release of RRC\_CONNECTION will require significant RAN1 specification effort and cannot be realistically done within Rel-17 timeframe. RAN2 cannot specify gaps and Physical layer enhancements. RAN1 work will stop in next RAN1#107-e meeting in November.

Agreement on solutions based on Radio Link Faillure (RLF) **after** validity timer for UL synchronization expires, re-use spare bit in Rel-16 Release Assistance Indication signalling with new interpretation **before** validity timer for UL synchronization expires would have minimum impact on RAN1.

* The Rel-16 Release Assistance Indication is specified in 38.821 which is a RAN2 core specification.
* RLF will require discussion on how to use validity timer for declaring RLF, and gaps to attempt recovery. It was mentioned by proponent of this solution that such gaps could be utilized to re-acquire the ephemeris without leaving RRC\_CONNECTED. There is no impact for MAC CE RAI in RAN1 expected.

Companies are further encouraged to comment. It would be helpful not to repeat technical details of the proposed solutions. The issue for discussion is what can realistically be done in next RAN1 meeting to specify UE behaviour when validity timer for UL synchronization expire - i.e. impact on RAN1 of RLF and re-using spare clause in Rl-17 MAC CE RAI with new interpretation, and confirm moderator understanding on 1) and 2) above for RAN1 impact.

Qualcomm proposed some questions on RAN1 reflector:

**Question 1**: *Does RAN1 believe that UE behavior upon timer expiry is essential to be described in the specs?*

* If any company objects, can they please define **what happens if a UE transmits with invalid UL sync and jams the other UEs transmitting to the network**?

**Question 2**: *Given that* ***UL synchronization failure is a physical layer issue****, is RAN2 in a position to decide the behavior if a physical layer failure happens?*

**Question 3**: If RAN1 agree that it SHOULD specify UE behavior, Qualcomm list possible **choices (with varying degrees of reasonable-ness)**:

* **Choice 1**: **RLF**, **including mechanisms to recover ephemeris before going to IDLE (e.g., within the T31x timers) and including reporting RLF to the network**
  + The above two details on the RLF procedure cover Nokia and OPPO’s concerns.
* **Choice 2**: “Scheduling gaps without releasing RRC connection”
  + **This CANNOT be done for GNSS**. If you can’t do simultaneous GNSS and cellular, **the moment you need to “re-acquire” GNSS, your cellular context is lost. Even if it takes 1 second to acquire the GNSS, the UE will HAVE TO restart from IDLE**. WE also agreed to this in the last meeting:

**Agreement:**

* + - **For sporadic short transmission, UE in RRC\_CONNECTED should go back to idle mode and re-acquire a GNSS position fix if GNSS becomes outdated.**
  + For ephemeris, this can be supported as part of the RLF procedures once the RLF T31x timer(s) start. At least this way, we don’t need other mechanisms. Also, in the previous meeting, we agreed to not have to read SIB in CONNECTED mode during a short connection. Any proposal to “trigger gaps and read SIB” goes against the existing agreement.

**Agreement:**

**Satellite ephemeris read on SIB are valid for the duration of sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED.**

**Common TA parameters if indicated and read on SIB are valid for the duration of sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED.**

**Note: The duration of the short transmission is not longer than the “validity timer for UL synchronization” referred to in the WID objective (but which still needs further discussion for specifying further details)**

* **Choice 3**: “CFRA”
  + This doesn’t work, since without a PRACH redesign, the network cannot detect a PRACH from a UE that doesn’t have UL synchronization valid.

Moderator revised the GTW proposal based on the above. Please, address your comments directly to the reflector.

***Second Round Proposal – Section 3.4***

***RAN1 has discussed the following aspects and leaves it up to RAN2 to specify UE behaviour related to expiry of UL synchronization validity timer and determine which of the following aspects are to be specified:***

* ***Mechanisms for UE to declare loss of UL synchronization (including mechanisms for ephemeris recovery, and UL synchronization loss reporting to the network) after loss of UL synchronization if UL synchronization validity timer or GNSS position fix become outdated in RRC\_CONNECTED***
* ***Solutions discussed in RAN1 without reaching consensus are Radio Link Faillure (RLF) after validity timer for UL synchronization reset, re-use spare clause in Rel-16 Release Assistance Indication signalling with new interpretation for IoT NTN before validity timer reset. These solutions have minimum impact on RAN1 specifications within Rel-17 timeframe..***

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| Companies | Comments |
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# Long UL transmission on PUSCH and PRACH

## Background

The following issues are for discussions based on agreements were made during RAN1#106e.

* Configuration of UL transmission segment via SIB or dedicated RRC signalling
* Downscoping of values for NPRACH/RACH UL transmission segment duration
* Downscoping of values NPUSCH/PUCH UL transmission segment duration
* New UL gaps for long UL transmissions
* Phase discontinuity in segmented pre-compensation

During Rel-17 IoT NTN SI, it was clarified that there is impact on specification of applying TA adjustments during long UL transmission:

In the specifications UE is not allowed to adjust timing advance in the duration of repetitions as specified in TS 36.133 V16.8.0, Clause 7.20.2.

[***3GPP TS 36.133 V16.8.0, Section 7.20.2] When a repetition period is configured on the uplink for which R>1, the UE shall not adjust the uplink transmission timing autonomously during an ongoing repetition period other than at initial transmission as defined above.***

## Company views

### Configuration of UL transmission segment

The following agreements were made during RAN1#106e on configuration of UL transmission segment.

Agreement:

The UL transmission segment duration is configured by the network

* FFS: Details of the configuration signalling.

Agreement:

* The UL transmission segment duration is provided by UE-specific RRC signalling or by signalling in SIB.
* NOTE: the values of UL transmission segment duration for NB-IoT can be different to those for eMTC

The maximum total TA drift over service link and feeder link in 256 ms can be in the order of 24 µs for LEO-600 km as can be derived from TR 36.763 Section 6.1 Table 6.1-1: IoT NTN reference scenario parameters. At higher elevation angles it can be lower and even 0 µs.



Figure 2. Evaluation of TA change during a transmission period of 256 ms. (Nokia R1-2109265)



Figure 3. TA changes during a 256 ms transmission period at different elevation angles from 10 degree to 90 degrees (Nokia R1-2109265)

Configuration mechanisms:

Huawei discussed it is more efficient to signal the maximum allowed time-continuous transmission and UL gaps in the system information according to the relative speed and elevation between satellite and its serving cell or beam. The number of time-continuous repetitions for preamble and time-continuous duration for UL data transmission for NB-IoT over NTN can be indicated by system information. The UL segment duration *X* should be a number of *N* PUSCH repetition units which does not exceed the maximum allowed continuous transmission time *Tseg\_max* based on the elevation angle and the timing error Te, as in where Huwaei proposed indicating common TA drift rate in addition to common TA for UL TA adjustment for long UL transmission.

Nokia discussed the the network is aware of TA adjustments made by the UE in advance using the UE reports its location. Network should be in control of the timing advance updates applied at the UE. If TAC is generated to fix a temporary deviation in the UE transmission timing, when UE updates their autonomous components on the timing advance formula, there may be an overcompensation of the timing advance, generating a similar deviation on the opposite direction. The TAC should operate in two different states to allow both differential and absolute indication of the TAC updates. Nokia proposed an indexed table is usedto indicate the applicable segment durations for different elevation angles. : The segment duration for TA should be selected based on the elevation angle.



**Figure 2. Number of PUSCH repetition units in a UL segment for LEO-600. (Huawei R1-2108750)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Elevation angle** | | | **10o** | **20 o** | **30 o** | **40 o** | **50 o** | **60 o** | **70 o** | **80 o** | **83 o~90o** |
| Max-continuous transmission time based on *Te* (ms) | | | 28.7 | 30.08 | 32.63 | 36.89 | 43.97 | 56.52 | 82.63 | 162.8 | 256 |
| **Case 1** | ***X*** (ms) | Mrep |  |  | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 64 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| **Case 2** | ***X*** (ms) | Mrep | 24 | 24 | 32 | 32 | 40 | 56 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| **Case 3** | ***X*** (ms) | Mrep | 16 | 16 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 48 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | 24 | 24 | 32 | 32 | 40 | 56 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | 28 | 28 | 32 | 36 | 40 | 56 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| **Case 4** | ***X*** (ms) | Mrep | 24 | 24 | 32 | 32 | 40 | 56 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | 28 | 28 | 32 | 36 | 40 | 56 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | 28 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 42 | 56 | 82 | 162 | 256 |
| **Case 5** | ***X*** (ms) | Mrep | 28 | 28 | 32 | 36 | 40 | 56 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | 28 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 42 | 56 | 82 | 162 | 256 |
| Mrep | 28 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 43 | 56 | 82 | 162 | 256 |
| **Case 6** | ***X*** (ms) | Mrep | 24 | 24 | 32 | 32 | 40 | 56 | 80 | 160 | 256 |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| **Case 7** | ***X***(ms) | Mrep | 28 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 42 | 56 | 82 | 162 | 256 |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Mrep | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ |

**Table 2. UL segment duration for long UL transmission for NPUSCH for NB-IoT NTN (Huawei R1-2108750)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Index | Minimum elevation angle (deg) | Segment  duration (ms) | Number of segments in X |
| 0 | 10 | 2 | 128 |
| 1 | 10 | 4 | 64 |
| 2 | 10 | 8 | 32 |
| 3 | 10 | 16 | 16 |
| 4 | 38 | 32 | 8 |
| 5 | 67 | 64 | 4 |
| 6 | 79 | 128 | 2 |
| 7 | 85 | 256 | 1 |

Table 1. Indexed table for the segment lengths depending on the UE elevation angle. (Nokia R1-2109265)

Samsung proposed for segmented UE pre-compensation per N time units, the value of N can be separately configured for UL timing pre-compensation and UL frequency pre-compensation

FGI, APT proposed to deprioritize FFS: RAN1 to further discuss valid and invalid subframes. Valid and invalid subframes are used to reserve UL resources for coexistence between NR and NB-IoT via a bitmap. In TR 36,763, the co-existence between NTN NR and NTN IoT is beyond the scope of the Rel-17 IoT NTN study.

The moderator further summarize companies views on the following:

Configuration of UL transmission segment:

* Via signalling on SIB: Huawei
* Via UE-specific RRC signalling:
* Based on UE elevation angle: Nokia, Huawei

UL TA adjustment for long UL transmission:

* Based on common TA and common TA drift: Huawei
* Based on UE location: Nokia

Deprioritize FFS: RAN1 to further discuss valid and invalid subframes

***Moderator view:*** *Companies commented on mechanisms for configuration of UL transmission segment based on satellite secenarios, elevation angle; UL TA adjustments using common TA parameters, UE location report; and ways for configuration via SIB or dedicated RRC signalling; de-prioritize invalid subframes.*

*On UL TA adjustments, the moderator understanding is that the NR-NTN agreements on* NTA update for IoT NTN *as working assumption with some adaptation for the granularity and size of fields for TAC in msg2 and in MAC CE as is further discussed in Section 6.2. Whether the common TA drift or UE location can be used for UL TA adjustments is a separate discussion. The potential issue of timing overcompensation by the UE, when TAC and UE correction are both applied together is under discussion in NR NTN.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 4.2.1:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding on the following***

***Q1: Configuration of UL transmission segment:***

* ***Via signalling on SIB***
* ***Via UE-specific RRC signalling***

***Q2: Should UL transmission segment configured be based on satellite scenarios and UE elevation angle? If answer is YES, please say what should be specified or whether this can be up to the network to configure UL transmission segment.***

