**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #121bis-e draft R2-2304247**

**Online, Apr 17th-26th, 2023**

**Source: Samsung**

**Title: Report of [AT121bis-e][107][NR NTN Enh] NW type information (Samsung)**

**Agenda item:** **7.7.4.1.1**

**Document for:** **Discussion and Decision**

# Introduction

This document records the discussion and outcome for the following offline discussion.

* [AT121bis-e][107][NR NTN Enh] NW type information (Samsung)

Initial scope: discussion p4 and p5 from [R2-2303766](file:///C:\Data\3GPP\Extracts\R2-2303766.docx) and p1 from [R2-2303736](file:///C:\Data\3GPP\Extracts\R2-2303736%20-%20TN%20NTN%20mobility%20enhancements.docx)

Initial intended outcome: Summary of the offline discussion with e.g.:

* List of proposals for agreement (if any)
* List of proposals that require online discussions
* List of proposals that should not be pursued (if any)

Deadline for companies' feedback: Monday 2023-04-24 12:00 UTC

Deadline for rapporteur's summary (in R2-2304247): Monday 2023-04-24 18:00 UTC

Proposals marked "for agreement" in R2-2304247 not challenged until Tuesday 2023-04-25 08:00 UTC will be declared as agreed via email by the session chair (for the rest the discussion might continue online in the Tuesday CB session).

Rapporteur encourages the participating delegates to provide their contact information in this table.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Name | Email Address |
| Samsung | Shiyang Leng | shiyang.leng@samsung.com |
| Ericsson | Ignacio Pascual | Ignacio.pascual.pelayo@ericsson.com |
| Transsion Holding | Junwei Huang | Junwei.huang@transsion.com |
| Google | Ming-Hung Tao | mhtao@google.com |
| Thales | Flavien Ronteix | flavien.ronteix-jacquet@thalesaleniaspace.com |
| Panasonic | Frank Herrmann | frank.herrmann@eu.panasonic.com |
| CMCC | Yuzhen Liu | liuyuzhen@chinamobile.com |
| vivo | Xiao XIAO | xiao.xiao@vivo.com |
| OPPO | Haitao Li | lihaitao@oppo.com |
| Lenovo | Xu Min | xumin13@lenovo.com |
| CATT | Xiangdong Zhang | zhangxiangdong@catt.cn |
| Xiaomi | Xiaolong Li | lixiaolong1@xiaomi.com |
| Nokia | Jedrzej Stanczak | jedrzej.stanczak@nokia.com |
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# Discussion

As specified in TS 38.101-5 [1], NTN satellite operating band is assigned with different frequency band numbers than TN frequency band numbers: n255 and n256. Even though the frequency bands used for TN and NTN are overlapped, i.e. n255 overlaps with n24, n256 overlaps with n65, UE can know a neighbour cell is NTN by the indicated frequency band in SIB3/4*.*

For HAPS, frequency band n1 can be applied as specified in TS 38.104 [2]. Both TN and HAPS can operate on frequency band n1. In this case, UE cannot distinguish TN and NTN (HAPS) neighbour cells by the frequency band number, which may have impacts on neighbour cell measurement for cell reselection.

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| NR *operating band* | Uplink MHz / NR-ARFCN  (First – <Step size> – Last) | Downlink MHz / NR-ARFCN (First – <Step size> – Last) |
| n1 | 1920 MHz – 1980 MHz  384000 – <20> – 396000 | 2110 MHz – 2170 MHz  422000 – <20> – 434000 |
| n24 | 1626.5 MHz – 1660.5 MHz 325300 –< 20 >– 332100 | 1525 MHz – 1559 MHz 305000 –< 20 >– 311800 |
| n255 | 1626.5 MHz – 1660.5 MHz  325300 – <20> – 332100 | 1525 MHz – 1559 MHz  305000 – <20> – 311800 |
| n65 | 1920 MHz – 2010 MHz 384000 –< 20 >– 402000 | 2110 MHz – 2200 MHz 422000 –< 20 >– 440000 |
| n256 | 1980MHz – 2010 MHz  396000 – <20> – 402000 | 2170 MHz – 2200 MHz  434000 – <20> – 440000 |

R2-2303736 and R2-2303766 discussed this issue.

