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Foreword

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Introduction

Network sharing is a way for operators to share the heavy deployment costs for mobile networks, especially in the roll-out phase. In the current mobile telephony marketplace, functionality that enables various forms of network sharing is becoming more and more important. These aspects have not really been addressed before Release 6 in 3GPP UTRAN based access networks, before Release 8 in 3GPP E-UTRAN based access networks and before Release 10 in 3GPP GERAN based access networks, although there has been functionality that supports a very basic type of network sharing since the Release 5 versions of the 3GPP specifications.

To cope with 3GPP pre-Release 6 UTRAN UEs and with non supporting 3GPP GERAN UEs, this specification describes extra functionality for MSCs, SGSNs, BSCs and RNCs in order to provide network sharing functionality to "non-supporting UEs".

In this Release of the specifications, all UTRAN and E-UTRAN capable UEs are required to support the UTRAN and E-UTRAN network sharing requirements. Hence the E-UTRAN and MMEs (which were introduced in 3GPP Release 8) do not need functionality to handle "non-supporting UEs".

Scenarios and user requirements are described in TR 22.951 [1], while the current document presents the stage 2 details and descriptions of how these requirements are supported in a 3GPP GERAN, UTRAN and/or E-UTRAN based network.

1 Scope

The present document covers the details of Network Sharing for GERAN, UTRAN and E-UTRAN. It shows how several core network operators can share one radio access network and details the impacts on the network architecture. All UEs shall comply with existing requirements, among them PLMN selection and system information reception. The present document also defines requirements for network-sharing supporting UEs.

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 22.951: "Service Aspects and Requirements for Network Sharing".
- [2] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [3] 3GPP TS 25.331: "RRC Protocol Specification".
- [4] 3GPP TS 23.122: "NAS Functions related to Mobile Station (MS) in idle mode".
- [5] 3GPP TS 32.250: "Telecommunication management; Charging management; Circuit Switched (CS) domain charging".
- [6] 3GPP TS 32.251: "Telecommunication management; Charging management; Packet Switched (PS) domain charging".
- [7] 3GPP TS 24.008: "Mobile radio interface Layer 3 specification; Core network protocols; Stage 3".
- [8] 3GPP TS 23.236: "Intra-domain connection of Radio Access Network (RAN) nodes to multiple Core Network (CN) nodes".
- [9] 3GPP TS 23.401: "Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects; GPRS enhancements for E-UTRAN access".
- [10] 3GPP TS 36.300: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) and Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRAN); Overall description; Stage 2".
- [11] 3GPP TS 36.331: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA); Radio Resource Control (RRC); Protocol specification".
- [12] 3GPP TS 24.301: "Non-Access-Stratum (NAS) protocol for Evolved Packet System (EPS); Stage 3".
- [13] 3GPP TS 25.413: "UTRAN Iu interface, Radio Access Network Application Part (RANAP) signalling".
- [14] 3GPP TS 36.413: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN); S1 Application Protocol (S1AP)".
- [15] 3GPP TS 23.272: "Circuit Switched (CS) fallback in Evolved Packet System (EPS); Stage 2".
- [16] 3GPP TS 44.018: "Radio Resource Control RRC Protocol Specification".

- [17] 3GPP TS 25.467: "UTRAN architecture for 3G Home Node B (HNB); Stage 2".
- [18] 3GPP TS 22.042: "Network Identity and Time Zone (NITZ); Service description; Stage 1".
- [19] 3GPP TS 44.064: "General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Mobile Station - Serving GPRS Support Node (MS SGSN) Logical Link Control (LLC) layer specification".
- [20] 3GPP TS 23.041: "Technical realization of Cell Broadcast Service (CBS)".
- [21] 3GPP TS 29.280: "3GPP Sv interface (MME to MSC, and SGSN to MSC) for SRVCC".
- [22] 3GPP TS 23.060: "General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Service description; Stage 2".
- [23] 3GPP TS 22.011: "Service Accessibility".
- [24] 3GPP TS 48.018: "General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Base Station System (BSS) - Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN); BSS GPRS Protocol (BSSGP)".
- [25] 3GPP TS 48.008: "Mobile-services Switching Centre Base Station System (MSC BSS) interface; Layer 3 specification".
- [26] 3GPP TS 29.018: "General Packet Radio Service (GPRS); Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN) Visitors Location Register (VLR); Gs interface layer 3 specification".
- [27] 3GPP TS 29.118: "Mobility Management Entity (MME) - Visitor Location Register (VLR) SGs interface specification".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definition below apply. Terms and definitions not defined below can be found in TR 21.905 [2].

Conventional network: A PLMN consisting of radio access network and core network, by which only one serving operator provides services to its subscriber. Subscribers of other operators may receive services by national or international roaming.

Common PLMN: The PLMN-id indicated in the system broadcast information as defined for conventional networks, which non-supporting UEs understand as the serving operator.

Core network operator: An operator that provides services to subscribers as one of multiple serving operators that share at least a radio access network. Each core network operator may provide services to subscriber of other operators by national or international roaming.

Gateway Core Network: A network sharing configuration in which parts of the core network (MSCs/SGSNs/MMEs) are also shared.

Multi-Operator Core Network: A network-sharing configuration in which only the RAN is shared.

Non-supporting UE: A UE that does not support network sharing in the sense that it ignores the additional broadcast system information that is specific for network sharing for 3GPP UTRAN and GERAN. In other specifications, the term "network sharing non-supporting UE" may be used.

Supporting UE: A UE that supports network sharing in the sense that it is able to select a core network operator as the serving operator within a shared network. In other specifications, the term "network sharing supporting UE" may be used.

Anchor PLMN: With regard to SRVCC from CS to PS, this is the core network operator of the MSC/MME/SGSN in which the voice call or session was initiated.

3.2 Void

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [2] 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 [2].

BSC	Base Station Controller
CN	Core Network
E-UTRAN	Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network
eNodeB	E-UTRAN NodeB
GERAN	GSM/EDGE Radio Access Network
GUTI	Globally Unique Temporary Identity
GWCN	Gateway Core Network
HLR	Home Location Register
MCC	Mobile Country Code
MME	Mobility Management Entity
MNC	Mobile Network Code
MOCN	Multi-Operator Core Network
MSC	Mobile Switching Centre
NITZ	Network Identity and Time Zone
PLMN	Public Land Mobile Network
RNC	Radio Network Controller
SGSN	Serving GPRS Support Node
TMSI	Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity
UE	User Equipment
UTRAN	Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network
VLR	Visitor Location Register

4 General Description

4.1 Overview

A network sharing architecture shall allow different core network operators to connect to a shared radio access network. The operators do not only share the radio network elements, but may also share the radio resources themselves. In addition to this shared radio access network the operators may or may not have additional dedicated radio access networks, like for example, 2G radio access networks. There are two identified architectures to be supported by network sharing. They are shown in the figures below.

In both architectures, the radio access network is shared. Figure 1 below shows reference architecture for network sharing in which also MSCs and SGSNs are shared. This configuration will be referred to as a Gateway Core Network (GWCN) configuration.

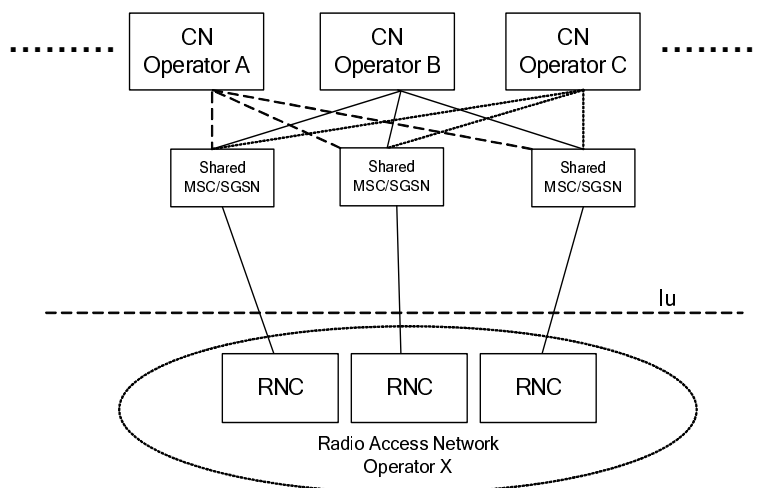


Figure 1: A Gateway Core Network (GWCN) configuration for network sharing. Besides shared radio access network nodes, the core network operators also share core network nodes

Figure 2 below shows the reference architecture for network sharing in which only the radio access network is shared, the Multi-Operator Core Network (MOCN) configuration.

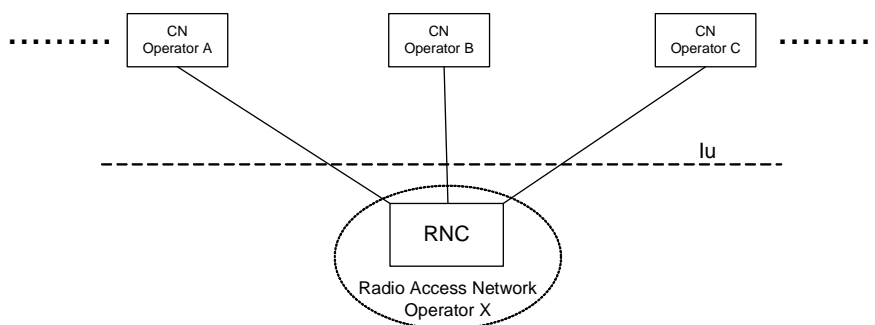


Figure 2: A Multi-Operator Core Network (MOCN) in which multiple CN nodes are connected to the same RNC and the CN nodes are operated by different operators

The UE behaviour in both of these configurations shall be the same. No information concerning the configuration of a shared network shall be indicated to the UE.