***Q3: Indication of common TA drift for UL TA adjustment for long UL transmission:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | For Q1: To support the both PRACH and PUSCH, it’s preferred to indicate it via SIB.  For Q2: No need to couple the parmeters with other factor, e.g., elevation angle. As highlighted, for the initial access stage, it’s impossible to ensure the common understanding between gNB and UE on the selection of segement length if additional coupling is defined.  For Q3: Indication of common TA drift or even higher order indication is needed to enable the UE to update the TA per segment. |
| MediaTek | Q1: via SIB is preferred. For UE-specific RRC signaling it is first need to discuss how often the UL transmission segment should be re-configured.  Q2: We wonder if this way is practical for earth-fixed beams. The UE would see the elevation would change from 10 degrees to 90 degrees within 10s of seconds. This would require frequent RRC signaling re-configuration of UL transmission segment. It is simpler and more robust for network to configure UL transmission segment for LEO and GEO that would work for a given constellation and range of elevation angles via SIB.  Q3:Indication of common TA drift should be supported in case reference for timing alignment is at the eNB. It is also helpful for DL synchronization. Wheteher it can be used for UL TA adjustment canbe up to algorithm implementation. This does not require additional specifications. |
| Qualcomm | For Q1:  For PUSCH after RRC connection establishment, this should be configured in dedicated RRC. We should have a default in SIB for other cases (such as Msg3). This follows the usual configuration methodology in eMTC and NB-IoT.  For Q2:  Yes. For the LEO/GEO differences, we wouldn’t need the smaller values of segment durations for GEO, and can reduce to a bit field size accordingly. Similarly, we can further examine if all the larger values (e.g., 128ms, 256 ms) are always required for all LEO orbits. We can reduce things to a 2-bit field, where the candidate choices (4 values) are conditional on the orbit type.  For Q3:  We would like to caution once again that the common TA drift compensation requirement on an IoT UE is not at all desirable, since this—among other things—significantly reduces the coherent segment duration for all cases (even when it wouldn’t be the case otherwise). A good implementation for IoT-NTN should expressly compensate the common TA drift at the base station. |
| SONY | Q1: SIB  Q2: It is up to the eNB to determine an UL transmission segment duration. This is then signalled via SIB.  Q3: Common TA drift should be signalled to allow the UE to update its TA per segment. |
| CATT | For Q1: via signalling on SIB should be a baseline.  For Q2: No. It will increase the modification on specification.  For Q3: Indication of common TA parameters including common TA drift or more order parameters is needed in order to update TA. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Q1: At least SIB should be supported. There is no need to configure the UL transmission segment via UE-specific RRC signaling if there is little difference among UEs within a cell.  Q2: Yes, UL transmission segment configuration is different for different satellite scenarios and elevation angle. The candidate values for segment should take these aspects into condertaion and it is up to the network to configure UL transmission segment. However, we don’t see the need to have a separate design for different scenarios.  Q3: Reuse the NR NTN solutions. |
| vivo | Q1: The segment duration can be configured by UE-specific RRC signalling  Q2: The segment can be configured based on satellite scenarios, and no need to consider too many other factors.  Q3: Support |
| GateHouse | Q1: SIB OR as a stadardised unit/table/function of Orbit/etc.  Q2: It should be based on the orbit, which determines the worst case doppler. Then an appropriate and fixed segment size should be used.  Q3: Agree with moderator view. |
| CMCC | Q1: via SIB is preferred.  Q2: up to the network is preferred. |
| Nordic Semiconductor | Q1: after RRC establishment, segment length is configured by RRC signaling, maybe default values via SIB |
| Nokia, NSB | Q1: Both SIB and UE-specific RRC signalling are possible. However, the selection of segment length requires an understanding of the UE’s TA drift rate. Whether we can use UE-specific RRC signalling depends on if the network has enough information to estimate UE’s TA drift rate. If the location of the UE is known to the network, UE-specific RRC signalling can be used to indicate the segment length. If the network does not know the UE location, it makes sense to use SIB signaling to indicate possible segment lengths and UE can select a suitable one based on the elevation angle (which corresponds to a TA drift rate).  Q2: We should support configuration that is flexible enough for different LEO/MEO orbit altitudes covering the drift rate variation at different elevation angles. To this end, perhaps a range of segment lengths can be specified and allow the network to configure a subset for a particular scenario.  Q3: We can reuse the common TA information in the SIB (currently being worked on in NR NTN WI). |
| Novamint | Q1: SIB likely preferred  Q2: We believe it should be based on the orbit as pointed by Qualcomm or Gatehouse  Q3: Indication of common TA drift should be supported |
| Ericsson | Q1: Both should be supported.  Q2: The network should be able to configure the transmission segment in a flexible manner. This requires defning a broad range of transmission segment duration and the ability to configure it via SIB and UE-specific signalling. Of course the network can account for the elevation angle or satellite scenario while configuring the transmission segment duration. However, it is not something that needs to be specified.  Q3: This will be needed and also higher order terms. The solution of NR NTN should be the baseline. |
| Apple | Q1: Both SIB and UE-specific RRC signalling are possible  Q2: Yes, it depends on satellite scenarios. Value range may be different for different satellite scenario.  Q3: Support to indicate common TA drift. |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### NPUSCH/PUSCH UL transmission segment

In RAN1#106-e, the following agreements on NPUSCH/PUSCH UL transmission segment were made

Agreement:

Duration of UL transmission segment for UE pre-compensation for PUSCH transmission is a number of PUSCH repetition units configured by the network

* For NB-IoT, repetition unit is
* For eMTC, repetition unit is for sub-PRB allocation, where Tslot = 0.5 ms. For full-PRB allocation, repetition unit is one subframe.
* NOTE1: are defined in TS 36.211 10.1.2.3 and 10.1.3.6 for NB-IoT
* NOTE2: M\_^UL\_slot is defined in TS 36.211, 5.2.3A for eMTC
* FFS: RAN1 to further discuss valid and invalid subframes
* FFS: Configuration details

Agreement:

* For NB-IoT/eMTC NTN, the network configures one of K candidate values for the UL transmission segment duration of NPUSCH/PUSCH in a k-bit field.
  + For NB-IoT, maximum 3-bit field with a maximum number of K=8 candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms
* FFS: Down scoping of K candidate values, size of k-bit field

***NOTE: the values of UL transmission segment duration for NB-IoT can be different to those for eMTC***

Agreement:

For NB-IoT, if a mapping to Nslots slots or a repetition of the mapping in an UL transmission segment for UE pre-compensation for NPUSCH transmission contains a resource element which overlaps with any configured NPRACH resource, the NPUSCH transmission in overlapped Nslots slots is postponed until the next Nslots slots not overlapping with any configured NPRACH resource.

* NOTE: Nslots is defined in TS 36.211, 10.1.3.6

Down-scoping of UL transmission segment duration values for NPUSCH in NB-IoT:

Huawei discussed the the time-duration of NPUSCH repetition unit, i.e. , only consists of a few values {2ms, 4ms, 8ms, 16ms, 32ms} for frame structure type 1. The values of *X* for all numerology cases can be determined for different elevation angles. K=5 max UL transmission segment duration values {16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms) can be configured in a 3-bit field.

Qualcomm proposed the segment duration value(s) depend on the satellite orbit type, with GEO satellites supporting longer durations of time than LEO satellites. -For GEO, the smaller values of segment durations may not be required

Vivo assumes maximum UL transmission segment duration should not exceed 32 ms for LEO and 256 ms for GEO, and propose minimum candidate values are 4 ms for NB-IoT and 2 ms for eMTC.

Qualcomm proposed for For PUSCH, the segment duration for uplink pre-compensation may be indicated/negotiated between the network and the UE via dedicated unicast signalling, including UE sending assistance information to the network, e.g., indicating its mobility pattern and speed.

Qualcomm proposed for eMTC when frequency hopping is configured:

* When the hopping interval is less than the configured segment duration for uplink synchronization, the UE shall use the hopping interval as the segment duration for uplink synchronization
* When the hopping interval is greater than or equal to the configured segment duration for uplink synchronization, the UE shall use HI×⌊N\_configured/HI⌋ as the segment duration for uplink synchronization, where HI denotes the hopping interval, and N\_configured is the configured segment duration.

Downscoping K values for NPUSCH for NB-IoT/eMTC:

* {16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms} : Huawei
* Max 32 ms for LEO: Vivo, CATT
* Smaller candidate values not needed for GEO: Qualcomm
* Candidate value 256 ms not needed since UL Compensation gap 40 ms specified: FGI, APT, III, ITRI
* No downscoping: ZTE, MediaTek

For eMTC PUSCH, a 3-bit field to indicate K=8 values for the uplink transmission segment duration: Ericsson

* Full-PRB allocation (unit: subframes): 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 256
* Sub-PRB allocation (unit: resource units): 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128

***Moderator view:*** *Companies have discussed need to downscope lower candidate values, higher candidate values, no downscoping for candidate values of UL transmission segment NPUSCH/PUSCH. More discussions needed to align company understanding.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 4.2.2:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding for candidate values of UL transmission segment NPUSCH/PUSCH on the following***

1. ***{16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms}***
2. ***Max 32 ms for LEO***
3. ***Candidate value 256 ms not needed***
4. ***Smaller candidate values not needed for GEO***
5. ***Different candidate values for LEO and GEO***
6. ***No downscoping***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | We prefer to keep the same value for both GEO and LEO without downscope. |
| MediaTek | We prefer to keep the same value for both GEO and LEO without downscope.This seems difficult discussion and may depend on many factors – satellite scenario (LEO, MEO, GEO), earth-moving / earth-fixed beams, elevation angles, RAN4 timing requirements, and so on. There is no time for such optimization within Rel-17 timeframe. |
| Qualcomm | As described in 4.2.1, orbit differentiation is desirable and can reduce the bit-field size. A 2-bit field that is conditioned on the orbit type is preferred. |
| SONY | F: No downscoping. The current agreement requires a 3 bit field. Proposal A would save 1 bit, leading to a 2 bit field. Why do we need to optimize a SIB parameter to save 1 bit? |
| CATT | Based on our contributions, maximum value on UL transmisson segment duration is 32ms for LEO, and there are different candidate values for LEO and GEO. For GEO, TAs of different segments change ignorably. The corresponding  value of UL transmission segment is large, maybe  seconds or minutes. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | We prefer A. According to our evaluation, there is no need to have values smaller than 16ms which corresponds to an elevation angle at 10 degress. The value can be configured by the NW but this does not motivate a separate design. The existing 256ms is still needed as UE still needs to have the gap for DL chronization. |
| vivo | Support E. Different candidate values can be applied for different satellite scenarios, e.g., LEO and GEO. |
| GateHouse | A sure.  B seems conservative,  C could be used for higher altitude orbits,  D agree  E Disagree, a single set should be defined to allow for various orbits in-between – MEO, elliptical  F Prefer not to downscope. |
| Nordic Semiconductor | We prefer E |
| Nokia, NSB | We support Option A since 16 ms is the longest segment size applicable to all range of elevation angles based on Table 1 (Nokia R1-2109265). Note that the other segment sizes (>16 ms) can be used only if the UE's elevation angle is greater than the 'Minimum Elevation Angle' provided in Table 1. |
| Novamint | *We would prefer to keep the same values – i.e. a single set for supporting various orbits (GEO, LEO, MEO) without downscoping. So we would disagree on E and agree on F.*  *A seems acceptable* |
| Ericsson | Candidate values for eMTC PUSCH have not been agreed and should be discussed with priority. For eMTC PUSCH, we propose using a 3-bit field to indicate the following set of values for the uplink transmission segment duration:   * Full-PRB allocation (unit: subframes): 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 256 * Sub-PRB allocation (unit: resource units): 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128   Other comments:  C: One option is to make 256 ms the default value that is applied if the parameter is not signaled.  E: LEO/GEO distinction is not necessary, as the specified value range covers worst-case scenario. For GEO, the network may choose not to include the parameter in the SI, and the UE does not adjust its timing. |
| Hughes/EchoStar | Support to keep the same value for both GEO and LEO without downscoping. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### NPRACH/PRACH duration of UL transmission segment Duration

In RAN1#106-e, the following agreements on NPRACH/PRACH UL transmission segment were made

Agreement:

Duration of UL transmission segment for UE pre-compensation for PRACH transmission is a number of RACH repetition units configured by the network

* For NB-IoT, repetition unit is P symbol groups.
* For eMTC, repetition unit is one preamble including guard period.
* FFS: Configuration details

Agreement:

* For NB-IoT NTN, the network configures one of K values for the UL transmission segment duration of each PRACH preamble format in a k-bit field, where the size of the k-bit field and the number of K candidate values depend on the preamble format.
* Format 0 and format 1: 3-bit field, K=6 candidate values 2.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 4.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 8.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 16.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 32.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 64.4.(TCP+TSEQ)
* Format 2:  2-bit field, K=4 candidate values 2.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 4.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 8.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 16.6.(TCP+TSEQ)
* FFS: Down scoping of K candidate values, size of k-bit field
* FFS: Whether the same segment duration can be used for all preambles within a preamble format

Agreement:

For eMTC, the network configures one of K values for the UL transmission segment duration of PRACH in a k-bit field.

* FFS: K candidate values, size of k-bit field

Huawei discussed the UL segment duration should be a number of *N*PRACH repetition units which does not exceed the maximum allowed continuous transmission time *Tseg\_max* based on the elevation angle and the timing error Te. The values of number of NPRACH repetition units for format 0, 1, and 2 can be determined for different elevation angles with a 4-bit indication in the system information for the pre-compensation of all preamble formats.

CATT, SONY proposed the same segment duration should be used for all preambles within a preamble format.



**Figure 3 Maximum allowed time-continuous transmission and TA drift rate for LEO-600km (Huawei R1-2108750)**

**Table 3. Number of NPRACH repetition units at different elevation angles. (Huawei R1-2108750)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Elevation | 10o | 20o | 30o | 40o | 50o | 60o | 70o | 80o | 90o |
| Format 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 29 | 64 |
| Format 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 25 | 64 |
| Format 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 |

The moderator further summarize companies views on the following:

Downscoping K values for NPRACH for NB-IoT:

* Up-scoping Format 0 and 1 with K=7 candidate values to add *4\*(TCP+TSEQ)*: ZTE
* Up-scoping Format 2 with K=5 candidate values to add 6\*(TCP+TSEQ): Huawei, ZTE, ericsson
* Downscoping with maximum values for LEO for Format 0,1, and 2: Vivo (first 2 values format#1,1 a,d first value format #2), CATT (first 4 values format #0,#1, and new candidate values 1.6.(TCP+TSEQ) and 3.6.(TCP+TSEQ) for format #2 up to 4.6.(TCP+TSEQ) **)**

K candidate values for PRACH for eMTC:

* 3-bit field, with K=8 values (TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 2\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 4\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 8\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 16\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 32\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 64\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 128\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP): ZTE, Vivo (LEO only), Ericsson
* 3-bit field with a maximum number of K=8 candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms: SONY
* Formats #0,#1,#2: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms; Formats #3: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 3 ms, 6 ms, 12 ms, 24ms ,30ms: CATT
* Vivo (GEO): 2-bit field with 3 candidate values {2\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*(TCP + TSEQ)}.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Preamble format | P | TCP | TSEQ | TCP + TSEQ | Repetition unit duration | Maximum continuous transmission time |
| 0 | 4 | () |  | 1.4 ms | 5.6 ms | ms |
| 1 | 4 | () |  | 1.6 ms | 6.4 ms | 409.6 ms |
| 2 | 6 | () |  | 3.2 ms | 19.2 ms | ms |

NB-IoT preamble formats

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Preamble format** |  |  | **Guard Time(ms)** | **Time Duration(ms)** |
| 0 |  |  | 0.097 | 1 |
| 1 |  |  | 0.516 | 2 |
| 2 |  |  | 0.197 | 2 |
| 3 |  |  | 0.716 | 3 |
| 4 (see Note) |  |  |  |  |
| NOTE: Frame structure type 2 and special subframe configurations with UpPTS lengths and only assuming that the number of additional SC-FDMA symbols in UpPTS X in Table 4.2-1 of TS36.211 is 0. | | | | |

Preamble formats for eMTC

***Moderator view:*** *To our understanding, there is link between UL transmission segment and elevation angle. Companies have questioned whether all values are needed or just keep legacy transmission segment, or add new values to list agreed for discussions in RAN1#106e.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 4.2.3:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding for candidate values of UL transmission segment NPRACH/PRACH on the following***