**Case 1: when camping on a TN cell**

When camping on an TN cell, idle/inative UE obtains its neighbour cell information only from SIB3/4. TN cell does not broadcast SIB19. Without NTN-specific assistance information, a UE may not be able to measure an NTN neighbour cell leading to restricted TN to NTN mobility in RRC\_IDLE/INACTIVE. Therefore, a TN cell needs to provide satellite assistance information in System Information. The proposed solution is that TN cell broadcasts *NTN-config-r17* in SIB3/SIB4 for NTN neighbour cells.

**Q1) Do you agree in TN cell SIB3/SIB4 NTN-config-r17 is provided for NTN neighbour cells?**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| Samsung | Yes | NTN-config-r17 has to be provided by a TN serving cell for NTN neighbour cell measurement, otherwise UE cannot measure NTN neighbour cells. TN cell does not need to broadcast SIB19, NTN-config-r17 in SIB3/4 works. |
| MediaTek | Yes | This is needed if TN-NTN mobility needs to be supported in overlapping bands. |
| Ericsson | Yes | This information is needed for a UE to measure NTN cells. |
| Transsion | Yes | From TN-NTN mobility perspective, it need another means to identify whether a neighor cell is HAPS or TN. |
| Google | Neutral | If UE always prioritizes TN over NTN, then we don’t think UE needs to constantly measure the NTN cells while camping on a TN cell. If a NTN-capable UE is under the NTN coverage while losing its TN connectivity, the UE can perform cell selection from the scratch and then will be able to camp on the NTN cell. |
| Thales | Yes | This information is needed for NTN-capable UEs to measure NTN cells when camping on a TN cell. |
| Panasonic | Yes | Agree to Samsung’s comment. |
| CMCC | Yes |  |
| vivo | No with comments | We think the above solution is an optimization. As what Google commented above, the UE can move from TN to NTN based on the existing mechanism: If no TN neighbour cell fulfils the reselection criteria, UE will enter any cell selection state and NTN neighbour cell may be detected. That means, even though NTN neighbour cells may not be measured during the cell reselection procedure, they will be detected later.  Considering that as per the WID for NR\_NTN\_enh -Core, TN-NTN mobility enhancement in IDLE/INACTIVE mode is a lower priority than NTN-TN, this TN-NTN specific enhancement may not be concluded before NTN-TN design is completed. |
| OPPO | Yes | TN cell cannot broadcast SIB19 in order to distinguish TN serving cell and NTN serving cell, therefore it seems that the only choice for IDLE/INACTIVE UE in TN cell to measure NTN neighbour cell is to broadcast NTN-config-r17 of NTN neighbour cells in SIB3/4.  As we agreed on satellite assistance information for NTN neighbour cell in SIB19, the NTN-config-r17 provided in SIB3/4 should also not trigger the system information update notification, and it is up to UE implementation to decide when to update them. |
| Lenovo | Yes | In cases of TN-NTN mobility this is needed. |
| CATT | See the comment | Another approach is to provide the assistance info of NTN cell in a new SIB, to avoid impact on TN-only UE.  Another issue is that the validity of the NTN-config is short, and the validity is control by timer from UE side, so the update mechanism for NTN-Config is different from the legacy SIB3/4, it is not suitable to include it in the SIB3/4. |
| Xiaomi | Yes | It could help UE to quickly measure the NTN cell. |
| Nokia | Not essential | The proposed scheme can work, but we agree with those who indicate this is an optimization which can be circumvented. OK to follow the preference of the majority. |
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If Q1 is agreed, for a neighbour cell is indicated in SIB3/4, NTN-config-r17 allows UE to know this is an NTN cell, so that UE can measure it if needed or does not measure it if not supporting NTN. However, on frequency band n1, if neither NTN-config-r17 nor TN coverage information is provided for a neigbor cell, UE cannot know whether the neighbour cell is TN or NTN (HAPS).