For the Evolved Packet System, only the PS domain of the above figures is relevant. For E-UTRAN access Figures 1 and 2 both apply but with the MME replacing the SGSN, the eNodeB replacing the RNC, and the S1 reference point replacing the Iu interface.

For GERAN access, both GWCN and MOCN are applicable but with the BSC replacing the RNC and the A/Gb-Interfaces replacing the Iu interface.

4.2 Core Network Operator and Network Selection

Network sharing is an agreement between operators and shall be transparent to the user. This implies that a supporting UE needs to be able to discriminate between core network operators available in a shared radio access network and that these operators can be handled in the same way as operators in non-shared networks.

4.2.1 Core network operator identity

A core network operator is identified by a PLMN-id (MCC+MNC).

4.2.2 Broadcast system information for network sharing

Each cell in shared radio access network shall in the broadcast system information include information concerning available core network operators in the shared network. The available core network operators shall be the same for all cells of a Location Area in a shared UTRAN or GERAN network. The available core network operators shall be the same for all cells of a Tracking Area in a shared E-UTRAN network. A supporting UE decodes the broadcast system information and takes the information concerning available core network operators into account in network and cell (re)selection procedures. Broadcast system information is specified in TS 44.018 [16] for GERAN, TS 25.331 [3] for UTRAN and TS 36.331 [11] for E-UTRAN.

4.2.3 Network selection in a shared network

4.2.3.1 Behaviour of supporting UEs (GERAN, UTRAN and E-UTRAN)

In some sharing scenarios, the sharing operators require the UTRAN/GERAN to broadcast, to non-supporting UEs, a PLMN ID that does not identify any of the sharing core network operators. In this case, it is necessary that a supporting UE does not select this "common PLMN ID".

In other sharing scenarios, the sharing operators may want the PLMN broadcast to non-supporting UEs to be selectable by supporting UEs.

A supporting UE decodes the broadcast system information to determine available core network operators in the shared network. The UE regards both the core network operators indicated in the broadcast system information and conventional networks as individual networks. The core network operators together with all conventional networks are candidate PLMNs for the PLMN selection procedure that shall be performed by the UE as specified in TS 23.122 [4].

In GERAN and UTRAN, non-supporting UEs use the broadcast "common PLMN-id" in their PLMN (re)selection processes.

In UTRAN, supporting UEs shall use the PLMN-ids that are broadcast in the Multiple PLMN ID List information element in their PLMN (re)selection processes. UTRAN AS signalling permits the Multiple PLMN ID List to indicate to supporting UEs whether to include or exclude the MCC+MNC of the "common PLMN-id" in their network (re)selection processes.

For supporting UEs, GERAN provides equivalent functionality to UTRAN.

For E-UTRAN, the UE uses all of the broadcast PLMN-ids in its PLMN (re)selection processes.

4.2.3.2 Behaviour of non-supporting UEs (GERAN, UTRAN)

Non-supporting UEs ignore the broadcast system information that is relevant for network sharing. The common PLMN together with all conventional networks are candidate PLMNs for the PLMN selection procedure that shall be performed by the UE as specified in TS 23.122 [4].

It is recommended for the network and the UE to support the Network Identity part of the Network Identity and Time Zone (NITZ) feature (see TS 22.042 [18]) for providing the UE with the name of the serving PLMN operator.

4.2.4 Assignment of core network operator and core network node

When a UE performs an initial access to a shared network, one of available CN operators shall be selected to serve the UE. For non-supporting UEs, the shared network selects an operator from the available CN operators. For supporting UEs, the selection of core network operator by the UE shall be respected by the network. Supporting UEs inform the BSC/RNC/eNodeB of the network identity of the chosen core network operator.

In a UTRAN GWCN configuration, the RNC relays the chosen network identity to the shared core network node (in UTRAN MOCN, the RNC indicates that the UE is a "supporting UE" by relaying the chosen network identity to the core network node). To permit GWCN operation, in E-UTRAN, the eNodeB always relays the chosen network identity to the shared MME. In a GERAN GWCN configuration, the BSC relays the chosen network identity to the core network node (in GERAN MOCN, the BSC indicates that the UE is a "supporting UE" by relaying the chosen network identity to the core network node).

In a MOCN configuration, the RAN routes the UE's initial access to the shared network to one of the available CN nodes. Supporting UEs shall inform the RAN of the chosen core network operator so that the RAN can route correctly. For non-supporting UEs the shared network selects an operator from the available CN operators. A redirection to another CN operator may be required for non-supporting UEs until an operator is found that can serve the UE. Redirection is described in clause 7.1.4.

After initial access to the shared network the UE does not change to another available CN operator as long as the selected CN operator is available to serve the UE's location. Only the network selection procedures specified in TS 23.122 [4] may cause a reselection of another available CN operator. Also the network does not move the UE to another available CN operator, e.g. by handover, as long as the selected CN operator is available to serve the UE's location. Furthermore the UE does not change to another CN node as long as the selected CN node is available to serve the UE's location.

In GERAN and UTRAN, when the network signals location/routing area identities to supporting UEs, e.g. in location updating accept messages, these identities shall contain the chosen core network operator identity. For non-supporting UEs, they shall contain the common PLMN. The UE stores the received LAI/RAI on the SIM/USIM, as already specified in TS 24.008 [7].

In E-UTRAN, the chosen core network operator identity is included in the GUTI in e.g. the Attach Accept message. The UE shall store the received GUTI on the USIM according to the rules specified in TS 24.301 [12].

4.2.5 PS and CS domain registration coordination in UTRAN and GERAN

In conventional networks, the same CN operator always serves the UE in CS and PS domains. In a shared network, supporting UEs shall behave as UEs in conventional networks with respect to registration with CS and PS domains. For non-supporting UEs, the Gs interface may be configured to guarantee that the same CN operator serves the subscriber in CS and PS domains.

Alternatively, in networks not using Gs the RNC/BSC may for non-supporting UE's coordinate that the CS and PS registrations for a given subscriber are always sent to the same CN operator. In that case RNC/BSC based coordination of PS and CS domain registration is configured in CN nodes and RNC/BSC. When a CN node receives a registration from a subscriber with a non-supporting UE having a P-TMSI/TMSI not belonging to the pool, and no IMSI is provided by RNC/BSC, it returns a Reroute Command message to the RNC/BSC (according to clause 7.1.4 "Non-supporting UEs in a MOCN configuration") with an indication that it is for coordination purposes. The coordination is done in the RNC/BSC (without memorising IMSI information for IDLE mode UEs), e.g. uses a fixed split of IMSI ranges or IMSI hash table between operators. The coordination may result in that the registration is sent back to the same CN node or CN operator again.

A network should not be configured to use RNC/BSC coordination when Gs interface is in use.

When multiple PLMNs are available and SRVCC from UTRAN/GERAN CS domain to E-UTRAN/HSPA PS is deployed, the source BSC/RNC determines a core network operator to be used in the target network based on current PLMN in use, Anchor PLMN provided by PS core network, or other information present in the BSC/RNC. The source BSC/RNC shall at handover indicate the selected core network operator to the source core network node in the handover required message. The anchor MSC Server shall forward the selected core network operator chosen by the source BSC/RNC to the target MME/SGSN.

4.2.5a PS and CS domain registration coordination in E-UTRAN

When multiple core network operators share the E-UTRAN using a GWCN configuration, separate MSCs may still be used for the CS Fall Back functionality. In this case the MME uses the 'selected network' information received from the E-UTRAN to select an MSC from the already selected operator.

When multiple PLMNs are available for CS domain, the MME selects the MSC for CS Fallback functionality based on the 'selected network' information received from the E-UTRAN, current TAI, old LAI provided by the UE and operator selection policies as specified in TS 23.272 [15]. In this case, the selected PLMN-id for CS domain may be different to the PLMN-id for EPS domain.

When multiple PLMNs are available for CS domain and SRVCC from E-UTRAN PS to UTRAN/GERAN CS domain is deployed, the MME sends the Handover Restriction List (see TS 23.401 [9]) to eNB including the currently serving PLMN and equivalent PLMNs together with information about which PLMNs are preferred for SRVCC. The eNB selects target PLMN for SRVCC from the list based on HRL and local policy and constructs the Neighbour Cell list

(NCL) based on this knowledge of the target PLMN. The selected target core network PLMN should, if possible, be the same as the one in use.

4.2.6 Attach/detach handling

To attach to the same core network operator from which it detached, a UE uses information stored in the UE (e.g. on the SIM/USIM) when the UE was detached. For a supporting UE in a shared network, the stored information indicates the core network operator it detached from (as specified in clause 4.2.4). This information enables a supporting UE to attach to the same core network operator from which it detached. For non-supporting UEs in a shared network, the stored information indicates the common PLMN.

4.3 Network Name Display for Supporting UEs

A supporting UE shows the name of the PLMN-id it has registered with. In case of a shared network, it is the PLMN-id of the chosen core network operator. The name stored in the UE for the PLMN-id is displayed except when the network indicates to the UE a name to be displayed, as already specified for non-supporting UEs.

