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5G; Management and orchestration; Provisioning (3GPP TS 28.531 version 18.8.0 Release 18)

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Contents

Intellectual Property Rights	2
Legal Notice	2
Modal verbs terminology.....	2
Foreword.....	6
1 Scope	7
2 References	7
3 Definitions and abbreviations.....	8
3.1 Definitions.....	8
3.2 Abbreviations	8
4 General	8
4.1 Overview	8
4.2 Configuration information for the constituents of an NSI.....	10
4.3 General information for network slice instance.....	10
4.4 General information for network slice subnet instance	10
4.5 Void.....	11
4.6 Void.....	11
5 Specification level requirements	12
5.1 Use cases	12
5.1.1 Network slice instance allocation	12
5.1.2 Network slice subnet instance allocation	15
5.1.3 Network slice instance deallocation.....	17
5.1.4 Network slice subnet instance deallocation	18
5.1.5 Obtaining network slice subnet instance information.....	19
5.1.6 Network slice feasibility check.....	20
5.1.7 Network slice instance activation	21
5.1.8 Network slice instance deactivation.....	22
5.1.9 Network slice instance modification.....	23
5.1.10 Network slice subnet instance activation	24
5.1.11 Network slice subnet instance deactivation	25
5.1.12 Network slice subnet instance modification	26
5.1.13 Network slice subnet configuration	27
5.1.14 Obtaining network slice management data	28
5.1.15 Void	29
5.1.16 Void	29
5.1.17 Creation of a 3GPP NF	29
5.1.18 Configuration of a 3GPP NF instance.....	30
5.1.19 Creation of a 3GPP sub-network	31
5.1.20 Configuration of a 3GPP sub-network.....	32
5.1.21 Network slice subnet feasibility check.....	33
5.1.22 Void	34
5.1.23 Network slice subnet management with assigned priority.....	34
5.1.24 Management interaction with NFV MANO for network service priority.....	34
5.1.25 Void	35
5.1.26 Obtaining network slice subnet provider capability information.....	35
5.2 Requirements.....	35
5.2.1 Requirements for network slice provisioning service	35
5.2.2 Requirements for network slice subnet provisioning service.....	36
5.2.3 Requirements for NF provisioning service	37
5.2.4 Requirements for sub-network provisioning service	37
6 Management services for provisioning of networks and network slicing	37
6.1 Management services for network slice provisioning	37
6.2 Management services for network slice subnet provisioning	38
6.3 Management services for network function provisioning	39

6.4	Void.....	40
6.5	Operations of provisioning	40
6.5.1	AllocateNsi operation	40
6.5.1.1	Description	40
6.5.1.2	Input parameters.....	41
6.5.1.3	Output parameters	41
6.5.2	AllocateNssi operation.....	41
6.5.2.1	Description	41
6.5.2.2	Input parameters.....	41
6.5.2.3	Output parameters	41
6.5.3	DeallocateNsi operation	41
6.5.3.1	Description	41
6.5.3.2	Input parameters.....	42
6.5.3.3	Output parameters	42
6.5.4	DeallocateNssi operation.....	42
6.5.4.1	Description	42
6.5.4.2	Input parameters.....	42
6.5.4.3	Output parameters	42
6.5.5	Void.....	43
7	Provisioning procedures of networks and network slicing.....	43
7.1	General	43
7.2	Procedure of Network Slice Instance Allocation.....	43
7.3	Procedure of Network Slice Subnet Instance Allocation.....	46
7.4	Procedure of Network Slice Instance Deallocation	50
7.5	Procedure of network slice subnet instance deallocation	51
7.6	Procedure of Network Slice Instance Modification.....	54
7.7	Procedure of Network Slice Subnet Instance Modification.....	55
7.8	Procedure of Obtaining Network Slice Subnet Management Service Producer Capability	58
7.8.1	Introduction.....	58
7.8.2	Querying Network Slice Subnet Capability Information.....	58
7.8.3	Void	58
7.9	Procedure of TN coordination supporting network slicing	58
7.9.1	Introduction	58
7.9.2	Interaction with NFVO as TN Manager	58
7.10	Procedure of NF instance creation	59
7.11	Procedure of NF instance modification	61
7.12	Procedure of NF instance deletion	61
7.13	Procedure of feasibility check and reservation of NSI	63
7.14	Procedure of feasibility check and reservation of network slice subnet	65
7.15	Void.....	66
7.16	Void.....	66
7.17	Procedure of management interaction with NFV MANO for network service priority	66
7.18	Procedure for Network slice instance activation	67
7.19	Procedure for Network slice instance deactivation	68
7.20	Procedure for Network slice subnet instance activation.....	68
7.21	Procedure for Network slice subnet instance deactivation	69
8	Void.....	71
9	RESTful HTTP-based solution set of provisioning.....	71
9.1	Network slice provisioning management service	71
9.1.1	Mapping of operations	71
9.1.1.1	Introduction.....	71
9.1.1.2	Operation allocateNsi	71
9.1.1.3	Operation deallocateNsi.....	72
9.1.2	Resources.....	72
9.1.2.0	Resource structure	72
9.1.2.1	Resource definitions	73
9.1.2.1.1	Resource “../ServiceProfiles	73
9.1.2.1.2	Resource “../ServiceProfiles/{ServiceProfileId}	74
9.2	Network slice subnet provisioning management service.....	75