If Q1 is not agreed, on frequency band n1, if TN coverage information is NOT provided for a neighbour cell, UE cannot known whether the neighbour cell is TN or NTN (HAPS).

**Case 2: when camping on an NTN cell**

When camping on an NTN cell, UE obtains its neighbour cell information from SIB3/4/19: SIB3 contains intra-frequency information, SIB4 contains inter-frequency information, and SIB19 provides NTN-config-r17. Frequency and PCI are used to associate neighbour cell information in SIB3/4 with NTN-config-r17 in SIB19.

For a neighbour cell indicated in SIB3/4, if the associated NTN-config-r17 is provided in SIB19, UE knows this is an NTN cell and can measure it if needed. However, on frequency band n1, if neither NTN-config-r17 nor TN coverage information is provided for a neigbor cell, UE cannot know whether the neighbour cell is TN or NTN (HAPS).

In summary, on frequency band n1, if neither NTN-config-r17 nor TN coverage information is provided for a neigbor cell, UE cannot know whether the neighbour cell is TN or NTN (HAPS). In this case, UE has to determine whether the neighbour cell is TN or NTN: if the neighbour cell is TN UE should perform TN cell measurement, if the neighbour cell is NTN UE can skip measure it without NTN assistance information. Futhermore, an NTN UE can prioritize TN cell measurement (e.g., by UE implementation) if it can distinguish TN and NTN neighbour cells; an non-NTN UE can skip measuring NTN neighbour cells for power saving if it can distinguish TN and NTN neighbour cells.