4.4 HPLMN Support

The use of a shared VLR/SGSN/MME shall not result in service restrictions, e.g. roaming restrictions. Since a HSS derives whether the subscriber roams in H- or V-PLMN from the VLR/SGSN/MME identifier, a shared VLR/SGSN/MME in a GWCN shall be allocated a separate identifier from each operator sharing that CN node, i.e. a shared VLR/SGSN/MME has multiple identifiers. The VLR/SGSN/MME identifier of a user's serving CN operator is used in signalling with the HSS.

4.5 Support of Cell Broadcast Services and Warning System

In shared networks Cell Broadcast and Warning System services are provided via a single common CBC, which connects to GERAN/UTRAN as described in TS 23.041 [20] and connects to E-UTRAN as described in TS 23.401 [9]. The deployment and configuration of the common CBC is per agreement between the sharing operators. The sharing operators need to coordinate the broadcast services between each other, e.g. how to provide Warning System services.

4.6 Support of Extended Access Barring

In shared networks, BSC/RNC/eNodeB shall provide independent support for the barring of MSs configured for Extended Access Barring (as defined in TS 22.011 [23]) for each sharing operator. The BSC/RNC/eNodeB may initiate Extended Access Barring for a specific sharing operator when all the SGSNs/MMEs belonging to that sharing operator connected to this BSC/RNC/eNodeB request to restrict the load for UEs configured for low access priority, or if requested by O&M. Broadcast Extended Access Barring information is specified in TS 44.018 [16] for GERAN, TS 25.331 [3] for UTRAN and TS 36.331 [11] for E-UTRAN.

4.7 Support of service identification for improved radio utilization for GERAN

Service Class Indicator (SCI) for improved radio utilization for GERAN (see TS 23.060 [22]) is supported in shared network for A/Gb mode GERAN PS domain. The A/Gb mode GERAN identifies the service class associated with downlink user plane packets according to TS 23.060 [22]. When deciding whether to use or discard the SCI information, the A/Gb mode GERAN may need to take the identity of the MS's Core Network operator into account.

5 Functional description

The new behaviours of network nodes needed in order to describe network sharing are described.

5.1 UE functions

A supporting UE selects the core network operator and provides the PLMN-id of this operator to the network for routing purposes.

5.2 RNC functions

Network sharing information, i.e. available core network operators in the shared network, shall be transmitted in broadcast system information.

If system information relating to NAS is transmitted to a UE in dedicated signalling, the RNC sends information for both supporting and non-supporting UEs and the UE shall select the appropriate information to use.

The RNC shall indicate the selected core network operator to the CN for supporting UEs when transferring initial layer 3 signalling. The selected CN operator is (i) indicated by the UE in RRC signalling or (ii) known implicitly from an already existing signalling connection. For non-supporting UEs, the RNC shall not indicate any selected core network operator to the CN.

In case of relocation (or PS-to-CS SRVCC) to a shared network:

- the source RNC determines a core network operator to be used in the target network, including the selection of PLMN(s) to support SRVCC functionality from CS domain to PS, based on available shared networks access control information, current PLMN in use, Anchor PLMN, or similar information present in the node, the source RNC shall at relocation indicate that selected core network operator to the source core network node as part of the TAI/RAI sent in Target ID in the Relocation Required message. The selected target core network operator should be the same as the one in use. If the source core network operator is not supported in the target cell the RNC selects the target PLMN based on either (i) pre-configured information in the RNC, or (ii) the SNA (Shared Network Area) Access Information IE (see TS 25.413 [13]) provided by the SGSN.
- In order to support SRVCC from CS to PS, the source RNC informs the target RNC/BSC of the Anchor PLMN identity.
- The target RNC may need to know whether or not the UE supports UTRAN network sharing.

NOTE: For PS-to-CS SRVCC, any SRVCC specific PLMN information should be pre-configured in the RNC.

5.2a eNodeB functions

Network sharing information, i.e. available core network operators in the shared network, shall be transmitted in broadcast system information.

The eNodeB shall indicate the selected core network operator when transferring initial layer 3 signalling. The eNodeB uses the selected core network information (provided by the UE at RRC establishment, or, provided by the MME/source eNodeB at S1/X2 handover) to select target cells for future handovers appropriately.

In case of handover to a shared network:

- the source eNodeB determines a core network operator to be used in the target network based on current PLMN in use, or other information present in the eNodeB, the source eNodeB shall at handover indicate that selected core network operator to the MME as part of the TAI/RAI sent in the HO required message. The selected target core network operator should be the same as the one in use. This is accomplished by not changing the serving PLMN if the PLMN in use is supported in the target cell. If the PLMN in use is not supported in the target cell the eNB selects the target PLMN based on either (i) pre-configured information in the eNB, or (ii) the Equivalent PLMNs list (see TS 36.413 [14]) provided by the MME.
- when multiple PLMNs are available for CS domain to support CS Fallback functionality, the source eNodeB determines a core network operator to be used in the target GERAN/UTRAN network based on the allocated LAI provided by the MME as specified in TS 23.272 [15]. The source eNodeB shall at handover indicate that selected core network operator to the MME as part of the Target ID sent in the HO required message. If the selected PLMN for CS domain is not supported in the target cell the eNodeB selects the target PLMN based on either (i) pre-configured information in the eNodeB, or (ii) the Equivalent PLMNs list (see TS 36.413 [14]) provided by the MME.

- when multiple PLMNs are available for CS domain to support SRVCC functionality, the source eNodeB determines a core network operator to be used in the target GERAN/UTRAN network. If the currently serving PLMN is not supported in the target cell, the eNodeB selects the target PLMN based local configured information in the eNodeB along with the information provided by the MME in HRL (see TS 36.413 [14]). The HRL provides the currently serving PLMN and equivalent PLMNs together with information about which PLMNs are preferred for SRVCC target cell selection. The source eNodeB shall at SRVCC handover indicate the selected core network operator to the MME as part of the Target ID sent in the HO required message.
- the target eNodeB uses the selected core network information to select target cells for future handovers appropriately.

5.2b BSC functions

Network sharing information, i.e. available core network operators in the shared network, shall be transmitted in broadcast system information.

If system information is transmitted to a supporting UE in dedicated signalling e.g. to support handover to other RATs, the BSC shall indicate the PLMN-id of the core network operator towards which the UE already has a signalling connection (if a PLMN-id is included in the signalling). If the UE is non-supporting, the BSC shall indicate the common PLMN (if a PLMN-id identity is included in the signalling).

The BSC shall indicate the selected core network operator to the CN for supporting UEs. The selected CN operator is:

- i) indicated by the UE to the BSC as follows:
 - for the CS domain, in the Initial L3 message, a supporting UE shall send the PLMN Index that corresponds to the position of the chosen PLMN in the broadcast system information, as part of the Initial L3 message. The BSC shall then derive the PLMN-id chosen by the UE from the indicated PLMN Index, select the corresponding CN operator and inform the MSC of the chosen PLMN-id;
 - for the PS domain, when the UE has a non-local TLLI, a supporting UE shall send the PLMN Index that corresponds to the position of the chosen PLMN in the broadcast system information, as part of the AS signalling. The BSC shall then derive the PLMN-id chosen by the UE from the indicated PLMN Index, select the corresponding CN operator and inform the SGSN of the chosen PLMN-id;

or:

- ii) known implicitly from an already existing signalling connection.

For non-supporting UEs, the BSC shall not indicate any selected core network operator to the CN.

In the PS domain, when the UE has a local TLLI:

- for MOCN, the BSC uses the NRI bits from within the TLLI to derive the selected CN operator;
- for GWCN, the SGSN passes the selected CN operator identity with the downlink user data/signalling.

For handover to a shared network from GERAN:

- the source BSC determines a core network operator to be used in the target network, including the selection of PLMN(s) to support SRVCC functionality from CS domain to PS, based on current PLMN in use, Anchor PLMN, or other information present in the BSC, the source BSC shall at handover indicate that selected core network operator to the source core network node as part of the TAI/RAI sent in the PS handover required message. The selected target core network operator should be the same as the one in use. If the source core network operator is not supported in the target cell the BSC selects the target PLMN based on pre-configured information in the BSC.
- In order to support SRVCC for CS to PS, the source BSC informs the target RNC/BSC of the Anchor PLMN identity.
- The target BSS needs to know whether or not the UE supports GERAN network sharing. The BSC can determine this by using information in **XXXXXX**.

Editor's note: Stage 3 design choices will lead to the determination of the **XXXXXX**.

5.3 MSC functions

When a UE accesses an MSC the first time, i.e. when there is no VLR entry for this UE, the MSC retrieves the IMSI from another MSC/VLR or from the UE. For GWCN, the MSC determines a serving CN operator based on the Selected PLMN indicated by the RAN, or, for a non-supporting UE, based on local MSC policy, possibly taking into account the "old LAI" information included in the message from the UE. The MSC/VLR shall also store the identity of the serving core network operator.

In case of a MOCN configuration, an MSC may not be able to provide service to the UE. The UE may then have to be redirected to a MSC of another core network operator. The MSC/VLR that finally serves the UE assigns a NRI to the UE. This will allow the RAN to route any subsequent UE accesses to the serving MSC/VLR.

