3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 #119e R2-220xxxx

eMeeting, 17th – 26th August, 2022

Agenda Item: 8.1.2

Source: ZTE Corporation

**Title: [AT119-e][702][NCR] NCR discussion(ZTE)**

Document for: Discussion and decision

# 1 Introduction

This is report for the following AT119-e mail discussion.

* [AT119-e][702][NCR] TP for TR 38.867 with RAN2 agreements on NCR (ZTE)

Scope: RAN2 impacts of the 4 solutions discussed. The discussion to be conducted in two phases:

* Phase 1 – summary of RAN2 impacts in e.g. a table;
* Phase 2 (after RAN3 TPs are available) – RAN2 TPs, using RAN3 TPs as baseline.

Can also discuss proposal 6 from R2-220888 in phase 1 and include it in the TP in phase 2, if agreeable.

Intended outcome: Agreed TP, LS to RAN1

Deadline: Friday 2022-08-26 1000 UTC

This document is only used to collect company views, in order to produce TP later.

# 2 Contact Information

Respondents to the email discussion are kindly asked to fill in the following table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Name | Email Address |
| ZTE (Rapp) | LiuJing | liu.jing30@zte.com.cn |
| Ericsson | Tony | antonino.orsino@ericsson.com |
| Apple | Zhibin Wu | Zhibin\_wu@apple.com |
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# 3 Background

After Tuesday online session, the following RAN2 agreements are made:

* The NCR-MT performs NCR identification and authorization on behalf of the entire NCR.
* Capture RAN2 aspects of solution 1 in TR (leave out the 3rd bullet, feasibility is conditional on SA3 reply)
* Capture RAN2 aspects of solution 2 in TR (leave out “Secure NCR…” bullet, feasibility is conditional on SA3 reply)
* Capture RAN2 aspects of solutions 3 and 4

# 3 Discussion

## 3.1 RAN2 impact table

The section 8.2 in the TR 38.867 describes the specification impact for each solution. In this offline, we will focus on the Uu interface impact, companies are invited to provide your views to the below table.

(Note: the discussion on Uu impact already covers the Uu procedure discussion)

**Question 1: Any views to the Uu impact regarding solution 1~4?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Proposed text for “Uu impact” column that to be captured in the TP | | | | Comments |
| Solution 1 | Solution 2 | Solution 3 | Solution 4 |
| ZTE | Yes  1. Add NCR indicator in Msg5 and/or UE radio capability;  2. Add NCR assistance information in a UL RRC message (FFS on which RRC message) | Yes  1. Add NCR indicator and OAM container in Msg5;  2.a If RRC signalling is used for OAM traffic, add OAM container in UL/DL RRC message (FFS on which RRC message).  2.b If DRB is used for OAM traffic, define a new DRB type (e.g. not associated with PDU session). | Yes  1. Add NCR indicator in Msg5 and UE radio capability; | No | For Solution 2(OAM-based), the follow-up OAM traffic can be exchanged by RRC message, or DRB, or up to network implementation.  For DRB-based method, the DRB is not associated with PDU session and can use NEA0 security algorithm if needed (same as emergency call).  The security of OAM traffic can be provided by application layer security mechanism, such as SSH/TLS between the NCR and OAM |
| Ericsson | Agree with ZTE. | Agree with ZTE | Agree with ZTE, except that the UE capability indication may be unnecessary. | Agree with ZTE, no impact. | Note: We interpret the question to be about what the Uu-impact is on **the authorization/identification-procedure**. RAN2 has not studied other RAN2 impact due to NCRs.  Response to ZTE’s comment about security: Security is going to be evaluated by SA3 since RAN3 has already sent an LS to them. RAN2 just needs to add a NOTE in the concerned solutions for clarifying that the feasibility of the solutions is pending SA3 reply to the RAN3 LS. This will most likely impact solutions 1, 2, and 3.  For all solutions: we may want to have a SIB-flag saying that the gNB supports NCRs otherwise the NCR may perform random access to a gNB that does not perform NCR. |
| Apple | Agree with ZTE on 1st bullet, Regarding the 2nd bullet, we suggest to change “NCR assistance information” to “NCR credential information” or “NCR information necessary for validation” | Agree with ZTE on 1 . But for bullet 2a, we think Solution 2 can also consider that only UL message is needed to contain OAM container, and there is no need of DL OMA container.  In our view, the step “NCR authorization is performed between OAM and the NCR**”** does not necessarily involve two-way traffic.  Anyway, the authorization results is determined by OAM and only need to be conveyed to gNB.  In this way, the Uu impact on Solution 2 is comparable to other options. | Agree with ZTE | No impact | Regarding security, we want to emphasize that the legacy AS security mechanism is used for the SRB/DRBs with sizable amounts of upper layer traffic, but for OAM-based approach like solution 2, there is very limited upper layer signalling exchange and the majority traffic in Uu interface is L1/L2 side control which is not protected anyway. So, we agree with ZTE that some simple security mechanism should be fine, or we can leave this out of 3GPP scope and let NW vendors to implement proprietary solution. |
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## 3.2 Necessity of early identification

Since NCR identification is one objective that to be discussed in RAN2. In AI summary [1], the following proposal is provided:

**Proposal 6: RAN2 understands early identification (via Msg1 or Msg3) is not needed for NCR-MT.**

Companies are invited to show your view to this proposal, if this can be agreed, it will be captured in the “Conclusion” section in TR 38.867.

**Question 2: Do companies agree with above Proposal 6?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Agree or not | Comments if any |
| ZTE | Agree | Early identification has been specified for RedCap UE in Rel-17, because RedCap UE supports reduced bandwidth and other reduced capability. So the network needs to differentiate RedCap UE in order to perform different actions or different configurations in Msg2 or Msg4.  Different from RedCap UE, NCR does not have reduced capability thus does not need special handling in Msg2 and Msg4. In addition, fast RRC state transition is not needed to NCR-MT (the ON-OFF mechanism is designed for NCR-Fwd).  So we think there is no need to consider early identification (via Msg1, Msg3) for NCR-MT. NCR Identification via Msg5 or via radio capability is enough. |
| Ericsson | Agree |  |
| Apple | Agree |  |
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# 4 Conclusions

TBD

# 5 References

[1] R2-2208886 [Pre119-e][701][NCR] Summary of AI 8.1 network-controlled repeaters ZTE (rapporteur)