

Source: TSG-RAN WG2
To: TSG-RAN WG1, TSG-RAN WG4, SMG2
CC: TSG-RAN WG3, TSG-RAN
Title: Response to LS (R1-000798) on 'Neighbour Cell SFN detection for Handover'
Contact: Armin Sitte (Siemens AG)
Tel: +49 30 386 29077
armin.sitte@icn.siemens.de

During RAN2 meeting #13 , RAN2 has received from RAN1 the LS (R2-001249, R1-000798) on 'Neighbour Cell SFN detection for Handover'. RAN2 thanks RAN1 for the LS and would like to respond to the raised issues.

From RAN2 viewpoint, the SFN in hard handover situations is needed for ciphering and to establish multiple branches on a new frequency. Therefore RAN2 shares the view of RAN1 that the UE has to be aware of the SFN in the new cell. The R99 RRC protocol supports transmission of the SFN of the neighbour cell to the UE. Therefore RAN2 feels that the needed signalling is in place to support also hard handover in R99.

It should be noted, however, that the SFN of the target cell in relation to the UE executing the handover is usually not known to the source RNC. Therefore the delay of decoding SFN_{prime} from the system information broadcast (transmitted every 20 ms TTI) has to be taken into account as a possibility. Further improvements are possible in future releases.

If there exist a need to transfer additional information in the System Information on BCCH, the signalling could be modified. In that case RAN2 feels that further work together with RAN1, RAN4 and SMG2 is needed to work out the detailed requirements.

To further improve the documentation of the Handover procedures, RAN2 will continue to update and improve the stage 2 description for Handover, which currently doesn't include information on this aspect.

As a conclusion, it is the opinion of RAN2 that the currently specified mechanism should be enough for release 99.