In case of GWCN configuration, if the selected PLMN-ID has not been indicated by the RAN (e.g. because the UE is a non-supporting UE), the MSC shall indicate the selected PLMN-ID to the BSC/RNC. The BSC/RNC shall store this information.

For supporting UEs, i.e. when a selected core network operator has been indicated to the MSC by the RNC/BSC, the MSC indicates the selected core network operator PLMN-id in the LAI signalled to the UE in dedicated signalling.

For sharing scenarios with both E-UTRAN and GERAN/UTRAN access, where the network also applies idle-mode signalling reduction (see TS 23.401 [9]), the contents of the SNA Access Information IE (see TS 25.413 [13]) provided by the MSC to the RNC for a specific UE guides the target PLMN selection if the UE's registered PLMN is not available in the target cell. The SNA Access Information IE should be configured such that for any target cell there is only one PLMN-ID that can be selected for the cell.

Also, for the above scenario, in the routing areas and tracking areas between which ISR may be activated the "equivalent PLMNs" list provided by the SGSN, MSC and MME to a UE (see TS 24.008 [7]) should result in a single consistent "equivalent PLMNs" list stored by the UE. The single "equivalent PLMNs" list applies to all the UE's registered routing areas, location areas and tracking areas.

In case of relocation to a GWCN or a MOCN:

- There is no functionality in the source MSC to select a target core network operator or to modify the target core network operator selected by the RNC/BSC.
- The source MSC shall forward the selected core network operator chosen by the source RNC/BSC to the target MSC, which relays this information unchanged to the target RNC/BSC so that the appropriate PLMN-id can be signalled to the UE in dedicated system information signalling, as described in clause 5.2.
- For SRVCC from E-UTRAN PS to UTRAN/GERAN CS domain, in case of GWCN configuration, the MSC selects the target PLMN based on the indication of the selected target PLMN provided by the MME/SGSN in the PS-to-CS handover command. The MSC receives the source PLMN from the MME/SGSN and forwards that information to the target BSC/RNC.
- For SRVCC from UTRAN/GERAN CS domain to E-UTRAN/HSPA PS, the MSC selects the MME based on selected target PLMN provided by the RNC/BSC in handover required message and forwards the selected target PLMN to MME in the CS to PS handover request.

5.4 SGSN functions

When a UE accesses an SGSN the first time, i.e. when the UE is not yet known by the SGSN the SGSN retrieves the IMSI from another SGSN/MME or from the UE. For GWCN, the SGSN determines a serving CN operator based on the Selected PLMN indicated by the RAN, or, for a non-supporting UE, based on local SGSN policy, possibly taking into account the "old RAI" information included with the message from the UE. The SGSN shall store the identity of the serving core network operator.

In case of a MOCN configuration, a SGSN may not be able to provide service to the UE. The UE may then have to be redirected to a SGSN of another core network operator. The SGSN that finally serves the UE assigns a NRI to the UE. This will allow the RAN to route any subsequent UE accesses to the serving SGSN.

In case of GWCN configuration, if the selected PLMN-ID has not been indicated by the RNC (e.g. because the UE is a non-supporting UE), the SGSN shall indicate the selected PLMN-ID to the RNC. The RNC shall store this information.

For supporting UEs, i.e. when a selected core network operator has been indicated to the SGSN by the RNC/BSC, the SGSN indicates the selected core network operator PLMN-id in the LAI/RAI signalled to the UE in dedicated signalling.

For sharing scenarios with both E-UTRAN and GERAN/UTRAN access, where the network also applies idle-mode signalling reduction (see TS 23.401 [9]), the contents of the SNA Access Information IE (see TS 25.413 [13]) provided by the SGSN to the RNC for a specific UE guides the target PLMN selection if the UE's registered PLMN is not available in the target cell. The SNA Access Information IE should be configured such that for any target cell there is only one PLMN-ID that can be selected for the cell.

Also, for the above scenario, in the routing areas and tracking areas between which ISR may be activated the "equivalent PLMNs" list provided by the SGSN, MSC and MME to a UE (see TS 24.008 [7]) should result in a single consistent "equivalent PLMNs" list stored by the UE. The single "equivalent PLMNs" list applies to all the UE's registered routing areas, location areas and tracking areas.

At relocation/handover to a GWCN or a MOCN:

- There is no functionality in the source SGSN to select a target core network operator or to modify the target core network operator selected by the RNC/BSC. Instead, the source SGSN uses the selected PLMN received from the RNC/BSC to determine the target core network operator. The source SGSN shall forward the selected core network operator chosen by the source RNC/BSC to the target SGSN/MME.
- The target SGSN indicates the selected core network operator chosen by the source RNC/BSC/eNodeB to the target RNC so that the appropriate PLMN-id can be signalled to the UE in dedicated system information signalling, as described in clause 5.2.
- For SRVCC from UTRAN PS to UTRAN/GERAN CS domain, the SGSN selects the MSC based on the selected target PLMN indicated by the RNC. The SGSN includes the indication of the selected target PLMN in the target CGI/RNC ID and Anchor PLMN in the SRVCC PS-to-CS Request sent to the MSC (see TS 29.280 [21]).

5.5 MME functions

When a UE accesses an MME for the first time, i.e. when the UE is not yet known by the MME, the MME verifies whether the UE is permitted to access the selected PLMN. For that purpose the MME retrieves the IMSI from another MME/SGSN or from the UE. The MME shall store the identity of the selected core network operator.

The MME indicates the selected core network operator PLMN-id to the UE in the GUTI.

For sharing scenarios with both E-UTRAN and GERAN/UTRAN access, where the network also applies idle-mode signalling reduction (see TS 23.401 [9]), the PLMN IDs included in the equivalent PLMN list (as defined in TS 24.008 [7]) provided by the MME to the eNB guides the target PLMN selection if the UE's registered PLMN is not available in the target cell. The equivalent PLMN list should be configured such that for any target cell there is only one PLMN-ID that can be selected for the cell.

Also, for the above scenario, in the routing areas and tracking areas between which ISR may be activated the "equivalent PLMNs" list provided by the SGSN, MSC and MME to a UE (see TS 23.008 [7]) should result in a single consistent "equivalent PLMNs" list stored by the UE. The single "equivalent PLMNs" list applies to all the UE's registered routing areas, location areas and tracking areas.

For sharing scenarios with both E-UTRAN and GERAN/UTRAN access, when multiple PLMNs are available for CS domain to support CS Fallback functionality, the MME provides the allocated LAI including the selected PLMN ID for CS domain along with "CS Fallback indicator" to the eNodeB as specified in TS 23.272 [15], to guide the selection of the target GERAN/UTRAN network.

In case the operator-configured target network for CS fallback is a shared GERAN, the MME shall take into account the UE capability that indicates whether the UE is a GERAN network-sharing supporting UE or a GERAN network-sharing non-supporting UE when selecting the PLMN for the CS domain for CS fallback. If the UE is a GERAN network-sharing non-supporting UE, a common PLMN-id shall be selected, while if the UE is a GERAN network-sharing supporting UE, one of the PLMN-IDs in the Multiple PLMN-ID List of the target shared GERAN shall be selected.

At handover/relocation to a GWCN or a MOCN:

- The source MME uses the TAI/RAI information supplied by the eNodeB to select the target MME/SGSN. There is no additional functionality in the source MME to select a target core network operator or to modify the target

core network operator selected by the eNodeB. Instead, the source MME uses the selected PLMN received from the eNodeB to determine the target core network operator. The source MME shall forward the selected target core network operator chosen by the source eNodeB to the target MME/SGSN.

- The target MME indicates the selected target core network operator chosen by the source eNodeB/RNC/BSC to the target eNodeB so that the eNodeB can select target cells for future handovers appropriately. Subsequent Tracking Area Update signalling is used to update the UE about any change of core network operator.
- At SRVCC from E-UTRAN PS to UTRAN/GERAN CS domain, the MME selects the MSC based on the selected target PLMN indicated by the eNodeB. The MME includes the indication of the selected target PLMN in the target CGI/RNC ID and Anchor PLMN in the PS-to-CS Request sent to the MSC (see TS 29.280 [21]).

6 Charging and accounting aspects

To support inter-operator accounting in a shared network, it shall be possible to distinguish the share of usage of the shared core network node(s) between the sharing partners. The identity of the core network operator is included in the CDR types as specified in TS 32.250 [5] (CS) and TS 32.251 [6] (GPRS)/EPS.

7 Example signalling flows

7.1 Network selection

Signalling flows for manual and automatic network selection in a shared network architecture for successful and unsuccessful registration attempts are presented.

7.1.2 Non-supporting UEs in a GWCN configuration

This example shows network selection for a non-supporting UE in a shared UTRAN/GERAN network.