***Q1: Downscoping of K values for NPRACH***

1. ***No need to introduce new transmission segments (i.e. only use legacy transmission segments 64.4.(TCP+TSEQ) for format 0 and 1, and 16.6.(TCP+TSEQ)  for format #2***
2. ***Same transmission segment duration for all preamble***
3. ***New transmission segments added – i.e.. 4\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 0 and 1, and 6\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 2.***

***Q2: K values for PRACH for eMTC***

1. ***3-bit field, with K=8 values (TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 2\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 4\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 8\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 16\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 32\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 64\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 128\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP)***
2. ***3-bit field with K=8 candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms***
3. ***Formats #0,#1,#2: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms; Formats #3: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 3 ms, 6 ms, 12 ms, 24ms ,30ms;***
4. ***2-bit field with K=3 candidate values {2\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*(TCP + TSEQ)}.***

***Q3: Same value used for segment durations for all preambles***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | Q1: we support option C, i.e., adding new segment candidates. For format 0 and 1, since 3 bits are always needed, we prefer to add the minimum repetition unit as a candidate for more flexibility. For format 2, in our evaluations, the original shortest segment (i.e., *2\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ)=38.4ms*) cannot work in LEO-600 with lowest elevation angle (2.6us / 93us/s = 27.9ms) so that a shorter candidate is needed.  Q2: We support option A since different formats can share unified signaling.  Q3: Agree. |
| MediaTek | Q1: Option C can be supported as anyway it is not useful to have two different ranges for format 0,1 and format 2 with K=6 and K=4 candidate values respectively, which would require 3+2 bits. With one range, then only 3 bits needed. The candidate values will be different, but UE woud which are the values indicated by a single 3-bit field knowing which format is to be used for RACH preamble transmission.  Q3: Based on our answer for Q1, there can be 6 candidate values for all preambles in NB-IoT. The values are preamble specific, but UE would know this knowing which format to use for preamble transmission.. |
| SONY | Q1:  Q2: Support option B. Segment durations are the same for PUSCH and PRACH.  Q3: agree |
| CATT | Q1: support option A  Q2: Based on our analysis, we support option C.  Q3: Agree. |
| vivo | Q1: Support C  Q2: Support A  Q3: For eMTC, all preambles can use same candidate values set. While for NB-IoT, due that the repetition units are different, all preambles may not use same candidate values set. |
| GateHouse | Q3: Agree |
| Nokia, NSB | We are designing the PRACH segments considering a timing requirement Te=80Ts (2.6 µs) for NB-IoT and Te=24Ts (0.78 µs) for eMTC. Those requirements are intended for terrestrial networks, where the RTD between BS and UE is not compensated in PRACH but depends on the CP to cover the delay. In NTN, however, the UE will compensate the service link and feeder link RTD, so the CP length can be used to absorb more timing error. The CP length for NB-IoT format 0, 1, 2 is respectively 66.7 µs, 266.7 µs, and 800 µs. Why do we need to restrict NB-IoT for example to a timing error of 2.6 µs with the relatively long CP length of PRACH when the RTD is already compensated? |
| Novamint | Q3: agree |
| Ericsson | Q1:We support part of Option C because for NB-IoT PRACH format 2, it should be possible to configure a transmission segment duration of 1 repetition. This is because the minimum possible transmission segment duration for NB-IoT PRACH format 2 is *2.6.(TCP+TSEQ)* = 2\*19.2 ms = 38.4 ms as per the current agreement, resulting in a TA error of 3.84 s assuming a ~100 s/s TA drift which violates the transmit timing error requirement of 2.6 for NB-IoT.  Q2: We support Option A as it allows the network to cater to the eMTC transmit timing error requriements of 0.39 us (Table 7.26.2-1 in TS 36.133) for all PRACH formats. Moreover, Option A is more flexible than Option B. For example, consider PRACH format 3 which has a repetition unit of 3 ms. Option A allows the network to configure duration in multiples of 3 ms. With Option B, however, the network can only configure multiples of 2 ms which is not compatible with Format 3. Option C and D are too restrictive as they do not allow the network to configure a longer segment duration. Morevoer, with Option A, it is sufficient to specify a single value range for all PRACH formats.  Q3: It is OK to use the same value for all preambles within a PRACH format. |
| Hughes/EchoStar | Q3: Agree |
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### New UL gaps for long UL transmission

New gaps for long transmission of NPRACH:

The total 2-way delay dift can be up to ~100 µs/s over service link and feeder link (UE-SAT-eNB) at lowest elevation angle of 10 degree on service link and feeder link. For long transmission of RACH, there will be a large timing drift in case of large number of repetitions for preamble transmission. For NB-IoT, the maximum time-continuous transmission can be 409.6 ms, which gives a total 2-way delay drift of about 41 µs/s or 1258.Ts. This exceeds the max transmit timing error of 2.6 µs =80.Ts in NB-IoT.

Huawei proposed UE autonomous TA adjustment should be applied during the long preamble transmission duration to compensate the large timing drift.

Qualcomm observed that the UE can handle the (small) changes/adjustments across chunks/segments in time and frequency by dropping/inserting samples as and when required. This prevents any potential throughput loss and scheduling complications that additional gaps may precipitate.

Company views on new gaps for NPRACH in NB-IoT (based on their proposals in TDoc submissions):

* New gaps: Spreadtrum, FGI, APT
* No New gaps: Huawei, Qualcomm, Nordic Semiconductor ASA



**Figure 1. Maximum allowed time-continuous transmission and TA drift rate for LEO-600km (Huawei R1-2108750)**

New gaps for long transmission of NPUSCH :

The total 2-way delay dift can be up to ~100 µs/s over service link and feeder link (UE-SAT-eNB) at lowest elevation angle of 10 degree on service link and feeder link. For long transmission of NPUSCH/PUSCH, there will be a large timing drift in case of large number of repetitions at low elevation angles. For NB-IoT and eMTC, the legacy maximum time-continuous transmission can be 256 ms, which gives a total 2-way delay drift of about 25 µs/s or 769.Ts, which exceeds the max transmit timing error of 2.6 µs =80.Ts in NB-IoT and 0.78 µs = 24.Ts in eMTC respectively.

FGI, APT discussed cases for overlapping. If decreasing (case 1), UE shall add gaps due to TA adjustment to postpone the repetition units to ensure eNB receives the long UL transmission without gaps among the repetitions. If increasing (case 2), UE could 1) complete transmission of repetition unit n and not transmit the overlapped part of repetition unit n+1; or 2) drop the overlapped part of repetition unit n; 3) drop the whole repetition unit n; or 4) postpone repetition unit n+1 until the next slot not overlapping (including TA impact) with any configured NPRACH or NPUSCH resource.

Diagram

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 1: Long UL transmission enhancement in IoT over NTN (FGI, APT R1-2109869)

Huawei proposed to introduce extra gaps for TA adjustment based on different elevation angles. More UL gaps should be inserted according to the maximum allowed time-continuous transmission for IoT over NTN, which is based on the common TA drift rate and the worst case of UE-specific TA drift rate in a cell.

Nokia proposed one SC-FDMA symbol can be punctured between two segments for TA adjustment.

Samsung proposed if transmission signal is overlapped between two adjacent segments, overlapped samples of the last segment can be dropped.

Lenovo proposed last Y time duration or first Y time duration NPUSCH transmission every X ms time interval for TA adjustment is dropped/punctured.

CATT proposed for small TA variation, TA adjustment is implemented by dropping tail samples of a segment or delaying a few samples for UL transmission. For large TA variation, the gap can be configured with Original GP reused for (N)PRACH’s new gap.

Nokia observed that TA drift induced timing error during the maximum continuous transmission time of NPRACH is smaller than the preamble’s cyclic prefix. No need to introduce new transmission segments to NPRACH.

MediaTek observed new gap of 1 ms may not be difficult for eNB to to schedule UEs with UL transmission duration of 1 ms since repetitions may most likely be needed. Re-using gap of 40 ms has lower imact on specifications and eNB scheduler implementation, and no impact on peak data rates for normal SNR conditons where use of many repetitions is not required.

Spreadtrum, ZTE, Vivo mentioned new gaps can avoid issues of UL transmission segments overlapping.



Figure 1: the UE's TA pre-compensation value changes from large to small (Spreadtrum R1-2108931)

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Figure 2: the UE's TA pre-compensation value changes from small to large (Spreadtrum R1-2108931)

The moderator further summarize companies views on the following:

* New gaps: Huawei, ZTE, Spreadtrum, Vivo, NEC, Samsung, FGI, APT, CATT, MediaTek
  + 1 ms: ZTE
  + 40 ms (legacy UL gap) ZTE
  + Smaller than 1 ms: Huawei, FGI, APT, III, ITRI
  + Indicated by system Information: Huawei
* No new gaps: Nordic Semiconductor ASA, Nokia

***Moderator view:*** *Companies have discussed need for new gaps for NPUSCH/PUSCH and NPRACH. To the moderator understanding there can be different values for new gaps – 1 ms, 40 ms, smaller than 1 ms. In case no gap, there can be several ways TAadjustments can be implementated or it can be done within the preamble’s cyclic prefix or the guard band. Other ways up to UE implementation can also be considered based on the RAN4 timing requirements. More discussions needed to align company understanding.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 4.2.4:***

***Companies are encouraged to comment on options for new gaps between UL transmission segments:***

* ***Option 1: New gaps for NPUSCH/PUSCH:*** 
  1. ***1 ms:***
  2. ***40 ms (legacy UL gap)***
  3. ***Smaller than 1 ms***
     1. ***one punctured SC-FDMA symbol in NPUSCH/PUSCH***
     2. ***one dropped/punctured time duration in NPUSCH/PUSCH***
  4. ***Indicated by system Information***
* ***Option 2: No new gaps between UL transmission segments: (Please, say if this has impact on the specifications or can be up to UE implementation based on RAN4 timing requirements).***
  1. ***Small TA adjustment is implemented by dropping tail samples of a segment for NPUSCH/PUSCH***
  2. ***Small TA adjustment is implemented by delaying a few samples for UL transmission for NPUSCH/PUSCH***
  3. ***Large TA adjustment is done within the NPRACH/RACH preamble’s cyclic prefix or the guard band***
  4. ***Other ways up to UE implementation***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | We are supportive to Option-1 with new gap. |
| MediaTek | We are supportive to Option-1 with new gap.  Gap smaller than 1 ms and no gap have impact on implementation complexity. |
| Qualcomm | There is absolutely no need for gaps (we support Option 2). Sample insertion/dropping can handle the small variations from one segment to the next. Gaps will cause unnecessary throughput reduction and scheduling complexities—especially for something that can be easily handled without these. Note that, requiring gaps for this needless use case will mean testing new configurations for the UEs, which is highly undesirable.  Also, a small comment on Option 1 (b): This should really be a “non-starter”! Say you have a segment duration of 16ms, and the total duration (without gaps) is C such chunks, where C>1. How is it even remotely reasonable to suggest that we have a 40ms gap after each 16ms segment?! |
| SONY | Support option 1. Within option 1, we think (a) would be easier from an implementation perspective. We do not support (b): 40ms gaps were introduced in Rel-13 to allow the UE to synchronise in the DL during a long UL transmission and the issue in Rel-17 IoT-NTN is different (colliding subframes due to varying timing advance during a transmission). |
| CATT | Based on our analysis, the new UL gap for long UL transmission will cause slot misalignment for (N)PUSCH, if the length of new UL gap is not the integer of a slot.  We support option2-a:small TA adjustment is implemented by dropping tail samples of a segment for NPUSCH/PUSCH. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Slightly prefer Option 1d) as the length of UL gap to allow some configuratrion flexibility for UL scheduling. |
| vivo | Support new gaps for NPUSCH/PUSCH segment transmission. And new gaps could be used for some necessary behavior, e.g. UE-specific/Common TA calculation and adjustment. Flexible configuration of new gaps can be considered. |
| GateHouse | Completely agree with Qualcomm.  If gaps are introduced after segments, we ought to keep them very small compared to the segment size eg <0.1ms for 16ms segment |
| Nordic Semiconductor | There should be no gaps between segments |
| Nokia, NSB | We think the gap between segments should not be longer than necessary, otherwise we will waste the resource. A 1ms gap is clearly too long for TA adjustment purpose. We can either drop the overlapped samples (when TA is increasing) in the previous segment, or if we want to avoid phase discontinuity altogether within segment durations, we can have a 1-symbol gap by puncturing the last symbol of the previous segment. (Support Option 1 c). |
| Novamint | We tend to agree with Qualcomm and support Option 2 |
| Ericsson | We support Option 2. Gaps will complicate scheduling and it is unclear if a gap is needed. If the phase discontinuity only causes insignificant problems, such a gap does not seem necessary. First, the motivation for a new gap should be discussed and agreed. |
| Hughes/EchoStar | Support Option 2 |
| Apple | We support a new gap (Option 1) to avoid the potential overlap of two segments due to the TA adjustment. The length of the new gap may depend on the UL transmission segment. |
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### Postponement of long NPUSCH due to overlap with NPRACH :

ZTE proposed the postponement of NPUSCH due to overlap with NPRACH is counted in segment duration. The portion of postponement which coincides with a UL gap is counted as part of the gap.