9.2.1	Mapping of operations	75
9.2.1.1	Introduction	75
9.2.1.2	Operation allocateNssi	75
9.2.1.3	Operation deallocateNssi	76
9.2.2	Resources	76
9.2.2.0	Resource structure	76
9.2.2.1	Resource definitions	77
9.2.2.1.1	Resource “.../SliceProfiles	77
9.2.2.1.2	Resource “.../SliceProfiles/{SliceProfileId}	78
10	OpenAPI specification	79
10.1	OpenAPI document for network slice provisioning MnS	79
10.2	OpenAPI document for network slice subnet provisioning MnS	79
Annex A (informative):	A network slice journey example.....	80
Annex B (informative):	General information for network slice related identifiers	83
Annex C (informative):	Plant UML source code	84
C.1	General	84
C.2	Procedure of network slice instance allocation	84
C.3	Procedure of Network Slice Subnet Instance Allocation	85
C.4	Procedure of Network Slice Instance Deallocation.....	86
C.5	Procedure of network slice subnet instance deallocation.....	87
C.6	Procedure of Network Slice Instance Modification	88
C.7	Procedure of Network Slice Subnet Instance Modification	89
Annex D (informative):	Change history	92
History		95

ETSI TS 128 531 V18.8.0 (2025-01)

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1 Scope

The present document specifies use cases, requirements, management services and procedures for provisioning of 5G networks. For the cases when a NF taking part in these networks contains virtualized parts, interactions with ETSI NFV MANO system are described.

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 28.525: "Telecommunication management; Life Cycle Management (LCM) for mobile networks that include virtualized network functions; Requirements".
- [3] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 013 (V4.5.1) (2023-09): "Network Function Virtualisation (NFV); Release 4; Management and Orchestration; Os-Ma-nfvo reference point - Interface and Information Model Specification".
- [4] 3GPP TS 28.530: "Management and orchestration; Concepts, use cases and requirements".
- [5] 3GPP TS 22.261 "Service requirements for next generation new services and markets".
- [6] 3GPP TS 28.541: "Management and orchestration; 5G Network Resource Model (NRM); Stage 2 and stage 3".
- [7] Void.
- [8] 3GPP TS 28.532: "Management and orchestration; Generic management services".
- [9] GSMA NG.116 Generic Network Slice Template v9.0 (2023-04-27) - NG.116-v9.0.pdf (gsma.com).
- [10] 3GPP TS 23.501: "Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects;System Architecture for the 5G System;Stage 2".
- [11] 3GPP TS 38.300: "Technical Specification Group Radio Access Network;NR; NR and NG-RAN Overall Description;Stage 2".
- [12] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 014 (V4.2.1) (2021-05): "Network Function Virtualisation (NFV); Release 4; Management and Orchestration; Network Service Templates Specification".
- [13] 3GPP TS 28.622: "Telecommunication management; Generic Network Resource Model (NRM) Integration Reference Point (IRP); Information Service (IS)".
- [14] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 011 (V4.3.1) (2022-06): "Network Function Virtualisation (NFV); Release 4; Management and Orchestration; VNF Descriptor and Packaging Specification".
- [15] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 008 (V4.3.1) (2022-05): "Network Function Virtualisation (NFV); Release 4; Management and Orchestration; Ve-Vnfm reference point - Interface and Information Model Specification".

- [16] 3GPP TS 28.623: "Telecommunication management; Generic Network Resource Model (NRM) Integration Reference Point (IRP); Solution Set (SS) definitions".
- [17] 3GPP TS 32.158: "Management and orchestration; Design rules for REpresentational State Transfer (REST) Solution Sets (SS)".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1], TS 28.530 [4] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1] and TS 28.530 [4].