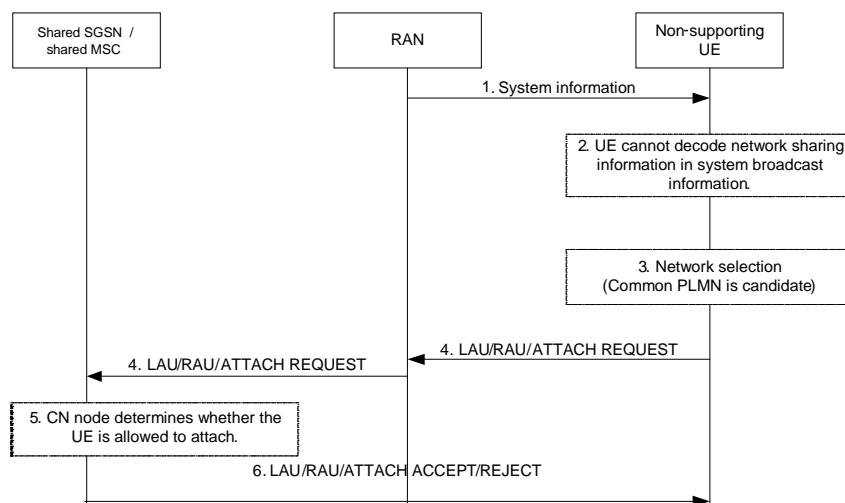


Figure 3: Network selection for a non-supporting UE in a shared UTRAN/GERAN network

1. The UE reads the broadcast system information in the shared RAN.
2. A non-supporting UE cannot decode the shared network information in the broadcast system information. The common PLMN is the only candidate to be considered together with other PLMNs for network selection.
3. The UE performs network selection among available PLMNs.

4. The UE sends an ATTACH REQUEST/ROUTING AREA UPDATE/LOCATION AREA UPDATE message to the network. The signalling from the RAN to the Core Network enables the Core Network to determine that the UE did not select a Core Network operator.
5. The shared SGSN determines whether the UE is allowed to attach.
6. The shared SGSN sends the appropriate ACCEPT/REJECT message back to the UE.

7.1.3 Supporting UEs in a GWCN configuration

This example shows network selection for a supporting UE in a shared E-UTRAN/UTRAN/GERAN network.

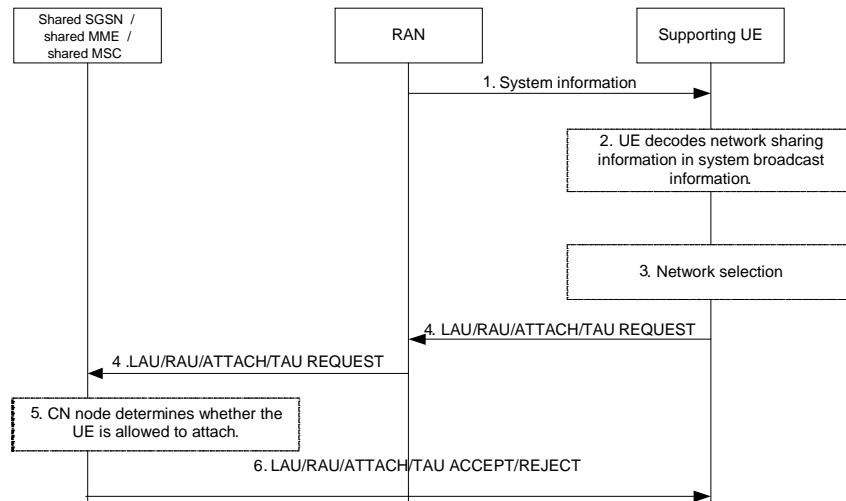


Figure 4: Network selection for a supporting UE in a shared E-UTRAN/UTRAN/GERAN network

1. The UE reads the broadcast system information in the shared RAN.
2. A supporting UE decodes the shared network information and supplies the available core network operator PLMN-ids as candidates to the PLMN selection procedure. Only PLMNs in the Multiple PLMN ID List are candidates for network selection.
3. The UE performs network selection among available PLMNs.
4. The UE sends an ATTACH/ROUTING AREA UPDATE/TRACKING AREA UPDATE/LOCATION AREA UPDATE REQUEST message to the network indicating, to the RAN, the chosen core network operator. The RAN converts the core network 'indicator' into the actual selected PLMN identity and sends this with the ATTACH/ROUTING AREA UPDATE/TRACKING AREA UPDATE/LOCATION AREA UPDATE REQUEST to the core network.
5. The shared SGSN determines whether the UE is allowed to attach.
6. The shared SGSN sends the appropriate ACCEPT/REJECT message back to the UE.

7.1.4 Non-supporting UEs in a MOCN configuration

7.1.4.1 UTRAN based MOCN configuration

An example of an information flow for redirection in UTRAN is shown below.

In this example an attach request from a non-supporting UE is directed to three different CN operators. The first rejects since it has no roaming agreement with the subscribers Home PLMN. The second rejects because of a roaming restriction found in HLR. The third CN operator accepts and completes the attach request. The different "MSC/SGSNs" in the example below shall be seen as different CN operators. One specific CN operator may also have several pooled MSCs/SGSNs connected to the RNC if Iu-flex is used.

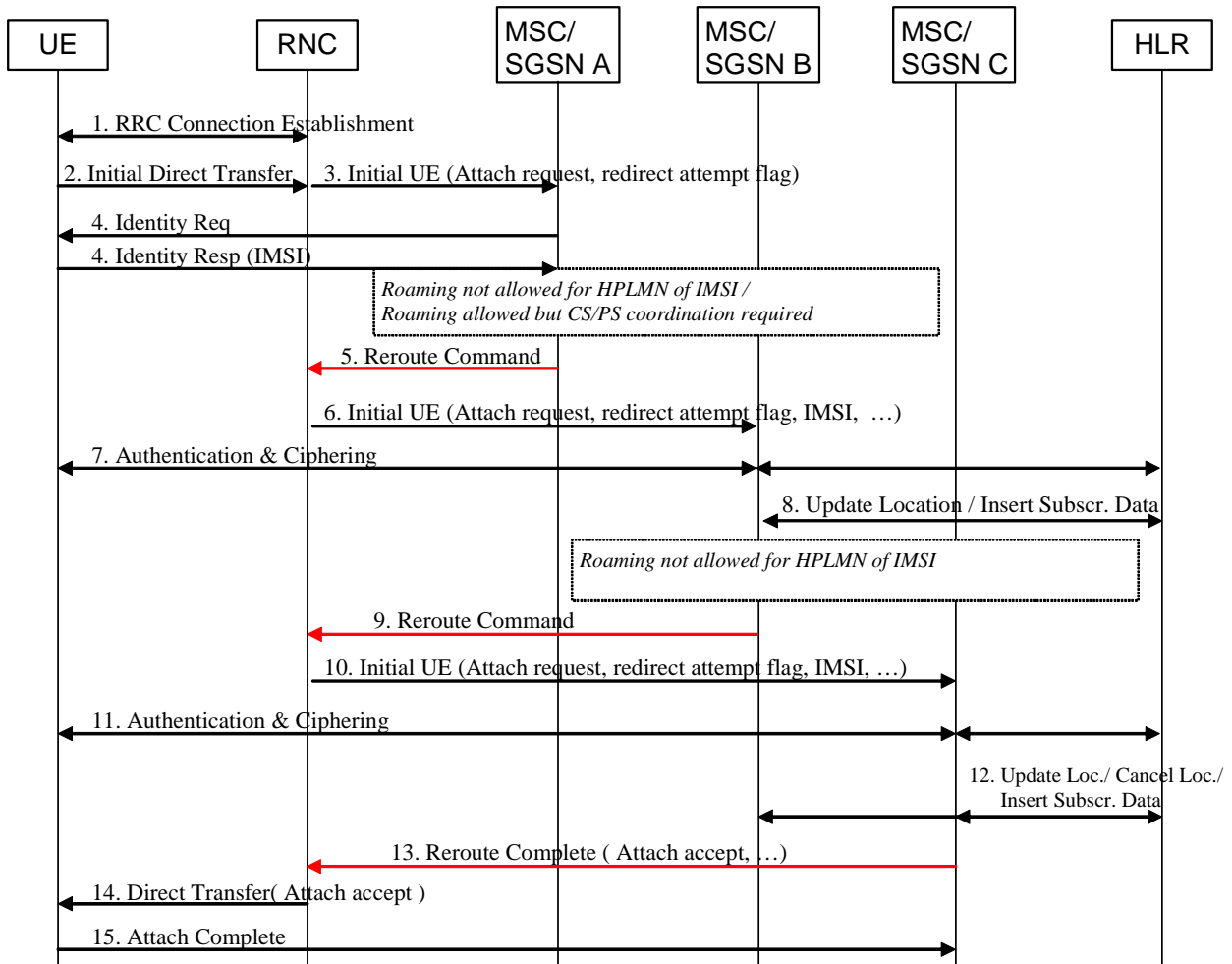


Figure 5: Information flow for redirection in UTRAN

- 1) The RRC connection is established.
- 2) RNC receives an Initial Direct Transfer from an UE. The RNC is configured to work in a Shared RAN MOCN, and therefore it forwards the NAS message in an Initial UE message with an additional *redirect attempt flag* set. The flag indicates that the MSC/SGSN shall respond to the attach request with a *Reroute Command* or *Reroute Complete* IE in the Direct Transfer message. Selection of CN node is based on NRI (valid or invalid) if present in IDNNS or by random selection.
A *redirect attempt flag* could also simply be the fact that the Initial UE message does not include any selected PLMN-ID, which a supporting UE would include. Redirect is never done for supporting UEs.
- 3) The MSC/SGSN receives the Initial UE with the *redirect attempt flag* set. It then knows it shall answer with a *Reroute Command* or *Reroute Complete* IE in the Direct Transfer message.
- 4) The MSC/SGSN needs the IMSI of the UE. It is retrieved either from old MSC / old SGSN or from the UE as in this example. By comparing the IMSI with the roaming agreements of the CN operator, the MSC/SGSN discovers that roaming is not allowed or that roaming is allowed but CS/PS coordination required. Attach procedure is aborted.
- 5) A message is sent back to the RNC with two NAS messages, the attach reject message and the original attach request message received from the UE (alternatively the original NAS message may be stored in the RNC). The IMSI is also included in the message, plus a reject cause code to the RNC. The *Reroute Command* IE is in the Direct Transfer message.

