**3GPP T****SG-RAN WG2 Meeting #121-bis R2-2304257**

**E-Meeting: April 17-26, 2023**

**Agenda item: 7.6.3.1**

**Source: Qualcomm Incorporated**

**Title: [offline-114] Neighbour cell measurements**

**Document for: Discussion and Decision**

# Introduction

This document provides the report of the following email discussion.

* [AT121bis-e][114][IoT NTN Enh] Neighbour cell measurements (Qualcomm)

Scope: Discuss the remaining proposals from R2-2303652 and whether recent RAN2#121bis-e agreements for NR NTN can be extended to IoT-NTN

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: Tuesday 2023-04-25 02:00 UTC

Deadline for rapporteur's summary (in R2-2304257): Tuesday 2023-04-25 04:00 UTC

Proposals marked "for agreement" in R2-2304257 not challenged until Tuesday 2023-04-25 20:00 UTC will be declared as agreed via email by the session chair (for the rest the discussion might continue online in the Wednesday CB session).

# Discussion

Following agreement is made.

Agreements:

1. New SIBxx is introduced to broadcast the neighbor cell/satellite information.

Following is the proposal 1 from R2-2303652.

Proposal 1 In addition to ephemeris and optional epoch time of the satellite associated with a neighbor cell, following parameters can be optionally broadcast as neighbor cell assistance information:

- (15/18) Validity duration.

- (15/18) Common TA parameters.

- (12/18) For fixed cell, cell start time.

- (9/18) FFS, cell stop time for fixed cell.

- (8/18) FFS, reference location and distance threshold for moving cell.

1. **Do you agree Common TA parameters are needed as assistance information for neighbor cell measurements? If No, please elaborate how does UE track neighbor cell timing drift.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Yes/No | Detail comments |
| Samsung | LS to RAN4 | In RAN4 LS (R2-2211171) they mention that the same elements as in NR NTN would be needed. The reason why it would be needed in our understanding would be to enable tracking of neighbour cell reference signals. But the reference signals are different in LTE compared to NR where for instance CRS is transmitted in every frame. There may also be a difference how this works in eMTC and NB-IoT that RAN2 may miss. We should trigger an LS to RAN4 with RAN1 in CC. Important to get this right as common TA consumes a lot of bits.  |
| Apple | Yes | We checked with our RAN4 colleague. Our understanding is Common TA is needed because UE needs to track the subframe boundary to measure CRS because satellite movement can cause drift. Though there is no SMTC in LTE, UE behavior is similar as in NR.  |
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1. **Do you agree validity duration is needed for the neighbor cell ephemeris as this information is carried in new SIBxx?**

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| Company | Yes/No | Detail comments |
| Samsung | No | In NR NTN, for the cell assistance information used for neighbour cell measurements, we have introduced validity duration per neighbour cell via NTN-config. Our understanding is that it is up to UE implementation to ensure that the neighbour cell ephemeris is kept up to date. This in practice would likely mean that the NR NTN UE will re-acquire SIB19 when the validity duration of a neighbour cell is about to expire. However, in IoT NTN, the situation is different as UE cannot be expected to read any SIB in connected mode. This means that we cannot leave it up to UE implementation how to deal with having valid neighbour cell information, because a UE cannot read any SIB in connected mode. This is exactly the reason why we have T317 and T318 in IoT NTN and not in NR NTN. Furthermore, consider the complexity of IoT NTN UE having to read SIBxx at different times if the validity duration is different for different neighbour cell satellites. Thus we agree that we need some type of way to ensure that the UE has valid neighbour cell ephemeris, but having it per neighbour cell assistance / satellite would not be consistent with IoT NTN operation defined so far.  |
| Apple | See comments | We think validity duration is needed as UE needs this info to determine whether to re-acquire neighbour cell’s ephemeris data. And ephemeris data should be valid for UE to perform measurement on neighbour cell.But we also see the concern from Samsung. In order to avoid frequently reading SIBxx to update neighbour cell’s ephemeris data, it is good to ensure the validity duration of neighbour cell the same as serving cell. |
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1. **If the answer to Q2 is No, how does UE know it is time to update neighbor cell ephemeris as it is in new SIBxx not in existing SIB?**