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1], TS 28.530 [4] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1].

5GAA	5G Automotive Association
5G-ACIA	5G Association for Connected Industries and Automation
5GC	5G Core Network
AMF	Access and Mobility Management Function
CSC	Communication Service Customer
CSP	Communication Service Provider
CP	Control Plane
GST	Generic Slice Template
IOC	Information Object Class
MANO	Management and Orchestration
MnS	Management Service
NEST	Network Slice Type
NF	Network Function
NFV	Network Functions Virtualisation
NRM	Network Resource Model
NSaaS	Network Slice as a Service
NSC	Network Slice Customer
NSI	Network Slice Instance
NSP	Network Slice Provider
NSSI	Network Slice Subnet Instance
P-NEST	Private NEST
S-NEST	Standardized NEST
TN	Transport Network
VNF	Virtualized Network Function
UP	User Plane

4 General

4.1 Overview

A 5G system consists of a 5G Access Network (AN), and a 5G Core Network (5GC). Network slicing is one of the key 5G features.

The management aspects of a Network Slice Instance (NSI) are described by the four phases shown in Figure 4.3.1.1 of TS 28.530 [4].

The provisioning of network slicing includes the four phases which are preparation, commissioning, operation and decommissioning:

- In the preparation phase the NSI does not exist. The preparation phase includes network slice design, on-boarding, evaluation of the network slice requirements, preparing the network environment and other necessary preparations required to be done before the creation of an NSI.
- During the NSI lifecycle stage which include commissioning phase, operation phase and decommissioning phase, the NSI provisioning operations include:
 - Create an NSI;
 - Activate an NSI;
 - Deactivate an NSI;
 - Modify an NSI;
 - Terminate an NSI.

The operations of the provisioning of an NSI occurs during different phases of a NSI:

a) During the commissioning phase:

- Create an NSI.

During NSI creation all resources to the NSI have been created and configured to satisfy the network slice requirements. NSI creation may trigger NSSI(s) creation or using existing NSSI(s) and setting up the corresponding associations.

b) During the operation phase:

- Activate an NSI;
- Modify an NSI;
- Deactivate an NSI.

NSI activation includes any actions that make the NSI active to provide communication services. NSI activation may trigger NSSI activation.

NSI modification in operation phase could map to several workflows, e.g. changes of NSI capacity, changes of NSI topology, NSI reconfiguration. NSI modification can be triggered by receiving new network slice related requirements, new communication service requirements, or the result of NSI supervision automatically. NSI modification may trigger NSSI modification.

The NSI deactivation operation may be needed before NSI modification operation and the NSI activation operation may be needed after the NSI modification operation. NSI deactivation includes any actions that make the NSI inactive and not providing any communication services. NSI deactivation trigger NSSI deactivation to deactivate constituent NSSI(s) which is not used by other NSI(s). Operator may decide to keep the NSI without termination after deactivation and reactivate it when receives new communication service request.

c) During the decommissioning phase:

- Terminate an NSI.

NSI termination step includes any action that make the NSI does not exist anymore and release resources that are not used by other NSI(s). NSI termination may trigger NSSI termination to terminate constituent NSSI(s) which is not used by other NSI(s).

Similarly, provisioning for network slice subnet instance includes the following operations:

- Create an NSSI;
- Activate an NSSI and associate it with certain NSI to be used by the NSI;
- Disassociate the NSSI with certain NSI and deactivate the NSSI if it's not associated with any NSI;

- Modify an NSSI;
- Terminate an NSSI.

4.2 Configuration information for the constituents of an NSI

To use network slice to support communication service or deliver a network slice as a service, the 3GPP defined constituents of the NSI should be configured by 3GPP management system according to the types and requirements of the network slice so that the NSI can be operated and maintained.

The configuration information of these components may include:

- *Information on the requirements to be applied to every NSI constituent to satisfy the requirements of multiple NSIs* if the constituent is shared by multiple NSIs;
- *Network function selection information*: Information on the selection of the NFs (e.g., AMF) according to the requirements of this NSI;
- *Connection information*: The information of the logical links to carry the NSI's CP and UP data between the component and other NFs and NSSIs belonging to the NSI.

NOTE 1: The list of information above is not exhaustive.

NOTE 2: The list of information above is not all necessary for an NSI.