The signalling connection between RNC and MSC/SGSN A is released. The RNC selects a MSC/SGSN in the next step. The already tried MSC/SGSNs is stored in the RNC during the redirect procedure so that the same node is not selected twice.

- 6) The RNC sends a new Initial UE to the next selected MSC/SGSN with the original NAS attach request message (in case of CS/PS coordination the Initial UE may also be sent back to the first MSC/SGSN depending on the outcome of the coordination). Redirect attempt flag is set and IMSI shall also be included to avoid a second IMSI retrieval from UE or old MSC/SGSN and to indicate that PS/CS domain coordination has been done in RNC (if enabled in RNC). The MSC/SGSN receiving the message starts its attach procedure.
- 7) MSC/SGSN B does in general support roaming for the HPLMN of the IMSI and hence authentication is done and RAN ciphering is established.
- 8) MSC/SGSN B updates the HLR and receives subscriber data from HLR.
- 9) The subscription data do not allow roaming (e.g. regional or 3G). MSC/SGSN B sends a Reroute Command message including the attach reject message, a reject cause code, the original attach request message (alternatively stored in the RNC), and the N(SD) (for MSC only). IMSI is included in Reroute Command message only if it was not included in the Initial UE received by the MSC/SGSN.

The signalling connection between the RNC and the MSC/SGSN B is released. The RNC then selects a new MSC/SGSN as in step 5.

- 10) The MSC/SGSN C receives an Initial UE (with the original NAS attach request message) with the redirect attempt flag is set, an IMSI, and N(SD) (if MSC). The MSC/SGSN C starts the attach procedure and uses provided information (IMSI and N(SD)).
- 11) MSC/SGSN C does in general support roaming for the HPLMN of the IMSI and hence authentication is done and RAN ciphering is established.
- 12) MSC/SGSN C updates the HLR and receives subscriber data from HLR. Subscriber data allows roaming, and the MSC/SGSN C completes the attach procedure. This includes the assignment of a new TMSI/P-TMSI with an NRI that can be used by RNC to route subsequent signalling between UE and correct MSC/SGSN (Iu-flex functionality). The Update Location sent to HLR also triggers a Cancel Location sent to the MSC/SGSN B.
- 13) A *Reroute Complete* IE in the Direct Transfer message with the NAS Attach accept message is sent to RNC. By this, the RNC knows that the redirect is finished and can both forward the NAS message to the UE and clean up any stored redirect data.
- 14) The Attach Accept is forwarded to the UE. The UE stores the TMSI/P-TMSI with the Iu-flex NRI to be used for future signalling, even after power off. This is existing functionality.
- 15) UE responds with an Attach Complete message.

If the RNC finds no more MSC/SGSN to redirect to after receiving a Reroute Command message, e.g. step 5 or step 9, it compares the cause code with cause codes from other Reroute Command messages it has earlier received for this UE. A cause code ranking is done and the "softest" cause code is chosen and the corresponding saved NAS attach reject message is returned to the UE.

Each CN node that receives an Initial UE, shall run its own authentication procedure. This may in some rare situations cause the UE to be authenticated more than once, however the trust-model used is that one CN operator shall not trust an authentication done by another CN operator. This will of course not be an optimal usage of radio resources, but given the rare occurrence of this, the increased signalling should not be of any significance.

During the redirect procedure the RNC keeps a timer, which corresponds to the UE timer of releasing the RR connection (20 seconds). If the RNC when receiving a Reroute Command message finds that there is not sufficient time for another redirect, further redirect attempts are stopped (for this attach request message). The UE will repeat its attach request four times (each time waiting 15 seconds before it re-establishes the RR connection for another try).

7.1.4.2 GERAN based MOCN configuration

An example of an information flow for redirection in GERAN is shown below.

In this example an attach request from a non-supporting UE is directed to two different CN operators. The first CN operator rejects since it has no roaming agreement with the subscribers Home PLMN. The second CN operator accepts and completes the attach request. The different "MSC/SGSNs" in the example below shall be seen as different CN operators. One specific CN operator may also have several pooled MSCs/SGSNs connected to the BSC if A/Gb-Flex is used.

Separate call flows are shown for CS domain and for PS domain.

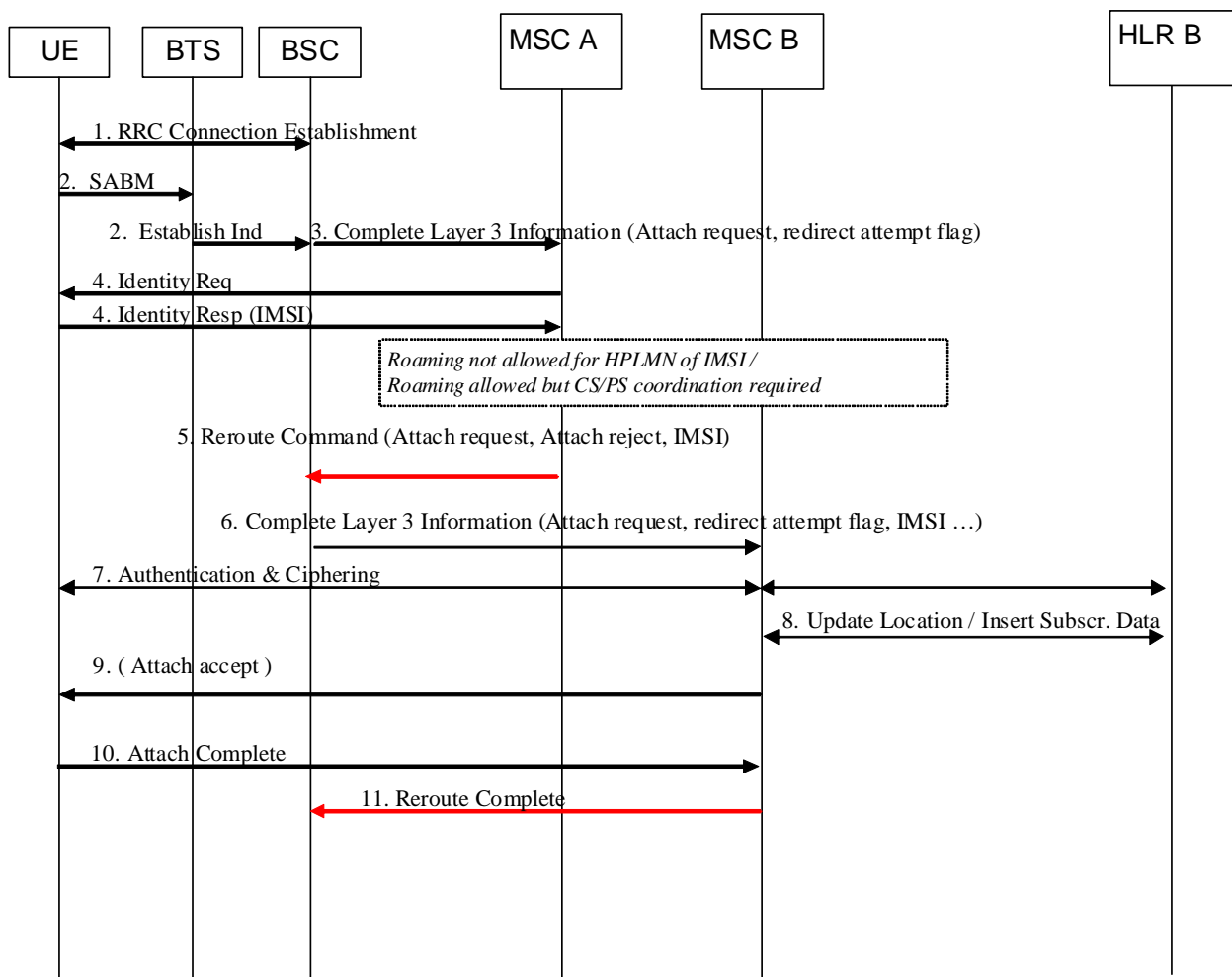


Figure 6: Information flow for redirection in GERAN (CS domain)

- 1) The RRC connection is established.
- 2) BSC receives the Layer 3 message from an UE. The BSC is configured to work in a Shared RAN MOCN, and therefore it forwards the message in a Complete Layer 3 Information message with an additional redirect attempt flag set. The flag indicates that the MSC shall respond to the attach request with a Reroute Command message to inform the BSC that a redirection to another CN has to be performed.

The selection of CN node is based on NRI (valid or invalid) or by random selection. The same mechanism as defined for A-Flex in TS 23.236 [8] is used.

- 3) The MSC receives the Complete Layer 3 Information message with the redirect attempt flag set. It then knows it may have to provide the BSC with a Reroute Command message.
- 4) The MSC needs the IMSI of the UE. It is retrieved either from old MSC or from the UE as in this example. By comparing the IMSI with the roaming agreements of the CN operator, the MSC A discovers that roaming is not allowed or that roaming is allowed but CS/PS coordination required. Attach procedure is aborted.
- 5) A Reroute Command message is sent back to the BSC with the attach reject message and the original attach request message received from the UE. The IMSI is also included in the message, plus a reject cause code to the BSC.