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| Company | Yes/No | Detail comments |
| Samsung |  | This is what RAN2 has to discuss, but having validity duration for different neighbouring cells in SIBxx will not work for IoT NTN. We assume other companies have yet to consider this, but for discussion we can list a number of options:* Use same validity duration as SIB31
* Single validity duration for all of SIBxx
* No validity duration for SIBxx, UE only acquires SIBxx before connecting to cell
 |
| Apple |  | Using same validity duration as SIB31 is good. |
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1. **Please indicate Yes/No for if followings are needed as neighbor cell assistance information ?**
2. **Kmac**
3. **For fixed cell, cell start time**
4. **For fixed cell, cell stop time**
5. **For moving cell, reference location and distance threshold**

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| Company | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Detail comments |
| Samsung | See Q1 | N | N | N | (1) Is needed for the same reason as for common TA in our understanding. We should trigger LS to RAN4 on this. (2-4) we have not agreed what they are used for. In the discussions below, we only talk about triggering measurements based on serving cell conditions. If we agree something different, we can always include them. |
| Apple | Yes | No | Yes | FFS | For Kmac, same as in NTN discussion, if the compensation of Kmac is done at UE, it would be also needed. |
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Proposal 2 (15/18) In SIB, list of neighbor satellites is provided. For each satellite, list of frequencies/cells is included. FFS on clarification of the absence case of ephemeris and frequencies/cells.

* QC thinks this the simplest but indeed the list of frequencies consume a large number of bits
* ZTE agrees that the list of frequencies consume a large number of bits and wonders if the UE would also have to acquire SIB5 in this case. QC thinks this is the case.
* Apple wonders if adding a satellite ID to the frequency lists in SIB5 would impact of UE not supporting NTN
* HW wonders if it’s possible to have NTN and TN on the same frequency. QC thinks this scenario would have to be avoided.
* Continue offline

The ARFCN-ValueEUTRA-r9 is 18 bits (> 2 bytes) and PhysCellId is 9 bits (> 1 byte). Issue is size of list of frequencies and size of list of PCIs for each frequency.

1. **How to associate list of frequencies/cells with the satellite?**

Option #1: For each satellite, list of frequencies/cells is included

Option#2: Satellite indication in SIB5

Option#3: others

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| Company | Which Option | Detail comments |
| Samsung | Option 3 (Probably similar intention as option 2) | We assume what is meant is that there is an indication of the satellite Id in the frequency lists of SIB4 and SIB5. This means for intra-frequency the IE *IntraFreqNeighCellInfo* of SIB4 includes an ID of the neigh cell assistance in SIBxx, and for inter-frequency the IE *InterFreqCarrierFreqInfo* includes an ID of the neigh cell assistance in SIBxx. |
| Apple | See comments | First, we want to confirm this is only about NTN cell, right?For TN cell, we see there are some discussions in NR NTN on how to provision neighbour NTN cell’s config via TN cell. I guess it is not relevant to this issue.Secondly, the issue of mixed deployment of NTN and TN on the same frequency has not been discussed/resolved properly. For example, it is not clear at least to us, for a given frequency contained in both SIB5 and SIBxx, does UE only perform NTN based measurement? Indicating satellite in SIB5 definitely has the same issue. |
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1. **Introduce satellite ID for the satellite in a list?**

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| Company | Agree/Disagree | Detail comments |
| Samsung | Agree | Seems this can be used. Consider re-naming it to something more specific “ntn-NeighCellAssistanceId” (to avoid calling it “satellite”) and not mix it up with discontinuous coverage.  |
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\*\*\* Check whether recent agreements for NR NTN mobility enhancements can also be applied to IoT NTN enhancements \*\*\*

- RAN2#121 agreements for IoT NTN enhancements:

