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Contents

Foreword

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1 Scope

The present document specifies the 5G radio network layer signalling protocol for the E1 interface. The E1 interface provides means for interconnecting a gNB-CU-CP and a gNB-CU-UP of a gNB within an NG-RAN, or for interconnecting a gNB-CU-CP and a gNB-CU-UP of an en-gNB within an E-UTRAN, or for interconnecting an eNB-CP and an eNB-UP of an eNB within an E-UTRAN, or for interconnecting an ng-eNB-CU-CP and an ng-eNB-CU-UP of an ng-eNB within an NG-RAN. The E1 Application Protocol (E1AP) supports the functions of E1 interface by signalling procedures defined in the present document. E1AP is developed in accordance to the general principles stated in TS 38.401 [2] and TS 37.480 [3].

2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

[1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".

[2] 3GPP TS 38.401: "NG-RAN; Architecture Description".

[3] 3GPP TS 37.480: "E1 general aspects and principles".

[4] 3GPP TS 38.300: "NR; Overall description; Stage-2".

[5] 3GPP TR 25.921 (version.7.0.0): "Guidelines and principles for protocol description and error".

[6] 3GPP TS 38.413: "NG-RAN; NG Application Protocol (NGAP)".

[7] ITU-T Recommendation X.691 (2002-07): "Information technology - ASN.1 encoding rules - Specification of Packed Encoding Rules (PER)".

[8] ITU-T Recommendation X.680 (07/2002): "Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Specification of basic notation".

[9] ITU-T Recommendation X.681 (07/2002): "Information technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Information object specification".

[10] 3GPP TS 38.331: "NR; Radio Resource Control (RRC); Protocol Specificaiton".

[11] 3GPP TS 23.401: "General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) Enhancements for Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN) access".

[12] 3GPP TS 23.203: "Policy and Charging Control Architecture".

[13] 3GPP TS 33.501: "Security Architecture and Procedures for 5G System".

[14] IETF RFC 5905: "Network Time Protocol Version 4: Protocol and Algorithms Specification".

[15] 3GPP TS 29.281: "General Packet Radio System (GPRS) Tunnelling Protocol User Plane (GTPv1-U)".

[16] 3GPP TS 38.414: "NG-RAN; NG Data Transport".

[17] 3GPP TS 38.323: "NR; Packet Data Convergence Protocol (PDCP) specification".

[18] 3GPP TS 37.482: "E1 Signalling Transport".

[19] 3GPP TS 37.340: "NR; Multi-connectivity; Overall description; Stage-2".

[20] 3GPP TS 23.501: "System Architecture for the 5G System".

[21] 3GPP TS 36.331: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Radio Resource Control (RRC) protocol specification".

[22] 3GPP TS 28.552: "Management and orchestration; 5G performance measurements".

[23] 3GPP TS 23.003: "Numbering, addressing and identification".

[24] 3GPP TS 32.422: "Trace control and configuration management".

[25] 3GPP TS 36.300: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) and Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN); Overall description; Stage 2".

[26] 3GPP TS 32.425: "Performance measurements; Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN)".

[27] 3GPP TS 37.320: "Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (UTRA) and Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Radio measurement collection for Minimization of Drive Tests (MDT);Overall description; Stage 2".

[28] 3GPP TS 38.474: "NG-RAN; F1 data transport".

[29] 3GPP TS 29.244: "Interface between the Control Plane and the User Plane Nodes; Stage 3".

[30] 3GPP TS 37.470: "W1 interface; General aspects and principles".

[31] 3GPP TS 36.401: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN); Architecture description".

[32] 3GPP TS 33.401: "3GPP System Architecture Evolution (SAE); Security architecture".

[33] 3GPP TS 36.331: "Radio Resource Control (RRC); Protocol specification".

[34] 3GPP TS 36.323: " Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN); Packet Data Convergence Protocol (PDCP) specification".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1].

Elementary Procedure**:** E1AP consists of Elementary Procedures (EPs). An Elementary Procedure is a unit of interaction between gNB-CU-CP and gNB-CU-UP, or between eNB-CP and eNB-UP, or between ng-eNB-CU-CP and ng-eNB-CU-UP. These Elementary Procedures are defined separately and are intended to be used to build up complete sequences in a flexible manner. If the independence between some EPs is restricted, it is described under the relevant EP description. Unless otherwise stated by the restrictions, the EPs may be invoked independently of each other as standalone procedures, which can be active in parallel. The usage of several E1AP EPs together is specified in stage 2 specifications (e.g., TS 37.480 [3]).

An EP consists of an initiating message and possibly a response message. Two kinds of EPs are used:

- **Class 1:** Elementary Procedures with response (success and/or failure).
- **Class 2:** Elementary Procedures without response.

For Class 1 EPs, the types of responses can be as follows:

Successful:

- A signalling message explicitly indicates that the elementary procedure successfully completed with the receipt of the response.

Unsuccessful:

- A signalling message explicitly indicates that the EP failed.
- On time supervision expiry (i.e., absence of expected response).

Successful and Unsuccessful:

- One signalling message reports both successful and unsuccessful outcome for the different included requests. The response message used is the one defined for successful outcome.

Class 2 EPs are considered always successful.

Conditional handover: as defined in TS 38.300 [4].

Conditional PSCell Change: as defined in TS 37.340 [19].

DAPS Handover: as defined in TS 38.300 [4].

eNB-CP: as defined in TS 36.401 [31].

eNB-UP: as defined in TS 36.401 [31].

gNB: as defined in TS 38.300 [4].

gNB-CU: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

gNB-DU: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

gNB-CU-CP: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

gNB-CU-UP: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

MBS-associated signalling: When E1AP messages associated to one MBS session uses the MBS-associated logical E1-connection for association of the message to the MBS session in gNB-CU-CP and gNB-CU-UP.

MBS-associated logical E1-connection: The MBS-associated logical E1-connection uses the identities *GNB-CU-CP MBS E1AP ID* and *GNB-CU-UP MBS E1AP ID* according to the definition in TS 38.401 [2]. For a received MBS-associated E1AP message the gNB-CU-CP identifies the associated MBS session based on the *GNB-CU-CP MBS E1AP ID* IE and the gNB-CU-UP identifies the associated MBS session based on the *GNB-CU-UP MBS E1AP ID* IE.

MBS session resource: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

Multicast F1-U Context: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

ng-eNB-CU: as defined in TS 37.470 [30].

ng-eNB-CU-CP: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

ng-eNB-CU-UP: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

ng-eNB-DU: as defined in TS 37.470 [30].

PDU Session Resource: as defined in TS 38.401 [2].

UE-associated signalling: When E1AP messages associated to one UE uses the UE-associated logical E1-connection for association of the message to the UE in gNB-CU-UP and gNB-CU-CP, or in eNB-CP and eNB-UP, or in ng-eNB-CU-CP and ng-eNB-CU-UP.

UE-associated logical E1-connection: The UE-associated logical E1-connection uses the identities *GNB-CU-CP UE E1AP ID* and *GNB-CU-UP UE E1AP ID* according to the definition in TS 38.401 [2]. For a received UE associated