The signalling connection between BSC and MSC A is released. The BSC selects a MSC B in the next step. The already tried MSC A is stored in the BSC during the redirect procedure so that the same node is not selected twice.

- 6) The BSC sends a new Complete Layer 3 Information to the next selected MSC B with the original attach request message (in case of CS/PS coordination the Complete Layer 3 Information may also be sent back to the first MSC depending on the outcome of the coordination). Redirect attempt flag is set and IMSI shall also be included to avoid a second IMSI retrieval from UE or old MSC and to indicate that PS/CS domain coordination has been done in BSC (if enabled in BSC). The MSC B receiving the message starts its attach procedure.
- 7) MSC B does in general support roaming for the HPLMN of the IMSI and hence authentication is done and RAN ciphering is established.
- 8) MSC B updates the HLR and receives subscriber data from HLR. Subscriber data allows roaming, and the MSC B completes the attach procedure. This includes the assignment of a new TMSI with an NRI that can be used by BSC to route subsequent signalling between UE and correct MSC (A-Flex functionality).
- 9) The Attach Accept is forwarded to the UE. The UE stores the TMSI with the A-Flex NRI to be used for future signalling, even after power off. This is existing functionality.
- 10) UE responds with an Attach Complete message (TMSI (re-)allocation if not already made in Attach accept).
- 11) A Reroute Complete message is sent to BSC. The BSC knows that the redirect is completed and clean up any stored redirect data.

If the BSC finds no more MSC to redirect to after receiving a Reroute Command message, it compares the cause code with cause codes from other Reroute Command messages it has earlier received for this UE. A cause code ranking is done and the "softest" cause code is chosen and the corresponding saved attach reject message is returned to the UE.

Each CN node that receives a Complete Layer 3 Information shall run its own authentication procedure. This may in some rare situations cause the UE to be authenticated more than once, however the trust-model used is that one CN operator shall not trust an authentication done by another CN operator. This will of course not be an optimal usage of radio resources, but given the rare occurrence of this, the increased signalling should not be of any significance.

During the redirect procedure the BSC keeps a timer, which corresponds to the UE timer of releasing the RR connection (20 seconds). If the BSC when receiving a Reroute Command message finds that there is not sufficient time for another redirect, further redirect attempts are stopped (for this attach request message). The UE will repeat its attach request four times (each time waiting 15 seconds before it re-establishes the RR connection for another try).

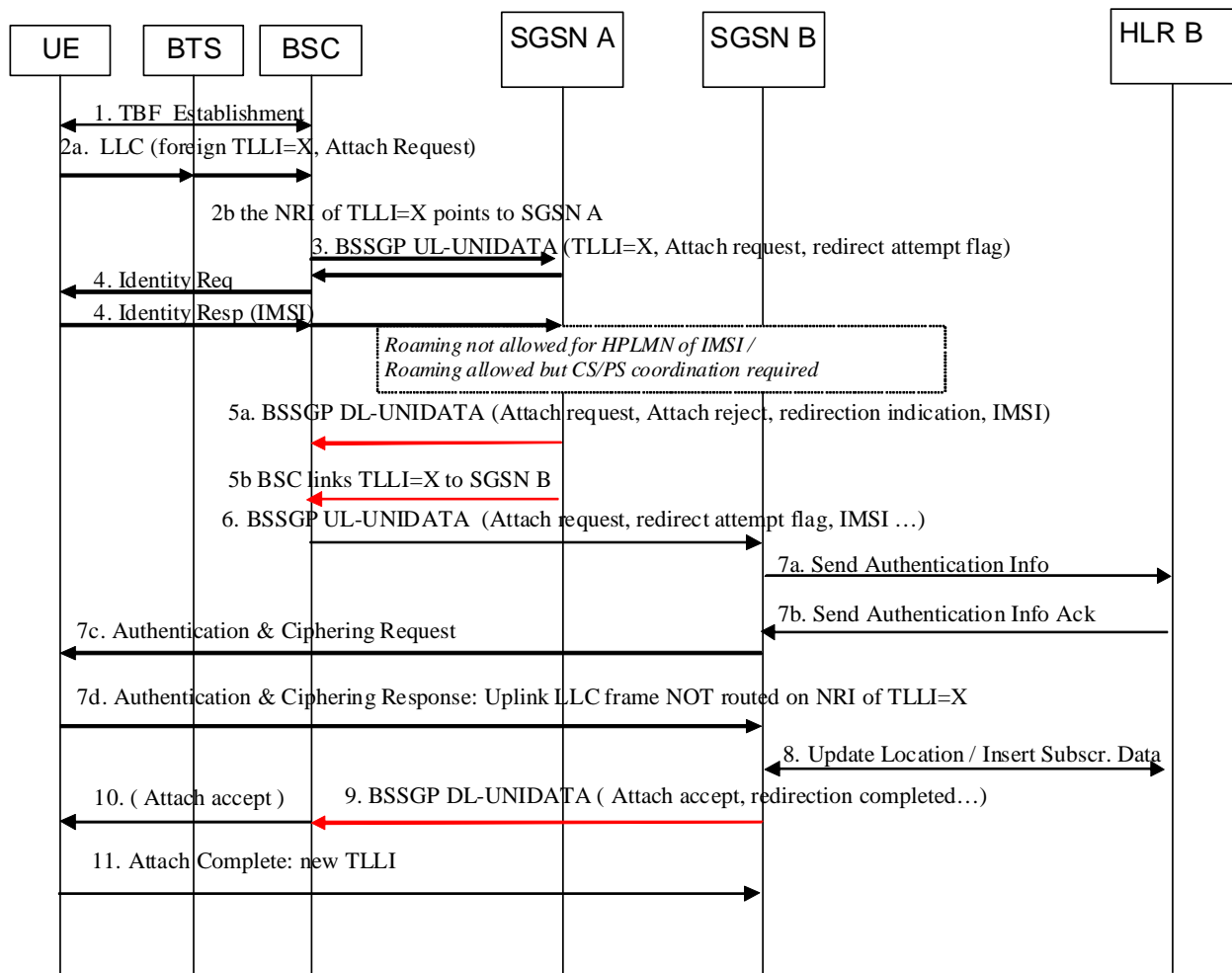


Figure 7: Information flow for redirection in GERAN (PS domain)

1) The TBF is established.

2, 2a) BSC receives the LLC frame with foreign [or random] TLLI =X.

The BSC is configured to work in a Shared RAN MOCN, and therefore it forwards the message in a BSSGP UL-UNITDATA message with an additional redirect attempt flag set. The flag indicates that the SGSN shall respond to the attach request with a BSSGP DL-UNITDATA message providing when relevant a redirection indication flag set to inform the BSC that a redirection to another CN has to be performed.

The selection of CN node is based on NRI (valid or invalid) or by random selection. The same mechanism as defined for Gb-Flex in TS 23.236 [8] is used.

3) The SGSN receives the BSSGP UL-UNITDATA message with the redirect attempt flag set. It then knows it may have to provide the BSC with a redirection indication flag set or a redirection completed flag set.

4) The SGSN needs the IMSI of the UE. It is retrieved either from old SGSN or from the UE as in this example. By comparing the IMSI with the roaming agreements of the CN operator, the SGSN A discovers that roaming is not allowed or that roaming is allowed but CS/PS coordination required. Attach procedure is aborted.

5a) A BSSGP DL-UNITDATA message is sent back to the BSC with a redirection indication flag set containing the reject cause, the attach reject message and the original attach request message received from the UE. The V(U) used for LLC-PDU setting (refer to TS 44.064 [19]) is included in the message. The IMSI is also included in the message.

The BSC selects a SGSN B in the next step. The already tried SGSN A is stored in the BSC during the redirect procedure so that the same node is not selected twice.

5b) The BSC makes a short-lived binding between the TLLI =X and SGSN ID so that it points to SGSN B.

- 6) The BSC sends a new BSSGP UL-UNITDATA to the next selected SGSN B with the original attach request message (in case of CS/PS coordination the BSSGP UL-UNITDATA may also be sent back to the first SGSN depending on the outcome of the coordination). Redirect attempt flag is set and IMSI shall be included to avoid a second IMSI retrieval from UE or old SGSN and to indicate that PS/CS domain coordination has been done in BSC (if enabled in BSC). The V(U) shall also be included in the message. The SGSN B receiving the message starts its attach procedure.
- 7) SGSN B does in general support roaming for the HPLMN of the IMSI and hence authentication is done and RAN ciphering is established. The value of V(U) in SGSN-B shall be set according to the received value from BSC.

Uplink LLC frames shall be routed to SGSN B despite the NRI of the TLLI=X pointing to SGSN A.

- 8) SGSN B updates the HLR and receives subscriber data from HLR. Subscriber data allows roaming, and the SGSN B completes the attach procedure. This includes the assignment of a new P-TMSI with an NRI that can be used by BSC to route subsequent signalling between UE and correct SGSN (Gb-Flex functionality).
- 9) A BSSGP DL-UNITDATA Attach accept message is sent to BSC with the redirection completed flag set . The BSC knows that the redirect is finished and can both forward the Attach Accept message to the UE and clean up any stored redirect data.