Figure 3 Illustration of overlap between NPUSCH and NPRACH. (ZTE R1-2109847)

***Moderator view:*** *postponement of long NPUSCH due to overlap with NPRACH. RAN1#106-e made agreement “For NB-IoT, if a mapping to Nslots slots or a repetition of the mapping in an UL transmission segment for UE pre-compensation for NPUSCH transmission contains a resource element which overlaps with any configured NPRACH resource, the NPUSCH transmission in overlapped Nslots slots is postponed until the next Nslots slots not overlapping with any configured NPRACH resource.”.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 4.2.5:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding on the following for postponement of long NPUSCH due to overlap with NPRACH***

1. ***Counted in segment duration.***
2. ***Portion of postponement which coincides with a UL gap is counted as part of the gap***
3. ***Others (please, say what and why)***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | We support A and B.  For A, even if PUSCH is postponed when overlapping with NPRACH, the TA is still varied. Hence, the postponement should be counted in segment duration.  For B, during postponement, UE will not send NPUSCH. Hence, the resources occupied by NPRACH can be regarded as UL gap for UE transmitting NPUSCH. As a result, the postponement which coincides with a UL gap can be counted as part of the gap. |
| MediaTek | We support A and B. Same understanding as ZTE |
| Qualcomm | “A” seems OK.  “B” depends on the outcome on UL gaps. As we described before, it is highly undesirable to introduce gaps for this use case. |
| CATT | Based on our analysis, the new UL gap for long UL transmission will cause slot misalignment for (N)PUSCH, if the length of new UL gap is not the integer of a slot.  We support A. duiring postponement, UE don’t send NUSCH, but TA has worked not including the effect of postponement. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Support A. B can work if gap is introduced. |
| vivo | Support option B. |
| GateHouse | Agree with Qualcomm, Huawei, Hisilicon |
| Nordic Semiconductor | We agree with GateHouse, Qualcomm, Huawei, Hisilicon |
| Nokia, NSB | We think B is more reasonable as the overlap can be used for UL sync. |
| Novamint | Support A – B only if gap is introduced |
| Apple | Support A and B. |
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### Phase discontinuity in segmented pre-compensation

Huawei discussed that for long repetitions, that the phase discontinuity at the subframe boundary when applying new pre-compensation is predictable based on the UE GNSS acquired position, satellite ephemeris and common TA drift rate and can be compensated at the UE side.

ZTE observed that the PAPR increment due to phase discontinuity in segmented pre-compensation is acceptable even if no further enhancement is introduced. Further improvement on the PAPR with proper configuration of segment length can be achieved. If segment overlap and phase discontinuity are expected to be mitigated, more frequent new UL gaps can be inserted between segments to avoid overlap between segments when TA is adjusted. The phase discontinuity due to UL signal puncturing, which is performed at segment boundary to advance the transmission timing, can also be avoided. The additional UL gap does not need to be as large as traditional 40 ms UL gap since it is mainly to handle the overlap between segments instead of recovering DL synchronization. The maximum TA variation between adjacent segments is restricted by , which is much shorter than 1 slot.



Figure 1 PAPR of segmented signal with 12 subcarriers (ZTE R1-2109847)

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| papr_1sccomp | papr_1sccomp_edge |
| 1. pi/2-BPSK, center subcarrier | 1. pi/2-BPSK, edge subcarrier |
| papr_1sccomp_pidiv4qpsk | papr_1sccomp_pidiv4qpsk_edge |
| 1. pi/4-QPSK, center subcarrier | 1. pi/4-QPSK, edge subcarrier |

Figure 2 PAPR of segmented signal with 1 subcarrier with 100 us/s TA drift rate (ZTE R1-2109847)

Nokia observed that Timing-drift-induced phase error can exceed the maximum demodulation tolerance at the receiver. Analysis in Nokia R1-2109625 is copied below to allow understanding of the issue:

On UL, baseband signal with SC-FDMA (Section 10.1.5 of TS36.211) with a resource unit containing only one subcarrier (), time-continuous signal *sk* ,*l* (*t* ) for sub-carrier index *k* in SC-FDMA symbol *l* in an uplink slot is



, where

The phase of current symbol is an increment of from the phase of previous symbol . In NTN, the required timing advance is time-varying due to the motion of satellite. During a transmission period, the TA change amount is roughly the product of the TA drift rate and the transmission time. For IoT devices that rely on a large number of repetitions in data transmission, the long transmission time will incur a non-negligible timing drift for the UL signal. When the signal’s propagation distance changes with the movement of a satellite, a phase error will be encountered at the receiver. When the phase of the transmitted signal is at time , the transmitted signal arrives at the receiver with an additional delay known as timing drift. As the received signal is sampled at , the receiver observes the phase of a delayed signal waveform, resulting in a phase error on the received signal. Note that the symbol phase of the received signal increases at a lower rate as opposed to the original rate .



Figure 7 Receiver can observe a lower phase than the transmitted signal’s phase due to TA drift. (R1-2109265)

As the TA change becomes large, there may be a serious impact on the signal’s phase continuity, causing the data symbols not to be demodulated successfully. In particular, a TA change of corresponds to a timing drift of for the UL signal waveform. The accumulated timing drift in the UL signal during the transmission period. This timing drift produces an increasing phase error along the time. Additionally, a UE with smaller elevation angle may have a faster phase error accumulation. Due to the TA drift, the symbol phase slope at the receiver will change by a factor (1+r⁄2)^(-1).



Figure 8 The amount of phase error in UL transmission period increase with the transmission period.(Nokia R1-2109625)

Nokia proposed two ways to resolve the issue of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segment:

* At the UE transmitter, UE scales up the phase difference across symbols based on TA drift rate: the phase error can be pre-compensated by scaling up the phase difference across symbols by a factor χ. The symbol phase for the l ̃-th symbol becomes φ(l ̃ )=φ(l ̃-1)+2πΔf(k+1/2)(N+N\_(CP,l) ) T\_s χ (1) , where χ is a function of TA drift rate r, χ(r)=1+r/2. With the phase pre-compensation, the phase of the l ̃-th symbol of the received signal will be φ(l ̃ )=φ(l ̃-1)+2πΔf(k+1/2)(N+N\_(CP,l) ) T\_s after propagation while the TA drifts.
* At eNB transmitter, the network estimate the UE-specific TA drift and pre-compensate the phase difference across symbols based on UE location: he phase error can be corrected by the eNB receiver instead of the UE pre-compensating the phase error. In the demodulation process, the eNB will use the time drifted symbol phase for the -th symbol as in (1), but with the timing correction factor . With this phase correction, the reference phase of the demodulator will be the same as the phase of the received signal.

***Moderator view:*** *Companies have provided some analsysis for this issue of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segment. The moderator understanding is that the impact on the PAPR is not significant. The impact on demodulation performance of UL signals at the eNB is significant.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 4.2.6:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss and align their understanding on this issue of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segment:***

***Q1: Impact of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segment on PAPR is not significant. Please, say why if there is different understanding.***

***Q2: Impact of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segment on UL signals demodulation performance can be pre-compensated:***

1. ***At UE transmitter: UE scales up the phase difference across symbols based on UE GNSS acquired position, satellite ephemeris and common TA drift.***
2. ***At eNB transmitter: Network estimate the UE-specific TA drift and pre-compensate the phase difference across symbols based on UE location.***

***Q3: In case answer to Q2, a) is Yes, are new gaps between UL transmission segments needed?***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | Q1: Agree.  Q2: In our understanding, the phase discontinuity is caused by TA and frequency pre-compensation at UE side. After experiencing the channel, the received signal at BS receiver should approach the original signal without precompensation, where there is no or mild phase discontinuity. Therefore, we think a specific compensation on phase rotation may not be needed.  Q3: Not needed specifically for phase discontinuity. But considering that UL gap may be inserted to handle overlap between segments, new gap can be adopted. |
| MediaTek | Q1: Agree, based on analysis provided by contributing companies  Q2: Same understanding as ZTE  Q3: New gap needed for overlap between segments and apply new UE pre-compensation to avoid impact on implementation complexity. |
| Qualcomm | Q1: Agree.  Q2: Across segment durations, phase continuity “requirements” (if any) can be decided by RAN4. It cannot reasonably be expected that the UE will eternally maintain phase continuity across segment durations, for example. Importantly, no new PHY operations should be mandated on the UE from one segment to another (aside from simply changing the precompensation). |
| SONY | Q3: UL gaps are required to handle overlap between segments. |
| CATT | Q1:Agree  Q2: Agree with ZTE.  Q3: no need. New gaps can not solve the problem of phase discontinuity. |
| GateHouse | Q1: Yes  Q2:   1. Yes 2. No, eNB does not know the UE location. The UE receiver performs any compensation.   Q3:  No, sample insertion/removal and smoothing should occur between segments. |
| Nordic Semiconductor | Q1: Yes  Q3: No gaps between UL segments |
| Nokia, NSB | Q1: PAPR impact is caused by the phase discontinuity across two segments when there is no gap. We believe this impact may not be significant.  Q2: We think there may be an impact of phase error on demodulation, which is caused by TA drift within a segment. Both (a) and (b) can be used to mitigate the phase error. In (a), UE pre-compensates the phase error based on the TA drift rate. In (b), eNB (receiver) post-compensates the phase error. Note: We would like to clarify that (b) is applied to the eNB receiver, where the phase error is post-compensated based on eNB’s estimate of the TA drift rate.  Q3: Having a gap is not necessary for phase error pre-compensation, although a gap will ensure no phase discontinuity within a segment. |
| Ericsson | Q1: Agree. |
| Apple | Q1: Agree  Q3: New gap between UL transmission segements is useful to addres phase discontinuity. |
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## FIRST ROUND - Long UL transmission on PUSCH and PRACH

### Configuration of UL transmission segment

Configuration of UL transmission segment:

* Via signalling on SIB: ZTE, MediaTek, Qualcomm / Nordic Semiconductor / Nokia (Msg3), Sony, CATT, Huawei, Gatehouse, CMCC
* Via UE-specific RRC signalling: Qualcomm / Nordic Semiconductor / Nokia (in connected), Vivo,

UL transmission segment configured be based on UE elevation angle

* Not support: ZTE / MediaTek / CATT (complexity), SONY / Huawei / CMCC (up to eNB), Gatehouse (orbit only), Qualcomm / Vivo (signalling efficiency for LEO/GEO)
* Support: Nokia (based on drift rate variation at different elevation angles)

***First Round Proposal – Section 4.3.1:***

***Configuration of UL transmission segment is indicated on SIB at least for initial access***

***FFS via UE-specific RRC signalling in RRC\_CONNECTED***

### NPUSCH/PUSCH UL transmission segment

Downscoping of candidate values of UL transmission segment NPUSCH/PUSCH:

* No down-scoping: ZTE, MediaTek, SONY, CMCC (up to te network), Gatehouse
* Per satellite orbit: Qualcomm, CATT (max 32 ms for LEO), Huawei / Nokia (min 16 ms for LEO), Gatehouse

Ericsson mentioned candidate values for eMTC PUSCH have not been agreed and should be discussed with priority. For eMTC PUSCH, they propose using a 3-bit field to indicate the following set of values for the uplink transmission segment duration:

• Full-PRB allocation (unit: subframes): 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 256

• Sub-PRB allocation (unit: resource units): 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128

***First Round Proposal – Section 4.3.2:***

***FFS down-scoping of candidate values of UL transmission segment NPUSCH/PUSCH***

* ***No down-scoping***
* ***Per satellite orbit***
  + ***FSS min X1 ms for LEO, Y1 ms for MEO, Z1 ms for GEO***
  + ***FFS max X2 ms for LEO, Y2 for MEO, Z2 for GEO***

### NPRACH/PRACH duration of UL transmission segment Duration

Q1: Downscoping K values for NPRACH for NB-IoT:

1. Up-scoping Format 0 and 1 with K=7 candidate values to add *4\*(TCP+TSEQ)*: CATT (just use only use legacy transmission segments 64.4.(TCP+TSEQ) for format 0 and 1, and 16.6.(TCP+TSEQ)  for format #2***)***
2. Up-scoping Format 2 with K=5 candidate values to add 6\*(TCP+TSEQ):
3. New transmission segments added – i.e.. 4\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 0 and 1, and 6\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 2: Vivo, MediaTek, Ericsson (for format 2), ZTE, Huawei

Q2: K values for PRACH for eMTC

1. 3-bit field, with K=8 values (TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 2\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 4\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 8\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 16\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 32\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 64\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 128\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP): ZTE, Ericsson, MediaTek, Vivo,
2. 3-bit field with K=8 candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms: SONY
3. Formats #0,#1,#2: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms; Formats #3: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 3 ms, 6 ms, 12 ms, 24ms ,30ms;: CATT
4. 2-bit field with K=3 candidate values {2\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*(TCP + TSEQ)}.

Q3: Same value used for segment durations for all preambles: ZTE, MediaTek, SONY, Vivo (for eMTC), Novamint, Ericsson, Hughes/Echostar

### New UL gaps for long UL transmission

Support new gap of 1 ms: ZTE / MediaTek / SONY (1 ms gap), Huawei (indicated by SIB), Nokia (puncture last symbol in UL transmission segmentt )

Support Samples insertion / drop by UE: Qualcomm / CATT / Gatehouse / Nokia (samples insertion / drop) , Nordic semiconductor

There is not enough consensus achieved on this issue.

### Postponement of long NPUSCH due to overlap with NPRACH :

Option A. Counted in segment duration:ZTE, MediaTek, Qualcomm, CATT, Huawei, Gatehouse, Nordic Semiconductor

Option B. Portion of postponement which coincides with a UL gap is counted as part of the gap: ZTE, MediaTek, Huawei / Qualcomm / Vivo / Gatehouse / Nordic Semiconductor (if gap introduced), Nokia

***Moderator view: Postpone discussion until RAN1 conclude discusions on new gap. Option A is baseline if no new gap.***

### Phase discontinuity in segmented pre-compensation

There is consensus from companies that impact of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segment on PAPR is not significant.

Further discussions on whether potential impact of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segment on UL signals demodulation performance can be pre-compensated will be helpful.

***First Round Proposal – Section 4.3.6:***

***Conclusion:***

***Impact of phase error due to TA change between UL transmission segments on PAPR is not significant***

## SECOND ROUND - Long UL transmission on PUSCH and PRACH

### Configuration of UL transmission segment

The proposal 1st Checkpoint Oct-24 – Section 4.4.1 was agreed with some revisions in GTW Session.

Agreement:

Configuration of UL transmission segment is indicated on SIB at least for initial access

* FFS via UE-specific RRC signalling in RRC\_CONNECTED.

### NPUSCH/PUSCH UL transmission segment

The Second Round Proposal – Section 4.4.2-2 was agreed with some revisions in GTW Session.