1. Location-based connected mode measurement initiation is supported in quasi-Earth-fixed cell (UE is not required to update the GNSS location for this). A serving cell reference location and a distance threshold/radius for detecting when to trigger connected mode measurements will be broadcast for quasi-Earth-fixed cell. FFS on whether the R17 IEs are reused or not. FFS if the same mechanism can also be used in idle (like in NR-NTN)

* Continue offline on the highlighted FFS (i.e. if the same mechanism can also be used in idle)
1. **For fixed cell, do you agree the same mechanism of location-based connected mode measurement initiation can also be used in RRC\_IDLE (like in NR-NTN)?**

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| Company | Agree/Disagree | Detail comments |
| Samsung | Agree | We assume like how we specified neighbour cell measurements in Rel-17 NB-IoT, some of the conditions for enabling connected mode measurements are specified in idle mode specs. So this means that we can do the same in IoT NTN and get the idle mode location-based connected mode measurements for free.  |
| Apple | Agree | Just want to say the left questions that whether the conditions (channel quality, channel variance, location based, time based) are independently or jointly used, can be discussed separately for idle mode measurement. |
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2. Location-based connected mode measurement initiation is supported in earth-moving cell (UE is not required to update the GNSS location for this). A serving cell reference location and a distance threshold/radius for detecting when to trigger connected mode measurements will be broadcast for earth-moving cell. FFS on whether the R17 IEs are reused or not. FFS on whether additional information needs to be broadcast to inform the UE how the reference location moves over time or if this can be derived from other information (e.g. Epoch time and ephemeris). FFS if the same mechanism can also be used in idle (like in NR-NTN)

* Continue offline on the highlighted FFSs, taking into account the recent RAN2#121bis-e agreements for NR NTN
1. **For moving cell, do you agree the same mechanism of location-based connected mode measurement initiation can also be used in RRC\_IDLE (this should be optional feature in IDLE mode)?**

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| Company | Agree/Disagree | Detail comments |
| Samsung | Agree | Same reasoning as above |
| Apple | Agree |  |
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- RAN2#121bis-e agreements for NR NTN enhancements:

1. RAN2 understands that for earth-moving cell reselection, the UE can derive the trajectory of serving cell with rough accuracy based on serving satellite ephemeris and epochTime, with the assumption that the serving cell reference location broadcast by the network is the one at Epoch time (FFS whether a new epochTime IE is needed). RAN2 understanding is that both PVT and orbital parameters can be used for this. FFS if additional information is needed to allow more accurate measurements.

* Check offline if this can be extended to IoT NTN
1. **For moving cell, do you agree the UE can derive the trajectory of serving cell with rough accuracy based on serving satellite ephemeris and epochTime, with the assumption that the serving cell reference location broadcast by the network is the one at Epoch time (like in NR-NTN)?**

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| Company | Agree/Disagree | Detail comments |
| Samsung | Agree | We can of course check more, but this is a good start |
| Apple | Agree |  |
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2. For earth-moving cell, new IE is introduced to indicate the reference location of serving cell.

* No need to check this (broadcast of serving cell reference location for earth-moving cell has already been agreed also for IoT-NTN, and clearly this will be a new IE)

3. For cell (re)selection in earth-moving system, a distance threshold is introduced for location-based measurement initiation, which reuses distanceThresh in SIB19.

* Check offline if “distanceThresh in SIB19” can also be used for IoT-NTN
1. **Should SIB31 be extended to include distanceThresh?**

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| Company | Agree/Disagree | Detail comments |
| Samsung | Agree |  |
| Apple | Agree |  |
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4. For cell (re)selection in earth-moving system, time-based measurement initiation is used to address feeder-link switch case.

* Check offline if this can be extended to IoT NTN
1. **For cell (re)selection in earth-moving system, time-based measurement initiation is used to address feeder-link switch case.**

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| Company | Agree/Disagree | Detail comments |
| Samsung | Disagree | This we think IoT NTN needs to think a bit more about.  |
| Apple | Agree |  |
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# Conclusion

[to be updated]