4.3 General information for network slice instance

The general information used to describe a network slice instance may include:

- Resource model information, which describes the static parameters and functional components of network slice, includes service profile, network slice type (e.g. eMBB), additional system feature (e.g. multicast, Edge Computing), priority.
- Management model information, which describes the information model that is used for network slice lifecycle management, includes configuration profile (e.g. application configuration parameters).
- Capability model information, which describes the capability including supported communication service characteristic information (e.g. service type, UE mobility level, density of users, traffic density), QoS attributes (e.g. bandwidth, latency, throughput and so on) and capacity (e.g. maximum number of UEs), can be exposed to CSC .

4.4 General information for network slice subnet instance

The general information used to describe a network slice subnet instance may include:

- Resource model information, which describes the static parameters and functional component of network slice subnet, includes slice profile, network slice subnet type (e.g. RAN eMBB, CN eMBB), additional system feature (e.g. multicast, Edge Computing), priority, QoS attributes (e.g. bandwidth, latency, number of subscribers and so on), NSD ID.
- Management model information, which describes the information model that is used for network slice subnet lifecycle management, includes configuration profile (e.g. application configuration parameters).
- Capability model information, which describes the capability including supported communication service characteristic information (e.g. service type, UE mobility level, density of users, traffic density), QoS attributes (e.g. bandwidth, latency, throughput and so on) and capacity (e.g. maximum number of UEs).

4.5 Void

4.6 Void

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5 Specification level requirements

5.1 Use cases

5.1.1 Network slice instance allocation

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Use case stage	Evolution/Specification	<<Uses>> Related use
Goal	To satisfy request for allocation of a network slice instance with certain characteristics, by creating a new or using an existing network slice instance.	
Actors and Roles	A network slice provisioning management service consumer.	
Telecom resources	Network slice instance Network slice subnet instance Transport network A network slice provisioning management service provider. A network slice subnet provisioning management service provider.	
Assumptions	N/A	
Pre-conditions	N/A	
Begins when	The network slice provisioning management service provider receives the request for allocation of the network slice instance with network slice related requirements. The network slice provisioning management service provider has the capability to process the network slice related requirements (e.g., SLA information from GSMA GST) which are represented by service profile parameters [6]. The service profile can be translated to the corresponding requirements for dedicated domains and NSSIs.	
Step 1 (M)	If the requested NSI can be shared and if an existing NSI can be used, the network slice provisioning management service provider decides to use the existing NSI. Modification of the existing NSI may be needed to satisfy the network slice instance related requirements. Use case is completed go to "Step 8". Otherwise, the network slice provisioning management service provider triggers to create a new NSI, for which the following steps 2 – 8 are needed.	
Step 2 (M)	The network slice provisioning management service provider decides on the constituent NSSIs and the topology of the NSI to be created using the information from service profile [6] and if applicable isolation profiles are selected. For the constituent NSSIs, the network slice provisioning management service provider derives network slice subnet related requirements from the network slice related requirements. If reconfiguration of the transport network is needed, the network slice provisioning management service provider derives transport network related requirements (e.g., latency, bandwidth) from the network slice related requirements.	
Step 3 (M)	For the required NSSI(s), the network slice provisioning management service provider sends network slice subnet related requirements to the network slice subnet provisioning management service provider to request allocation of the required NSSI(s).	Network slice subnet instance allocation use case
Step 4 (M)	The network slice provisioning management service provider receives the information of the allocated NSSI(s) (e.g., the management identifier of NSSI, service access point information of NSSI, external connection point information of NSSI) from NSSMF.	
Step 5 (M)	The network slice provisioning management service provider, via the network slice subnet provisioning management service provider, sends the transport network related requirements (e.g., external connection point, latency and bandwidth) to the TN Manager. The TN manager reconfigures the TN accordingly and responds to the network slice provisioning management service provider via the network slice subnet provisioning management service provider.	
Step 6 (M)	The network slice provisioning management service provider receives the response from TN Manager via the network slice subnet provisioning management service provider.	
Step 7 (M)	The network slice provisioning management service provider associates the NSSI(s) with the corresponding NSI (e.g., allocation of the management identifier of NSI and mapping the management identifier of NSI with the received management Identifier of NSSI(s)), if applicable with the isolation profiles are associated with the NSI and NSSI(s), and triggers to establish the links between the service access points of the NSSI(s).	
Step 8 (M)	The network slice provisioning management service provider notifies the network slice instance information of NSI (e.g., the management identifier of NSI).	
Ends when	All the steps identified above are successfully completed.	
Exceptions	One of the steps identified above fails.	
Post-conditions	An NSI is ready to satisfy the network slice related requirements.	
Traceability	REQ-PRO_NSSI-FUN-1, REQ-PRO_NSI-FUN-3, REQ-PRO_NSI-FUN-9.	