Agreement:

For eMTC PUSCH, a 3-bit field to indicate K=8 values for the uplink transmission segment duration:

* Full-PRB allocation (unit: subframes): 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 256
* Sub-PRB allocation (unit: resource units): 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128

***FL Recommendation:– Section 4.4.2-1:***

***RAN1 can further discuss down-scoping of candidate values of UL transmission segment NPUSCH/PUSCH***

* ***No down-scoping***
* ***Per satellite orbit***
  + ***FSS min X1 ms for LEO, Y1 ms for MEO, Z1 ms for GEO***
  + ***FFS max X2 ms for LEO, Y2 for MEO, Z2 ms for GEO***

### NPRACH/PRACH duration of UL transmission segment Duration

Q1: Downscoping K values for NPRACH for NB-IoT:

1. Up-scoping Format 0 and 1 with K=7 candidate values to add *4\*(TCP+TSEQ)*: CATT (just use only use legacy transmission segments 64.4.(TCP+TSEQ) for format 0 and 1, and 16.6.(TCP+TSEQ)  for format #2***)***
2. Up-scoping Format 2 with K=5 candidate values to add 6\*(TCP+TSEQ):
3. New transmission segments added – i.e.. 4\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 0 and 1, and 6\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 2: Vivo, MediaTek, Ericsson (for format 2), ZTE, Huawei

Q2: K values for PRACH for eMTC

1. 3-bit field, with K=8 values (TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 2\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 4\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 8\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 16\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 32\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 64\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 128\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP): ZTE, Ericsson, MediaTek, Vivo,
2. 3-bit field with K=8 candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms: SONY
3. Formats #0,#1,#2: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms; Formats #3: 3-bit field, with K=5 values 3 ms, 6 ms, 12 ms, 24ms ,30ms;: CATT
4. 2-bit field with K=3 candidate values {2\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*(TCP + TSEQ)}.

The Second Round Proposals – Section 4.4.3-2 and 4.4.3-3- were agreed with some revisions in GTW Session. A similar agreement for NB-IoT was made for for segment durations for all NPRACH preambles for a particular NPRACH format.

Agreement:

For NB-IOT, the same value is used for segment durations for all NPRACH preambles for a particular NPRACH format

Agreement:

For eMTC, a 3-bit field is defined in the SIB to indicate the following K=8 values for the uplink transmission segment duration of PRACH:

(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 2\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 4\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 8\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 16\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 32\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 64\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 128\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP)

Agreement:

For eMTC, the same value is used for segment durations for all PRACH preambles

Agreement:

For NB-IOT, the same value is used for segment durations for all NPRACH preambles for a particular NPRACH format

***FL recommendation – Section 4.4.3-1:***

***For NB-IoT, add uplink transmission segment duration of 4\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 0 and 1, and 6\*(TCP+TSEQ) for format 2 of NPRACH***

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### New UL gaps for long UL transmission

There is not enough consensus achieved on this issue as summarized in Section 4.3.4.

### Postponement of long NPUSCH due to overlap with NPRACH :

As discussed in Section 4.3.5

***Moderator view: Postpone discussion until RAN1 conclude discusions on new gap. Option A is baseline if no new gap.***

### Phase discontinuity in segmented pre-compensation

The first round proposal 4.3.6 was for discussion on RAN1 reflector for first checkpoint Oct-24.

Companies agree that there is no significant impact on PAPR.

Nokia and Sony commented that the phase error will impact receiver, which should be solved to avoid the impact on performance.

Moderator view: More discussions on this topic will be needed.

# DL Synchronization

## Background

In RAN#92e, the following objective was agreed in the Rel-17 IoT NTN WID [1]

*Specify the following time and frequency synchronization enhancements that are not covered by NR\_NTN\_Solutions WI agreements, according to Section 8 in TR 36.763:*

* *DL synchronization enhancements: A single solution will be selected between: new channel raster, (part of) ARFCN-indication-in-MIB.*

The differential Doppler frequency can be up to +/-39.9 kHz with set-4 LEO-600. The max Doppler shift cann be +/-48 kHz. Wth 20 ppm oscillator error at UE, there can be additional frequency error term of +/-40 KHz. The total uncertainty on DL raster exceeds half of 100 kHz channel raster of terrestrial NB-IoT/eMTC. Synchronizing on the wrong raster could cause error in (N)Cell frequency selection.

## Company views

Ericsson observed that RAN4 input is needed before increasing the channel raster size and multiple hypotheses testing may be needed if ARFCN-indication-in-MIB is used. RAN1 can compare the pros and cons of increasing the channel raster step size and introducing ARFCN-indication-in-MIB

Huawei observed introducing the new channel raster with larger step size (100 kHz) has no extra signalling overhead. Indication of (part of)ARFCN will increase the MIB payload size and overhead and also causes potential compatibility issue for terminals operating in both terrestrial IoT network and the NTN IoT network.

Lenovo considered the standard effort and potential available bit in MIB indicating the ARFCN, we prefer solution A to investigate the possible increasing channel raster step size by RAN4, e.g., channel raster with step size of 300kHz.

Intel observed both solutions are able to solve the issue of ARFCN ambiguity. Increased channel raster step size may lead to reduced number of NB-IoT carriers if bandwidth is a limiting factor for NTN NB-IoT deployments. Number of carriers shall be selected to have sufficient number of NB-IoT carriers considering UE complexity for DL synchronization. It is simpler from the implementation perspective and requires less standardization efforts. Support Common Doppler pre-compensation for DL, with indication of Common Doppler pre-compensation should follow design agreed for NR NTN

Qualcomm observed that increasing the channel raster step size limits possible Ncell deployments for operators. For example, if the raster step size is doubled, the number of Ncells that an operator can deploy within their allocated spectrum reduces by half. The current MIB in NB-IoT alreadyt indicates the “raster offset” between +/- 2.5 KHz and +/- 7.5 kHz to solve an analogous ambiguity that may arise in terrestrial, depending on where the Ncells can be in frequency. Indicating a portion of the ARFCN in NB-MIB for IoT NTN would need two LSBs to lock on an odd or even ARFCN, while also determining the direction of the Doppler frequency shift There are 9 spare bits in the NB-MIB, so 2 spare bits can be used for the two LSBs of the ARFCN.

New channel raster with step size greater than 100 kHz for DL synchronization in IoT NTN

* Support: Huawei, CATT, ZTE, MediaTek, Xiaomi (200 kHz), Lenovo (300 kHz), Intel, Apple

(part-)ARFCN-indication-in-MIB

* Support: Qualcomm (2 LSBs)

DL frequency pre-compensation:

* Support: Huawei

***Moderator view:*** *To moderator understanding, the differential Doppler frequency can be up to +/-39.9 kHz with set-4 LEO-600 km. This is close to maximum Doppler shift +/-48 kHz without DL frequency pre-compensation. Discussions on DL frequency pre-compensation by the network on service link is also discussed in NR NTN and can be postponed until NR NTN WI concludes on this topic to avoid duplication of discussion.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 5.2:***

***Companies are encouraged to further discuss on the pros and cons of DL synchronization solutions: (please, also indicate preference if any and why)***

***Q1: Is it company understanding that the differential Doppler frequency can be up to +/-39.9 kHz with set-4 LEO-600 km. This is close to maximum Doppler shift +/-48 kHz without DL frequency pre-compensation?***

***Q2: new channel raster with larger step size (>100 kHz)***

* ***RAN4 input is needed before increasing the channel raster size***
* ***Has no extra signalling overhead***
* ***Limits possible Ncell deployments for operators***

***Q3: (part of)ARFCN indication in MIB***

* ***Need two spare LSBs to lock on an odd or even ARFCN without ambiguity on direction***
* ***Need multiple hypotheses testing.***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | Q1: Yes.  Q2&Q3: We prefer increasing channel raster. Multiple hypotheses testing cannot be avoided for ARFCN-indication-in-MIB method when detecting MIB, which is costing. Hence, straightly adopting larger step size is preferred. |
| MediaTek | Q1: Yes  Q2 and Q3: Preference for new channel raster to avoid multiple hypotheses testing and re-using spare bits of MIB un-necessarily. Increasing channel raster has not significant impact on Uimplementation complexity. |
| Qualcomm | Q1: Yes.  Q2: Reduces (precious) spectrum utilization by the factor of raster step size increase. Further, any chunk of spectrum without a raster point is rendered useless.  Q3: 2 bits are sufficient to resolve all ambiguities (we have 9 bits spare). We don’t understand where the discussion about “multiple hypotheses” is arising from. Could companies further clarify? |
| CATT | Q1: YES.  Q2:We prefer increasing channel raster. Wating RAN4 input. |
| Huawei, HiSilicon | Q1: Yes. In addition, the IoT devices are more sensitive to the complexity it is more meaningful to support DL frequency pre-compensation in IoT NTN. I  Q2: Support new channel raster considering complexity and signaling overhead. |
| GateHouse | Q1: Yes  Q2: Agree, RAN4 input is needed.  It is our view that a raster size different from 100kHz may lead to issues   1. Operators may not be able to deploy a nb-iot channel in their available spectrum 2. Operators may not be able to allocate adjacent nb-iot channels that are otherwiseseperated in space (satellites following eachother for which the Doppler will never overlap) 3. Different operators will need to place channels further apart to avoid interference (eg. 400kHz apart for a 200kHz raster, instead of 300kHz apart) leading to spectrum waste   Q3:  Most interested in this option. |
| Sateliot | Q1: Yes  Q2: Option NOT preferred due to the added limitations and reduced flexibility in the use of small blocks of spectrum  Q3: Option preferred because of the limitations of the Q2 solution |
| Nokia, NSB | Q1: Yes.  Q2: New channel raster is suitable from overhead and complexity PoV. |
| Novamint | Agree with Nokia |
| Ericsson | Support. The proposal should apply also to eMTC. |
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## FIRST ROUND – DL Synchronization

New proposal added in Second Round in Section 5.4.

## . SECOND ROUND – DL Synchronization

This issue has been discussed for two meetings. Proponents are encouraged to further discuss offline before RAN1#107-e meeting in November.

**Moderator view:** There is no consensus in RAN1 on down-selecting the options. To make progress in this meeting, we may try to conclude on the RAN1 parts and requesdt RAN4 to discuss further down-selection.

* For the new channel raster > 100 kHz, if agreed in RAN1 then specification is a RAN4 discussion. The concern from several companies it limits the possible Ncell deployments for operators
* For (part of)ARFCN indication in MIB, two spare LSBs needed. If agreed in RAN1, RAN4 can discuss multiple hypothesis testing.

***Second Round Proposal - Section 5.4***

***RAN1 has discussed the following aspects and leaves it up to RAN4 to specify one of the following for DL synchronization for IoT NTN and determine which aspects are to be specified:***

* ***For the new channel raster > 100 kHz, if agreed in RAN1 then specification is a RAN4 discussion***
* ***For (part of)ARFCN indication in MIB, two spare LSBs needed. RAN4 can discussion multiple hypothesis***
* ***testing***

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# Synchronization aspects common to IoT NTN and NR NTN

## Background

In RAN#92e, the following objective was agreed in the Rel-17 IoT NTN WID [1]

*Specify the following time and frequency synchronization enhancements, using NR\_NTN\_solutions WI agreements as baseline, according to Section 8 in TR 36.763:*

*- UE pre-compensation including ephemeris format (orbital / Position -Velocity)*

*- UE pre-compensation for UL synchronization in RRC\_IDLE and RRC\_CONNECTED states based at least on its GNSS-acquired position and the serving satellite ephemeris*

*- Timing advance formula (granularity of the timing advance may be different)*

*- Combination of Open (i.e. UE autonomous TA estimation, and common TA estimation) and Closed TA (i.e., received TA commands) control loops in RRC\_CONNECTED state*

*Agreements on the above are up to the decision in NR\_NTN\_Solutions WI and will be used for IoT NTN with minimum changes, if any.*

In RAN1#106-e, the following agreements were made

Agreement:

The following agreements from NR NTN are re-used for IoT NTN as working assumption.

1. The Doppler shift over the feeder link and any transponder frequency error for both Downlink and Uplink is compensated by the GW and satellite-payload without any specification impacts in Release 17.
2. The orbital propagator model to be used at UE side can be left to implementation
3. Timing Advance formula can be transposed to IoT-NTN with Ts used instead of Tc

The Timing Advance applied by an NR NTN UE in RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE and RRC\_CONNECTED is given by:

Where:

* is defined as 0 for PRACH and updated based on TA Command field in msg2/msgB and MAC CE TA command.
  + FFS: details of NTA update/accumulation.
* is UE self-estimated TA to pre-compensate for the service link delay.
* is network-controlled common TA, and may include any timing offset considered necessary by the network.
* with value of 0 is supported.
  + FFS:  details of signaling including granularity.
* is a fixed offset used to calculate the timing advance.

Note-1: Definition of  is different from that in RAN1#103-e agreement in NR NTN WI.

Note-2: UE might not assume that the RTT between UE and gNB is equal to the calculated TA for Msg1/Msg A.

Note-3:  is the common timing offset X as agreed in RAN1 #103-e in NR NTN WI.

1. Support the delivery of ephemeris information using both ephemeris formats, i.e., state vectors and orbital elements

* Set 1: Satellite position and velocity state vectors (position/velocity)
  + Position X,Y,Z in ECEF (m)
  + Velocity VX,VY,VZ in ECEF (m/s)
* Set 2: Parameters in orbital parameter ephemeris format
  + Semi-major axis α [m]
  + Eccentricity e
  + Argument of periapsis ω [rad]
  + Longitude of ascending node Ω [rad]
  + Inclination i [rad]
  + Mean anomaly M [rad] at epoch time to
  + FFS: Whether pre-provisioned ephemeris based on orbital elements can be used as reference. Thereby, only delta corrections can be broadcast in order to reduce the overhead

1. For TA update in RRC\_CONNECTED state, combination of both open (i.e. UE autonomous TA estimation, and common TA estimation) and closed (i.e., received TA commands) control loops shall be supported for IoT-NTN

Agreement:

The following agreement from NR NTN are re-used for IoT NTN as working assumption

1. In Rel-17 IoT-NTN, at least support UE which can compute timing advance and frequency adjustment for serving link based on its GNSS position and serving satellite ephemeris signalled by the network and apply corresponding timing advance and frequency adjustment in RRC\_IDLE and RRC\_CONNECTED modes
2. Serving satellite ephemeris Epoch time is implicitly known as a reference time defined by the starting time of a DL slot and/or frame.