**Q2) Do you agree on frequency band n1, if neither NTN-config-r17 nor TN coverage information is provided for a neigbor cell, UE needs to determine whether the neighbour cell is TN or NTN (HAPS)? If not, please explain the reason in comment.**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| Samsung | Yes |  |
| MediaTek | Yes, but | We think this is a corner case (neither NTN-config-r17 nor TN coverage information is provided for a neigbor cell). In such corner cases the UE implementation can take care of it. |
| Ericsson | No | If neither *NTN-config-r17* nor TN coverage information is provided for a neighbour cell, UE can safely determine the neighbour cell is TN.  There is no ambiguity.  From 38.300: “For a UE in Idle/Inactive mode it's up to UE implementation whether to perform NTN neighbour cell measurements on a cell indicated in SIB4 but not included in SIB19”  Network is aware of this limitation. Thus, it will not include an NTN frequency in SIB3/4, unless *NTN-config-r17* is provided in SIB19. |
| Transsion | No | We should identify if there exist such scenario firstly，i.e. neither NTN-config-r17 nor TN coverage information is provided for a neigbor cell. |
| Google | No | Not sure what we want to achieve by letting a NTN-capable UE know if a neighbour cell is a TN cell or a HAPS cell? To us, it seems they have similar cell reselection priority. |
| Thales | No | Not sure there exist such scenario and if so, share Ericsson’s view. |
| Panasonic | Yes |  |
| CMCC | See comments | It may be unusual that both the NTN-config-r17 and TN coverage information are absent, and network should provide correct configuration to UE. |
| vivo | No | For a given neighbour cell, UE measures the frequency of the cell according to the configuration of the NW (e.g., SMTC configuration), UE can perform cell reselection criteria evaluation for this frequency regardless of whether this cell is detected since other cells in this frequency may be detected. No problem is identified even though UE doesn’t know whether this cell is TN or NTN. |
| OPPO | No | We doubt why NW provide neither NTN-config-r17 nor TN coverage information for a neighbour cell. For frequency band n1, it is up to network implementation to avoid the ambiguity between TN and NTN (HAPS), i.e., if NW does not expect UE to miss the measurement of HAPS neighbour cell, it should always provide NTN-config-r17 for HAPS neighbour cell in SIB19. |
| Lenovo | No | For the only conner case wherein neither is configured, agree with Ericsson that UE can take the cell as a TN cell. |
| CATT | No | The other offline (106) is ongoing, which is discussing which SIB to broadcast the TN coverage information. If the TN coverage information together with the TN frequency information is broadcast in a separate SIB, e.g. a new defined SIB, the issue will not occur. UE can assume the neighbour cell is TN cell if the frequency is present in the new defined SIB. And if it present in SIB4/5, UE can assume the neighbour cell is a NTN cell. |
| Xiaomi | No | UE don’t need to distinguish the neighbour cell type when performs neighour cell measurement. |
| Nokia | No | If this scenario is realistic then we think the UE should assume this is an TN cell. |
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**Q3) If yes to Q2, do you agree to introduce an explicit cell type indiation for UE to determine whether a neighbour cell is TN or NTN (HAPS)? If not, please provide other solutions in comment.**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| Samsung | Yes |  |
| MediaTek | No strong opinion | We think this is possibly not needed. As mentioned in our response to Q2), this is a corner case and not likely to happen. However, we are open to go with the majority. |
| Transsion | No | As commnet as above. |
| Panasonic | Yes | We shouldn’t leave the UE in limbo here. An explicit or implicit indication of TN/NTN would be helpful - maybe with something like a RAT subtype (RAT is identical we understand). |
| CMCC | No | Pls. See our comment to Q2, and implicit indication with existing information is enough. |
| vivo | No | See our reply to Q2, UE doesn’t need to know whether a cell is TN or NTN. |
| OPPO | No | Even for frequency band n1, it can also be up to NW implementation to support UE distinguishing a neighbour cell between TN and NTN(HAPS), according to the existing system information, i.e., SIB3/4/19, for both cases of camping on TN/NTN cell. |
| Lenovo | No | Same as in Q2. |
| CATT | No | See our comments in Q2. |
| Xiaomi | No | See comments in Q2. |
| Nokia | No | See our response to Q2. |
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**Q4) If no to Q2, do you agree on a frequency band number shared by TN and NTN (e.g., n1), if NTN-specific assistance information is NOT provided for a neighbour cell in SIB3/SIB4, UE consider this is a TN neighbour cell.**

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| **Company** | **Yes/No** | **Comments** |
| OPPO | Yes | Even for frequency band n1, it can also be up to NW implementation to support UE distinguishing a neighbour cell between TN and NTN(HAPS), according to the existing system information, i.e., SIB3/4/19, for both cases of camping on TN/NTN cell.  HAPS neighbour cell using band n1 should always provide NTN-config-r17 in SIB19. Otherwise, the cell using band n1 is considered as a TN neighbour cell. |
| Ericsson | Yes | Up to network implementation. As mentioned earlier, network needs to provide *NTN-config-r17* in SIB19 to ensure UE can measure an NTN neighbour. Thus, for a frequency band number shared by TN and NTN included in SIB3/4, UE can consider it a TN neighbour cell when *NTN-config-r17* is not provided. |
| Lenovo | Yes | Same as in Q2. |
| Xiaomi | No | Even if there is no NTN specific information for a neighbour cell in SIB3/SIB4, NTN UE still can perform cell selection and select the cell for NTN access. |
| Nokia | Yes | This is what the UE should assume. |
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# Conclusions

**For agreement:**

**For discussion:**

# References

1. 3GPP TS 38.101-5, User Equipment (UE) radio transmission and reception, Part 5: Satellite access Radio Frequency (RF) and performance, Release 17, V17.2.0.
2. 3GPP TS 38.104, Base Station (BS) radio transmission and reception, Release 17, V17.8.0.