FFS: Whether this starting time is given by predefined rule or it is indicated by the Network

## Company views

RAN1#106-e made agreement NTA update based on TA Command field in msg2 and MAC CE TA command:

*In NR NTN, NTA update based on TA Command  field in msg2/msgB and MAC CE TA command is used for UL timing alignment correction as follows:*

* *When TAC ( in msg2/msgB is received,  UE receives the first adjustment and is updated as follows:*

*, FFS: the value of ,*

* *When TACs ( provided within the MAC CE is received, is updated as follows:*

*,*

MediaTek proposed for NB-IoT NTN, NTA update based on TA Command field in msg2 and MAC CE TA command is used for UL timing alignment correction as follows:

* No extension on TAC 11-bit field in Random Access Response (TS 36.213 Section 16.1.2)
* When TAC (TA) in Msg2 is received, UE first adjustment and NTA is adjusted as follows: NTA,new = NTA,old + TA ×16, FFS: the value of NTA\_old, where TA is the timing advance command in msg2.
* In other cases, a 6-bit timing advance command, TA, indicates adjustment of the current NTA value, NTA,old, to the new NTA value, NTA,new, by index values of TA = 0, 1, 2,..., 63, where NTA,new = NTA,old + (TA −31)×16. Here, adjustment of NTA value by a positive or a negative amount indicates advancing or delaying the uplink transmission timing by a given amount respectively.

Nordic Semiconductor ASA proposed Increase the maximum step size for MAC-CE TA adjustment by factor being multiple of ratio between maximum terrestrial and non-terrestrial RTT.

**Moderator view**: *On UL TA adjustments, the moderator understanding is that the NR-NTN agreements on* NTA update for IoT NTN *as working assumption with some adaptation for the granularity and size of fields for TAC in msg2 and in MAC CE.*

***Initial Proposal – Section 6.2:***

***In NB-IoT NTN, NTA update based on TA Command field in msg2 and MAC CE TA command is used for UL timing alignment correction as follows:***

* ***No extension on TAC 11-bit field in Random Access Response***
* ***When TAC (TA) in Msg2 is received, UE first adjustment and NTA is adjusted as follows: NTA,new = NTA,old + TA ×16, FFS: the value of NTA\_old, where TA is the timing advance command in msg2.***
* ***In other cases, a 6-bit timing advance command, TA, indicates adjustment of the current NTA value, NTA,old, to the new NTA value, NTA,new, by index values of TA = 0, 1, 2,..., 63, where NTA,new = NTA,old + (TA −31)×16. Here, adjustment of NTA value by a positive or a negative amount indicates advancing or delaying the uplink transmission timing by a given amount respectively.***

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| Companies | Comments |
| ZTE | OK |
| SONY | Shouldn’t this apply to IoT-NTN in general and not specifically to NB-IoT NTN? i.e. we think that this agreement is also applicable to eMTC |
| CATT | We are fine with this proposal. But for when TAC ( in msg2/msgB is received, we think the is positive here assuming UE transmit preamble after a fixed delay (or TA margin). |
| Nokia, NSB | OK. We suggest to modify the statement for a full alignment with NR NTN, e.g. the 3rd bullet should be updated according to NR NTN agreement. |
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## FIRST ROUND - Synchronization aspects common to IoT NTN and NR NTN

Moderator view is to wait for related discussion on NTA\_old to be concluded in NR NTN

# Conclusions

TBA

# References

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19. R1-2109847, ZTE, Discussion on synchronization for IoT-NTN, RAN1#106-e, August 2021
20. R1-2109956, Ericsson, On time and frequency synchronization enhancements for IoT NTN, RAN1#106-e, August 2021
21. R1-2110063, Apple, Discussion on Time and Frequency Synchronization in IoT NTN, RAN1#106-e, August 2021
22. R1-2110260, Nordic Semiconductor ASA, Enhancements to time and frequency synchronization, RAN1#106-e, August 2021

# Appendix

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| Contribution | Observation/Proposals |
| Huawei (R1-2108750) | ***Observation 1:*** *There is no need to specify the UE behavior when GNSS becomes out-of-dated.*  ***Observation 2:*** *There will be a large timing drift in case of large number of repetitions for preamble transmission.*  ***Observation 3:*** *There will be**a large timing drift in case of 256ms time-contiguous transmission for NPUSCH.*  ***Observation 4***: *The phase discontinuity is predictable and can be compensated at the UE side.*  ***Observation 5***: *TA pre-compensation by sampling frequency adjustment at UE side will introduce extra complexity and power consumption at UE side.*  ***Observation 6:*** *The variation of sampling frequency adjustment for TA compensation may not be able to be handled by UE due to the hardware limitations.*  ***Proposal 1:*** *A UE can report**the validity duration of GNSS position fix to assist with eNB scheduling.*  ***Proposal 2:*** *UE autonomous TA adjustment should be applied during the long preamble transmission duration to compensate the large timing drift.*  ***Proposal 3****: Introduce extra gaps for TA adjustment based on different elevation angles.*  ***Proposal 4:*** *More UL gaps should be inserted according to the maximum allowed time-continuous transmission for IoT over NTN.*  ***Proposal******5****: The maximum allowed time-continuous transmission is based on the common TA drift rate and the worst case of UE-specific TA drift rate in a cell.*  ***Proposal 6:*** *Indicate* *time-continuous repetition number for preamble and time-continuous duration for UL data transmission in the system information for NB-IoT over NTN.*  ***Proposal 7:*** *Support indicating common TA drift rate in addition to common TA for UL TA adjustment in case of UL transmission with long duration.*  ***Proposal 8:*** *Sampling frequency adjustment at UE side with no UL gaps is not supported due to complexity and UE hardware limitations.*  ***Proposal 9***: *Network configures one of 5 candidate values for the UL transmission segmentation duration of NPUSCH in a 3-bit field, where the 8 candidate values are*   * *{16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms}*   ***Proposal 10****: Network configures one of K values for the UL transmission segment duration of each PRACH preamble format in a k-bit field in the system information where the size of k and K values are:*   * *Format 0 and format 1: 3-bit field, K=6 candidate values 2\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 4\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 8\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 16\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 32\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 64\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ)* * *Format 2: 3-bit field, K=5 candidate values 2\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 2\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 4\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 8\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 16\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ)*   ***Proposal 11****: A single validity timer is used for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters if they are put in the same SIB.*  ***Proposal 12****: The validity timer of UL synchronization (re)starts upon reading the corresponding SIB and UE in RRC\_CONNECTED may trigger RLF if validity timer for UL synchronization expires.*  ***Proposal 13***: *Support introducing the new channel raster with step size greater than 100 kHz for DL synchronization in IoT NTN.*  ***Proposal 14:*** *DL frequency pre-compensation is needed for reducing the complexity and power consumption of IoT devices.*  ***Proposal 15:*** *The indication of DL frequency pre-compensation is normalized to the subcarrier spacing.* |
| Spreadtrum (R1-2108931) | ***Proposal 1****: Inserting a gap between adjacent segments (N time units) to avoid the overlap of segments for long PUSCH should be supported.*  ***Proposal 2****: Inserting a gap between adjacent segments (N time units) to avoid the overlap of segments for long PRACH should be supported.*  ***Proposal 3****: For short sporadic connection, a single validity timer of UL synchronization for both common TA and satellite ephemeris should be supported.* |
| VIVO (R1-2109011) | ***Proposal 1****: For PUSCH transmission segment duration in LEO scenario, use*   * *2-bit field with 4 candidate values {4ms, 8ms, 16ms, 32ms} for NB-IoT,* * *2-bit field with 3 candidate values {2ms, 4ms, 8ms} for eMTC.*   ***Proposal 2****: For PUSCH transmission segment duration in GEO scenario, use*   * *3-bit field with 7 candidate values {4ms, 8ms, 16ms, 32ms, 64ms, 128ms, 256ms} for NB-IoT,* * *3-bit field with 8 candidate values {2ms, 4ms, 8ms, 16ms, 32ms, 64ms, 128ms, 256ms} for eMTC.* * *Proposal 3: For PRACH transmission segment duration in LEO scenario, use* * *1-bit field with 2 candidate values {2\*4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*4\*(TCP + TSEQ)} for format 0,1 of NB-IoT,* * *1-bit field with 1 candidate values {1\*6\*(TCP + TSEQ)} for format 2 of NB-IoT,* * *2-bit field with 3 candidate values {2\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*(TCP + TSEQ)} for eMTC.*   ***Proposal 4****: For PRACH transmission segment duration in GEO scenario, use*   * *3-bit field with 5 candidate values {2\*4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 16\*4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 32\*4\*(TCP + TSEQ)} for format 0 and 1 of NB-IoT,* * *2-bit field with 3 candidate values {2\*6\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*6\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*6\*(TCP + TSEQ)} for format 2 of NB-IoT,* * *3-bit field with 8 candidate values {2\*(TCP + TSEQ), 4\*(TCP + TSEQ), 8\*(TCP + TSEQ), 16\*(TCP + TSEQ), 32\*(TCP + TSEQ), 64\*(TCP + TSEQ), 128\*(TCP + TSEQ), 256\*(TCP + TSEQ)} for eMTC.*   ***Proposal 5****: Support the enhanced UL gaps mechanism for time and frequency segmented pre-compensation during UL transmission.* |
| OPPO (R1-2109080) | ***Observation 1****: if the eNB does not know the UE GNSS validity duration, and RAN1 agreement seems to allow UE autonomously going back to idle mode. This should be confirmed by RAN2 whether there is potential issue.*  ***Proposal 1****: send an LS to RAN2 to ask if it is possible to allow UE autonomously going back to idle mode.*  ***Proposal 2****: consider to adopt network controlled SIB acquisition mechanism for UE updates the satellite ephemeris data.* |
| Mavenit (R1-2109115) | ***Proposal 1:****The duration of each sporadic short transmission in RRC\_CONNECTED state is assumed to be less than the validity duration of GNSS position fix.*  ***Proposal 2:*** *If validity timer(s) for UL synchronization expires, UE stays in RRC\_CONNECTED state and reads SIB to refresh ephemeris / common TA parameters.* |
| MediaTek (R1-2109171) | GNSS measurements for sporadic short transmissions:  ***Observation 1:*** *The validity of the GNSS position fix duration can be in the order of 60 seconds for high-velocity UEs.*  ***Observation 2****: Suspend/resume of the connection with UE context stored in UE and network is User Plane optimization.*  ***Proposal 1****: For NB-IoT NTN, re-use Rel-14/16 Release Assistant Indication for fast release of RRC connection:*  ***Proposal 2****: For NB-IoT NTN, Rel-15 UE differentiation for stationary / low-mobility devices can be used to share same understanding in UE and eNB that GNSS measurements are not needed during RRC\_CONNECTED.*  ***Proposal 3:*** *RAN1 deprioritize discussions on the needs to support long connection.*  Validity timer for UL synchronization:  ***Proposal 4****: A single validity timer or separate validity timers are used for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters.*  ***Observation 3****: Details of satellite ephemeris broadcast on NTN SIB before UE initiates RACH procedure can be further discussed in RAN2.*  ***Proposal 5****: UE (re-)start time for the validity timer for UL synchronization after reading satellite ephemeris on NTN SIB immediately before initiating RACH procedure.*  ***Proposal 6:*** *When validity timer for UL synchronization expires, the network sends UE to Idle using RRCConnectionRelease-NB message and RRCConnectionResume-NB message with rrc-suspend release cause set.*  Long UL Transmission on PUSCH:  ***Observation 4****: At high elevation angles, UL transmission segment duration of up to 256 ms can be configured for NPUSCH / PUSCH.*  ***Observation 5****: At low elevation angles, UL transmission segment duration smaller than 26 ms for NB-IoT and 0.78 us for eMTC can be configured for NPUSCH / PUSCH to be consistent with specified transmit timing error Te = 80\*Ts= 2.6us and Te=24\*Ts =0.78 us respectively in TS 36.133 Table 7.20.2-1.*  For NPUSCH/PUSCH:  ***Observation 6****: for NB-IoT / eMTC, the need to down-scope the K candidate values for NPUSCH / PUSCH should be clarified.*  For NPRACH:  ***Observation 7****: for NB-IoT, the need to down-scope the K candidate values for NPRACH should be clarified.*  New UL gaps for Long UL Transmission:  ***Observation 8****: Assuming a UL transmission segment of several ms or 10 ms, the phase discontinuity could be in the order of several 10s of degrees, which would likely have significant impact on demodulation performance.*  ***Proposal 7****: For NB-IoT / eMTC, consider the following options for gaps between UL transmission segments for NPUSCH/PUSCH:*   * *Re-use legacy UL compensation gap of 40 ms.* * *New gap of 1 ms.*   ***Proposal 8****: For NB-IoT / eMTC, consider the following options for gaps between UL transmission segments for NPRACH:*   * *Re-use legacy UL compensation gap of 40 ms.* * *New gap of 1 ms.*   DL Synchronization:  ***Proposal 9****: New channel raster of 200 kHz is supported.*  Synchronization aspects common to IoT NTN and NR NTN:  ***Proposal 10:*** *For NB-IoT NTN, NTA update based on TA Command field in msg2 and MAC CE TA command is used for UL timing alignment correction as follows:*   * *No extension on TAC 11-bit field in Random Access Response (TS 36.213 Section 16.1.2)* * *When TAC (TA) in Msg2 is received, UE first adjustment and NTA is adjusted as follows: NTA,new = NTA,old + TA ×16, FFS: the value of NTA\_old, where TA is the timing advance command in msg2.* * *In other cases, a 6-bit timing advance command, TA, indicates adjustment of the current NTA value, NTA,old, to the new NTA value, NTA,new, by index values of TA = 0, 1, 2,..., 63, where NTA,new = NTA,old + (TA −31)×16. Here, adjustment of NTA value by a positive or a negative amount indicates advancing or delaying the uplink transmission timing by a given amount respectively.* |
| Qualcomm (R1-2109176) | ***Proposal 1****: A UE starts the ephemeris validity timer upon reading the SIB carrying satellite ephemeris. The duration of valid ephemeris is counted starting from the first repetition of this SIB.*  ***Proposal 2****: Introduce a mechanism to initiate/declare RLF when the ephemeris validity timer expires while in RRC\_CONNECTED mode.*   * *Details to be specified by RAN2, including specification of any RLF timers for ephemeris recovery*   ***Proposal 3****: A UE initiates a GNSS validity period when it acquires a fresh GNSS position fix to obtain its geolocation.*   * *The duration of this validity period is autonomously determined by the UE.* * *The start of validity period and validity duration is reported to the network by the UE.*   ***Proposal 4****: Introduce a mechanism that declares RLF when the UE’s GNSS-based geolocation validity expires.*   * *Details to be specified by RAN2.*   ***Proposal 5****: No gaps are specified between successive segments with different (constant within a segment) uplink pre-compensation values.*  ***Proposal 6****: The segment duration value(s) for uplink pre-compensation of time and frequency depend on the satellite orbit type, with GEO satellites supporting longer durations of time than LEO satellites.*   * *For GEO, the smaller values of segment durations may not be required, leading to a smaller bit-field size in the SIB/RRC configuration for GEO.*   ***Proposal 7****: For eMTC when frequency hopping is configured:*   * *When the hopping interval is less than the configured segment duration for uplink synchronization, the UE shall use the hopping interval as the segment duration for uplink synchronization* * *When the hopping interval is greater than or equal to the configured segment duration for uplink synchronization, the UE shall use as the segment duration for uplink synchronization, where denotes the hopping interval, and is the configured segment duration.*   ***Proposal 8****: For PUSCH, the segment duration for uplink pre-compensation may be indicated/negotiated between the network and the UE via dedicated unicast signalling.*   * *This may involve the UE sending assistance information to the network, e.g., indicating its mobility pattern and speed.*   ***Observation 1****: Increasing the channel raster step size limits possible Ncell deployments for operators. For example, if the raster step size is doubled, the number of Ncells that an operator can deploy within their allocated spectrum reduces by half.*  ***Observation 2****: The MIB in NB-IoT already indicates a channel raster offset to aid the UE accurately determining the frequency of the Ncell.*  ***Proposal 9****: Indicate two LSBs of the ARFCN in the MIB for NB-IoT over NTN.*   * *The NB-MIB currently has 9 spare bits, facilitating this indication seamlessly.* |
| CATT (R1-2109201) | ***Observation 1****: The new UL gap for long UL transmission will cause slot misalignment for (N)PUSCH, if the length of new UL gap is not the integer of a slot.*  ***Observation 2****: UE may have the maximum initial frequency error more than 50KHz contributed by oscillator, Doppler shift and anchor carrier offset in S band.*  ***Proposal 1****: For NB-IoT/eMTC, network configures segment duration candidates for the UL transmission segment duration of NPUSCH/PUSCH in a 3-bit field with a maximum number of K=5 candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms.*  ***Proposal 2****: For NPRACH preamble format in a k-bit field in NB-IoT, where the size of the k-bit field and the number of K candidate values depend on the preamble format:*  *• Format 0 and Format 1: 2-bit field, K=4 candidate values are 2.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 4.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 8.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 16.4.(TCP+TSEQ)*  *• Format 2: 2-bit field, K=4 candidate values are 1.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 2.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 3.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 4.6.(TCP+TSEQ)*  ***Proposal 3****: For eMTC, the network configures one of 5 K values for the UL transmission segment duration of PRACH in 3 k-bit field:*  *• Format0&1&2: 3-bit field, K=5 candidate values are 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms,*  *• Format3: 3-bit field, K=5 candidate values 3 ms, 6 ms, 12 ms, 24ms ,30ms*  ***Proposal 4****: The same segment duration should be used for all preambles within a preamble format.*  ***Proposal 5****: For small TA variation, TA adjustment is implemented by dropping tail samples of a segment or delaying a few samples for UL transmission.*  *Proposal 6: For large TA variation, the gap can be configured with*   * *Last symbol of a slot can be reserved for (N)PUSCH’s gap* * *Original GP is reused for (N)PRACH’s gap.*   ***Proposal 7****: The duration of short transmission should be defined by the number of RU scheduled and repetition further.*  ***Proposal 8****: Separate validity timer can be configured for satellite ephemeris and TA parameters.*  ***Proposal 9****: Increasing channel raster in IoT NTN is supported.*  ***Proposal 10****: The UE triggers the GNSS measurement when it is waken up due to T3412 timer expiration, and then enter IoT active state after GNSS measurement.* |
| Nokia, Nokia Shanghai Bell (R1-2109265) | ***Observation 1****: The acquired GNSS/ephemeris will be out-of-date after some time because of e.g. UE movement or satellite perturbation. UE need to keep valid GNSS/ephemeris before any UL transmission.*  ***Observation 2****: there would be unexpected/uncontrolled operation of UE for eNB scheduling if there is no common understanding on validity timer of GNSS and ephemeris, causing that network can not schedule as no information on when UE can/will transmit or receive.*  ***Observation 3****: If the network is not aware that a UE requires time to obtain valid GNSS information the network may trigger additional paging before the UE has a chance to initiate the pre-compensated random access procedure.*  ***Observation 4****: If UE validates GNSS before every paging occasion it will waste energy due to low paging probability.*  ***Observation 5****: GNSS measurement may be needed in CONNECTED mode, when GNSS information may get out of date.*  ***Observation 6****: Multiple IoT UE with different capability and channel status may request different GNSS measurement window.*  ***Observation 7****: The TA error during the 256 ms UL transmission period exceeds the maximum tolerance when the subcarrier spacing is 15 kHz.*  ***Observation 8****: The TA error in a transmission segment duaration is related to the elevation angle.*  ***Observation 9****: Long segment duration can be used by the UE at a high elevation angle.*  ***Observation 10****: TA drift induced timing error during the maximum continuous transmission time of NPRACH is smaller than the preamble’s cyclic prefix.*  ***Observation 11****: If TAC is generated to fix a temporary deviation in the UE transmission timing, when UE updates their autonomous components on the timing advance formula, there may be an overcompensation of the timing advance, generating a similar deviation on the opposite direction (Figure 5).*  ***Observation 12****: If TAC is generated to introduce an offset in UE timing due to eNB internal optimizations, the TAC should be applied regardless of UE accuracy for timing estimation.*  ***Observation 13****: In order to guarantee TA update loop stability, two operation modes for TAC update are needed.*  ***Observation 14****: Timing-drift-induced phase error can exceed the maximum demodulation tolerance at the receiver.*  ***Observation 15****: The phase error increases as the elevation angle decreases since the TA drift rate is higher at a lower elevation angle.*  ***Observation 16****: Accumulating phase error of SC-FDMA symbols occurs due to the TA drift in the IoT NTN scenarios.*  ***Proposal 1****: there should be common understanding on validity timer for GNSS and validity timer for ephemeris between UE and network, which should be specified in IoT NTN.*  ***Proposal 2****: TAT like validity timer could be used as a baseline, where UE should report to network so that both UE and network reset the validity timer and keep common understanding.*  ***Proposal 3****: to reduce overhead, UE reporting should be reduced, where e.g. only first report valid information and failure report.*  ***Proposal 4****: to save power consumption and latency, one possible way is only to perform a new UL synchronization by CFRA instead of CBRA or going back to IDLE mode.*  ***Proposal 5****: UE shall report GNSS measurement gap such that network can allocate sufficient time between sending a paging message and when to expect random access procedure initialization from UE.*  ***Proposal 6****: Network shall not repeat the paging message for a UE during the UE’s GNSS measurement gap.*  ***Proposal 7****: A GNSS measurement gap, corresponding to the time the UE requires to validate GNSS, shall be configured in the paging procedure. The position and duration of the gap can be decided and supported in Rel 17.*  ***Proposal 8****: GNSS measurement window for both initial access phase and in CONNECTED mode should be specified.*  ***Proposal*** *9: Overhead reduction should be considered for selection of GNSS measurement window and coordination between UE and eNB.*  ***Proposal 10****: Within the segment duration, the accumulated timing error due to TA drift should not exceed the tolerance provided by the cyclic prefix.*  ***Proposal 11****: For TA value changing during the repetitions of PUSCH, a simple configuration of a bundle of TA and corresponding time to utilize from Node B to UE, should be considered as one option.*  ***Proposal 12****: An indexed table is used to indicate the applicable segment durations for different elevation angles.*  ***Proposal 13****: The segment duration for TA should be selected based on the elevation angle.*  ***Proposal 14****: One SC-FDMA symbol can be punctured between two segments for TA adjustment.*  ***Proposal 15****: No need to introduce new transmission segments to NPRACH.*  ***Proposal 16****: Network should be in control of the timing advance updates applied at the UE.*  ***Proposal 17****: If UE is performing autonomous update of timing advance during RRC\_CONNECTED mode, the network should know the details of such adjustments in advance.*  ***Proposal 18****: The eNB should be able to use the closed-loop solution (Timing Advance Commands over DL MAC-CE) at any time.*  ***Proposal 19****: the TAC should operate in two different states to allow both differential and absolute indication of the TAC updates.*  ***Proposal 20****: Phase error in SC-FDMA should be compensated in the IoT NTN scenarios.*  ***Proposal 21****: UE should reduce the phase error by compensating the timing-drift-induced phase error in its modulation process based on the TA drift rate.*  ***Proposal 22****: alternatively, eNB receiver can modify the reference phase for demodulation to match the received symbol phase.* |
| CMCC (R1-2109308) | ***Observation 1****: For sporadic short transmission:*   * *The idle UE wakes up from idle DRX / PSM, access the network, perform uplink and/or downlink communications for a short duration of time and go back to idle.* * *Before accessing the network, the UE acquires GNSS position fix and does not need to re-acquire a GNSS position fix for the transmission of the packets.*   ***Observation 2****: For GNSS Measurements in IDLE mode, the following approaches are considered:*   * *Approach 1: UE performs GNSS Measurement each time it is wake up from IDLE mode even if the GNSS position fix keeps valid.* * *Approach 2: When UE is wake up from IDLE mode, if the GNSS position fix is outdated, or if the GNSS validity duration is valid but the remaining GNSS validity duration is less than a threshold, it performs GNSS Measurement.*   ***Observation 3****: For sporadic DL traffic, UE may perform GNSS measurements after a paging occasion and only if it has been paged to reduce battery consumption. The existing timers (e.g., T3413/T3415) can be configured large enough to ensure a sufficient gap to accommodate GNSS acquisition after decoding the paging message and before initiating UL transmission.*  ***Proposal 1****: If Approach 1 (i.e., UE performs GNSS Measurement each time it is wake up from IDLE mode even if the GNSS position fix keeps valid) is supported,*   * *For UE autonomously determine how long a GNSS fix is valid, one of the following options is considered:*   + *Option 1: an internal timer in the device is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration*   + *Option 2: a specified timer is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration* * *There is no needed for a UE to signal to the network the length of time that GNSS position fix is valid.*   ***Proposal 2****: If Approach 2 (i.e., When UE is wake up from IDLE mode, if the GNSS position fix is outdated, or if the GNSS validity duration is valid but the remaining GNSS validity duration is less than a threshold, it performs GNSS Measurement) is supported,*   * *For UE autonomously determine how long a GNSS fix is valid, support Option 2.*   + *Option 2: a specified timer is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration* * *The UE shall signal to the network the length of time that GNSS position fix is valid.*   ***Proposal 3****: If an extreme long UL transmission is scheduled that UE cannot complete the UL transmission before the GNSS position fix becomes outdated, the UE does not start the UL transmission.*  ***Proposal 4****: If only sporadic short transmission is supported, support configuration of a single validity timer for both satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters.*  ***Proposal 5****: If only sporadic short transmission is supported, network indicates both satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters in the same SIB or in the same SI window.*  ***Proposal 6****: If long connection or multiple (sporadic) short transmissions is to be supported, configuration of separate validity timers for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters can be considered.* |
| Lenovo, Motorola Mobility (R1-2109308) | ***Proposal 1****: UE pre-compensation done per N time units with inserting transmission gap or puncturing uplink transmission should be considered in UL transmission in IoT on NTN.*  ***Proposal 2****: Two individual timers are introduced to determine the validity of uplink synchronization.*  ***Proposal 3****: For DL synchronization enhancement, new channel raster with a step size greater than 100 kHz (e.g., 300kHz) is introduced.*  ***Proposal 4****: IoT NTN DL common frequency pre-compensation and corresponding indication can follow NR NTN solution, and wait until DL common frequency pre-compensation discussions have concluded in NR NTN WI if any.* |
| NEC (R1-2109362) | ***Proposal 1****: An internal timer in the device is used by UE to set autonomously the GNSS validity duration.*  ***Proposal 2****: The UE shall signal to the network the length of time that GNSS position fix is valid for to ensure common understanding on validity of GNSS position fix between the UE and eNB.*  ***Proposal 3:*** *Validity timer duration is counted from the first SIB repetition.*  ***Proposal 4:*** *Upon expiry of the validity timer in RRC\_CONNECTED state, the UE goes to idle state to read the SIB with updated ephemeris information.*  ***Proposal 5:*** *Support UL gaps during long transmission to avoid phase discontinuity between segments.*  ***Proposal 6:*** *Support increased channel raster size in IoT NTN.* |
| Xiaomi (R1-2109396) | ***Observation 1****: 100 kHz channel raster may not be large enough to avoid ambiguity in DL synchronization of IoT over NTN when multiple cells from different satellites could cover same UE.*  ***Proposal 1****: New Channel raster with a step size increased to 200 kHz should be supported.*  ***Proposal 2****: It is up to RAN2 to decide whether a single or separate validity timers are needed for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters*  ***Proposal 3****: UE stay in connected and read SIB to refresh ephemeris / common TA parameters at the expiry of the validation timer.* |
| Samsung (R1-2109522) | ***Proposal 1****: Frequent new gap is supported during long UL transmission, and the details of the new gap can be further discussed.*  ***Proposal 2****: For sporadic short transmission, UE specific TA is reported only once, e.g., reporting UE specific TA in Msg3 or Msg5 via MAC CE.*  ***Proposal 3****: A single validity timer is used for both satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters. And, the agreements on validity timer for NR NTN can be reused for IOT NTN.*  ***Proposal 4****: For segmented UE pre-compensation per N time units, the value of N can be separately configured for UL timing pre-compensation and UL frequency pre-compensation.*  ***Proposal 5****: For segmented UE timing pre-compensation, if transmission signal is overlapped between two adjacent segments, overlapped samples of the last segment can be dropped.* |
| Intel (R1-2109640) | ***Proposal 1****: Common TA may include parameter(s) indicating timing drift*   * *In addition, indication of Common TA 2nd order derivative can be considered* * *Alternately, indication of reference point location can be used to calculate Common TA*   ***Proposal 2:*** *Solution based on channel raster with a step size increased to be greater than 100 kHz for NB-IoT NTN should be supported if there are no issues with the number of NB-IoT carriers*  ***Proposal 3****: Support Common Doppler pre-compensation for DL*   * *Indication of Common Doppler pre-compensation should follow design agreed for NR NTN*   ***Proposal 4****: Rely on UE implementation for GNSS validity*   * *Before commencing an UL transmission, the UE shall ensure it has a GNSS position fix that is valid for the duration of that UL transmission* * *If UE GNSS measurements are not valid UE declares RLF*   ***Proposal 5****: The following is supported for validity timer*   * *Validity timer for satellite ephemeris and Common TA are the same* * *If UE doesn’t read the satellite ephemeris/Common TA within the validity timer duration it declares RLF* * *There is no need for eNB to be aware of state of the validity timer at the UE* |
| Sony (R1-2109804) | ***Proposal 1****: SIB signals (1) the start time of transmission of the ephemeris information and (2) the ephemeris validity duration.*  ***Proposal 2****: SIB signals (1) the start time of transmission of the common TA parameters and (2) the validity duration of the common TA parameters.*  ***Proposal 3****: The validity information for ephemeris information and common TA parameter signalling can be transmitted with different frequency / periodicity.*  ***Observation 1****: The UE can estimate the length of time required for an UL transmission based on the amount of data to transmit and the coverage conditions at the UE.*  ***Observation 2****: The UE does not know when it will be scheduled by the eNB.*  *Observation 3: The UE does not know whether its UL transmission will complete before its GNSS position fix becomes invalid.*  ***Proposal 4****: The UE can signal the length of time that its GNSS position fix will remain valid to the eNB. The eNB may take this information into account when scheduling UEs.*  ***Proposal 5****: There is no down-scoping of the UL transmission segment durations that were agreed in RAN1#106e. This applies for both eMTC and NB-IoT. It applies for both PRACH and PUSCH.*  ***Proposal 6****: The same segment duration can be used for all preambles within a preamble format.*  ***Proposal 7****: For eMTC NTN, the network configures one of K candidate values for the UL transmission segment duration of PRACH in a k-bit field.*   * *For NB-IoT, maximum 3-bit field with a maximum number of K=8* **candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, 256 ms** |
| FGI, Asia Pacific Telecom, III, ITRI (R1-2109829) | ***Observation 1****: RAN1 shall discuss overlapping between repetition units of the same UL transmission due to applying different TA adjustments.*  ***Proposal 1****: Signaling for common TA shall wait for NR NTN’s agreements in RAN1#106-bis-e.*  ***Proposal 2****: Starting time of Epoch shall wait for NR NTN’s agreements in RAN1#106-bis-e.*  ***Proposal 3****: If UE-eNB RTT decreases during long UL transmission, UE shall add additional transmission gaps due to applying different TA adjustments. (No additional enhancements based on RAN1#106-e)*  ***Proposal 4****: If UE-eNB RTT increases during long UL transmission, UE could 1) complete transmission of unit n and not transmit the overlapped part of unit n+1; 2) truncates transmission of unit n; 3) drop the whole transmission of unit n, and 3) add additional transmission gaps to postpone unit n+1 unit a next slot not overlapping (including TA impact) with its repetitions or UL resources. (Enhancement is needed)*  ***Proposal 5****: Deprioritize FFS: RAN1 to further discuss valid and invalid subframes*  ***Proposal 6****: Support both UE-specific RRC signaling and SIB broadcasting for the UL transmission segment duration.*  ***Proposal 7****: For NB-IoT, consider a 3-bit field with a maximum number of K=8 candidate values 2 ms, 4 ms, 8 ms, 16 ms, 32 ms, 64 ms, 128 ms, and a reserved bit.*  ***Proposal 8****: Separated validity timers for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters shall be supported.*  ***Proposal 9****: When the validity timer is not running, UE in RRC\_CONNECTED should go back to idle mode.*  ***Proposal 10****: The precise (re-)start time for ephemeris shall be the time when ephemeris is received.*  ***Proposal 11****: The precise (re-)start time for common TA shall be the time when common TA parameters are received.* |
| ZTE (R1-2109847) | ***Observation 1:*** *The PAPR increment due to phase discontinuity in segmented pre-compensation is acceptable even if no further enhancement is introduced.*  ***Observation 2:*** *Further improvement on the PAPR with proper configuration of segment length can be achieved.*  ***Proposal 1:*** *Increasing the channel raster is preferred for DL synchronization.*  ***Proposal 2:*** *For NB-IoT/eMTC NTN, the network configures one of 8 candidate values for the UL transmission segment duration of NPUSCH/PUSCH in a 3-bit field. The candidate values are:*   * *2ms, 4ms, 8ms, 16ms, 32ms, 64ms, 128ms, 256ms*   ***Proposal 3:*** *For NB-IoT NTN, the network configures one of K candidate values for the UL transmission segment duration of NPUSCH/PUSCH in a 3-bit field. The candidate values are:*   * *Format 0 and format 1: K=7 candidate values 4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 2\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 4\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 8\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 16\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 32\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ), 64\*4\*(TCP+TSEQ)* * *Format 2: K=5 candidate values 6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 2\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 4\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 8\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ), 16\*6\*(TCP+TSEQ)*   ***Proposal 4:*** *For eMTC NTN, the network configures one of 8 candidate values for the UL transmission segment duration of NPUSCH/PUSCH in a 3-bit field. The candidate values are:*   * *(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 2\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 4\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 8\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 16\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 32\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 64\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP), 128\*(TCP+TSEQ+TGP)*   ***Proposal 5:*** *If the phase discontinuity is needed to be handled, introduction of new UL gap is preferred. The length of new UL gap can be set as 1ms or 40 ms as legacy UL gap.*  ***Proposal 6:*** *The postponement of NPUSCH due to overlap with NPRACH is counted in segment duration. The portion of postponement which coincides with a UL gap is counted as part of the gap.*  ***Proposal 7:*** *The activation time instant of validity duration for assistance information broadcast by SIB can be implicitly known as a reference time linked to DL subframe where initial SIB carrying the assistance information is broadcast.*  ***Proposal 8:*** *The validity duration length can be indicated along with assistance information broadcast by SIB. A coarse signaling granularity can be applied, e.g., a second.*  ***Proposal 9:*** *A update period of assistance information broadcast by SIB can be configured to UE and should be equal to or shorter than the validity duration.*  ***Proposal 10:*** *A single validity timer should be supported for assistance information broadcast by SIB, and the followings are applied at UE side*   * *The timer should be started/restarted when the updated assistance information is activated based on configured validity duration.*   ***Proposal 11:*** *If the residual duration of validity timer is shorter than the time duration of following UL transmission, UE will postpone the access to network until new assistance information is activated.*  ***Proposal 12:*** *The UE’s behavior for GNSS information acquisition should be explicitly specified at least before initiating UL transmission after the eDRX/PSM.*  ***Proposal 13:*** *A validity timer should be specified for GNSS position fix*   * *The timer should be started/restarted when a GNSS position fix is performed.*   ***Proposal 14:*** *Report of GNSS validity duration should be supported to ensure common understanding between BS and UE.*  ***Proposal 15:*** *Report of time length for GNSS positioning should be supported to ensure common understanding between BS and UE when GNSS update in RRC\_CONNECTED mode is supported.*  ***Proposal 16:*** *Report of happening of GNSS positioning should be supported to ensure common understanding between BS and UE.* |
| Ericsson (R1-2109956) | ***Observation 1****: For NB-IoT NPRACH format 2, the TA error after 1 preamble repetition unit spanning 19.2 ms is 1.92 μs assuming a 100 μs/s TA drift. This TA error is 3.84 μs for 2 preamble repetition units.*  ***Observation 2****: For NB-IoT NPRACH format 2, the network should be able to configure a transmission segment duration spanning 1 preamble repetition unit.*  ***Observation 3****: For eMTC PRACH, it is sufficient to use a 3-bit field to indicate the configured value of transmission segment duration for long uplink transmission.*  ***Observation 4****: For eMTC PRACH, it is sufficient to adopt a single value range for transmission segment duration for all PRACH formats.*  ***Observation 5****: For eMTC PUSCH, different sets of values can be specified for the transmission segment duration for sub-PRB and full-PRB allocations.*  ***Observation 6****: Before addressing the issue of phase discontinuity due to large timing drift, the severity of its adverse impacts such as high PAPR first needs to be determined.*  ***Observation 7****: The need and purpose of a new UL compensation gap for long UL transmission should first be justified. For example, it is not clear if it is needed for avoiding phase discontinuity, re-acquiring satellite ephemeris, getting a GNSS position fix, calculating pre-compensation values, or adjusting transmit timing and frequency.*  ***Observation 8****: An ephemeris validity timer can be defined for each individual satellite or for a group of satellites.*  ***Observation 9****: Further discussions are needed for the case where ephemeris validity timer expires during an ongoing connection.*  ***Observation 10****: RAN4 input is needed before increasing the channel raster size.*  ***Observation 11****: Multiple hypotheses testing may be needed if ARFCN-indication-in-MIB is used.*  ***Observation 12****: The short connection can be defined by considering the validity durations of GNSS position fix, common TA (if indicated) and satellite ephemeris.*  *Based on the discussion in the previous sections we propose the following:*  ***Proposal 1****: As a baseline, the time and frequency synchronization for eMTC and NB-IoT should follow the same principles as outlined in the NR NTN WI.*  ***Proposal 2****: For NB-IoT PRACH, the network configures one of the K values for the uplink transmission segment duration of each PRACH preamble format using a k-bit field, where the number of K candidate values depend on the preamble format. We propose using a 3-bit field to indicate the following set of values for the uplink transmission segment duration:*   * *Format 0 and format 1: 3-bit field, K=6 candidate values 2.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 4.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 8.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 16.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 32.4.(TCP+TSEQ), 64.4.(TCP+TSEQ)* * *Format 2: 3-bit field, K=5 candidate values 1.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 2.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 4.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 8.6.(TCP+TSEQ), 16.6.(TCP+TSEQ)*   ***Proposal 3****: For eMTC PRACH, the network configures one of the K values for the uplink transmission segment duration of each PRACH preamble format using a k-bit field. We propose using a 3-bit field to indicate the following set of values for the uplink transmission segment duration (units: number of PRACH repetitions): 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128.*  ***Proposal 4****: For eMTC PUSCH, we propose using a 3-bit field to indicate the following set of values for the uplink transmission segment duration: Full-PRB allocation (unit: subframes): 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 256 Sub-PRB allocation (unit: resource units): 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128*  ***Proposal 5****: UE may pre-calculate the timing and frequency pre-compensation values for each anticipated pre-compensation occasion prior to the start of the UL transmission.*  ***Proposal 6****: Separate validity timers are preferred if ephemeris and common TA are transmitted in different SIBs, otherwise a single validity timer can be used for both ephemeris and common TA.*  ***Proposal 7****: IoT NTN UE can use the ephemeris Epoch time as a reference for starting the validity timer.*  ***Proposal 8****: RAN1 to compare the pros and cons of increasing the channel raster step size and introducing ARFCN-indication-in-MIB.*  ***Proposal 9****: Send an LS to RAN4 on time and frequency error requirements for IoT NTN before discussing the details of validity duration for GNSS position.* |
| Apple (R1-2110063) | ***Proposal 1****: UE autonomously determines the validity of GNSS position fix, based on UE’s mobility patterns (e.g., UE speed).*  ***Proposal 2****: UE does not report the validity of GNSS position fix to network. UE simply does not start uplink transmission if its duration is longer than the validity of UE’s GNSS position fix.*  ***Proposal 3:*** *Separate validity timers are configured for satellite ephemeris and common TA parameters.*  ***Proposal 4****: Validity timer for uplink synchronization (i.e., satellite ephemeris or common TA parameters) (re)starts at the starting time of the downlink subframe when the corresponding uplink synchronization parameters are received.*  ***Proposal 5****: Consider increasing the channel raster step size in IoT NTN.* |
| Nordic Semiconductor ASA (R1-2110260) | ***Proposal-1****: No new gaps are introduced for long UL transmissions.*  ***Proposal-2****: Increase the maximum step size for MAC-CE TA adjustment by factor being multiple of ratio between maximum terrestrial and non-terrestrial RTT.*  ***Proposal-3****: A separate validity timer for SIB ephemeris and timer for common TA is configured by eNB with initial timer values X and Y. Validity timer for SIB ephemeris is reset at least upon UE reading SIB with ephemeris and validity timer for common TA is reset at least upon UE receiving SIB with common TA or receiving a TA command.* |