SGSN B is allowed to reset the XID parameter only after the attach request is accepted.

- 10) The Attach Accept is forwarded to the UE. The UE stores the P-TMSI with the Gb-Flex NRI to be used for future signalling, even after power off. This is existing functionality.
- 11) UE responds with an Attach Complete message (P-TMSI (re-)allocation if not already made in Attach Accept). The Attach Complete uses new TLLI. After this, the BSS releases the binding between TLLI=X and SGSN B.

If the BSC finds no more SGSN to redirect to after receiving a BSSGP DL-UNITDATA message with the redirection indication flag set, it compares the cause code with cause codes from other BSSGP DL-UNITDATA messages it has earlier received for this UE. A cause code ranking is done and the "softest" cause code is chosen and the corresponding saved attach reject message is returned to the UE.

Each CN node that receives a BSSGP UL-UNITDATA, shall run its own authentication procedure. This may in some rare situations cause the UE to be authenticated more than once, however the trust-model used is that one CN operator shall not trust an authentication done by another CN operator. This will of course not be an optimal usage of radio resources, but given the rare occurrence of this, the increased signalling should not be of any significance.

During the redirect procedure the BSC keeps a timer, which corresponds to the UE timer of releasing the RR connection (20 seconds). If the BSC when receiving a BSSGP DL-UNITDATA message with the redirection indication flag set finds that there is not sufficient time for another redirect, further redirect attempts are stopped (for this attach request message). The UE will repeat its attach request four times (each time waiting 15 seconds before it re-establishes the RR connection for another try).

7.1.5 Supporting UEs in a MOCN configuration

7.1.5.1 UTRAN based MOCN configuration

Supporting UEs can make use of the additional information in the broadcast system information. The UTRAN signalling flow is shown in the figure below.

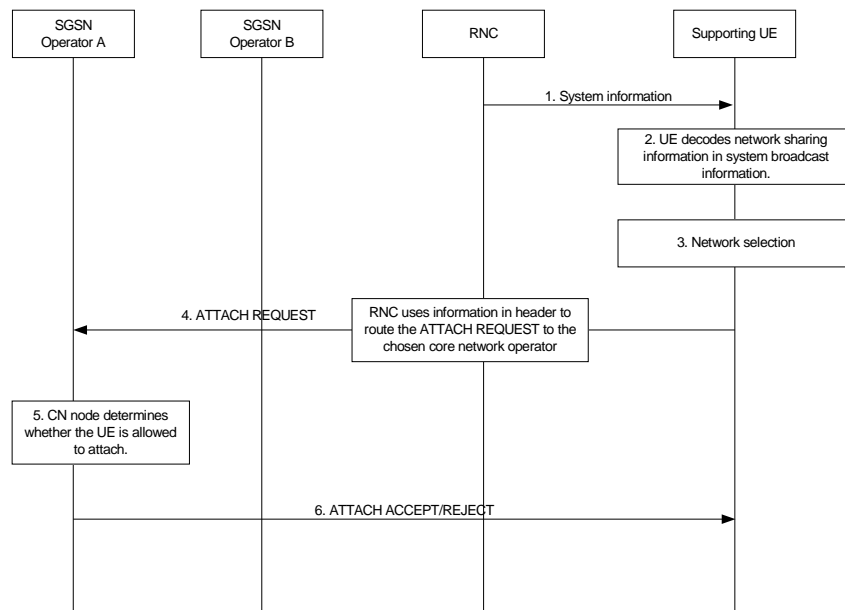


Figure 8: Network selection by a supporting UE in a UTRAN MOCN

1. The UE reads the broadcast system information in the shared RAN.
2. A supporting UE decodes the shared network information and supplies the available core network operator PLMN-ids as candidates to the PLMN selection procedure. Only PLMNs in the Multiple PLMN ID List are candidates for network selection.
3. The UE performs network selection among available PLMNs.
4. The UE sends an ATTACH REQUEST message to the network. It also indicates to the RNC the chosen core network operator. The RNC uses the routing information to determine which core network operator the message should be routed to and the ATTACH REQUEST message is sent to the core network operator chosen by the UE.
5. The core network determines whether the UE is allowed to attach to the network.
6. The shared core network node sends the appropriate ACCEPT/REJECT message back to the UE. In case of an ATTACH ACCEPT message, the core network assigns the UE an appropriate TMSI/P-TMSI so that this identity can be used for any further rerouting of messages by the RNC.

7.1.5.2 GERAN based MOCN configuration

Supporting UEs can make use of the additional information in the broadcast system information. The GERAN signalling flow is shown in the figure below.

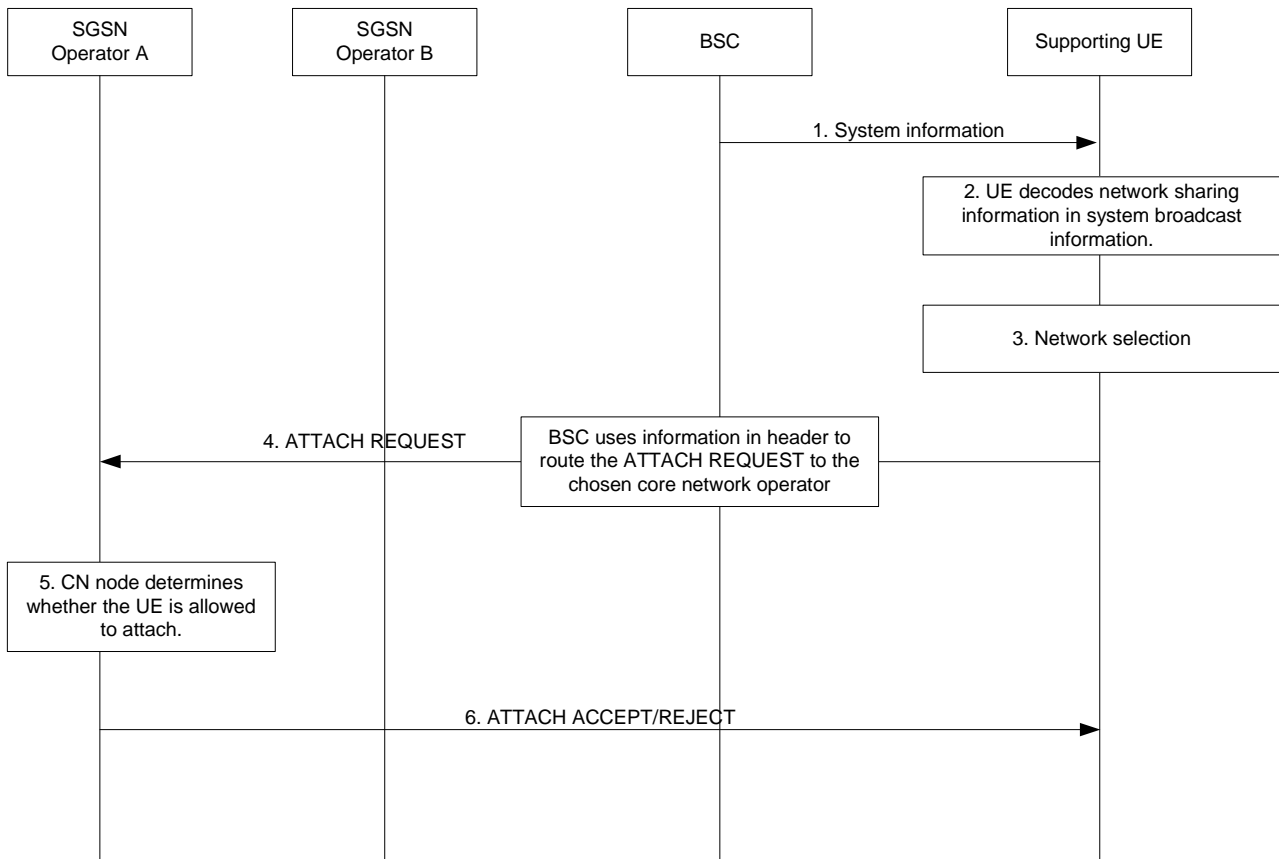


Figure 9: Network selection by a supporting UE in a GERAN MOCN

1. The UE reads the broadcast system information in the shared RAN.
2. A supporting UE decodes the shared network information and supplies the available core network operator PLMN-ids as candidates to the PLMN selection procedure. Only PLMNs in the Multiple PLMN ID List are candidates for network selection.
3. The UE performs network selection among available PLMNs.
4. The UE sends an ATTACH REQUEST message to the network. It also indicates to the BSC the chosen core network operator (via Initial L3 message for CS domain, via AS signalling for the PS domain). The BSC uses the routing information to determine which core network operator the message should be routed to and the ATTACH REQUEST message is sent to the core network operator chosen by the UE together with the chosen PLMN-id.
5. The core network determines whether the UE is allowed to attach to the network.
6. The core network node sends the appropriate ACCEPT/REJECT message back to the UE. In case of an ATTACH ACCEPT message, the core network assigns the UE an appropriate TMSI/P-TMSI so that this identity can be used for any further rerouting of messages by the BSC.

Annex A (informative): Network Resource Indicator (NRI) allocation examples

This annex contains examples for NRI co-ordination in shared networks.

A.1 NRI in shared UTRAN/GERAN networks

The Network Resource Identifier (NRI) is specified in Rel-5 for Intra Domain Connection of RAN Nodes to Multiple CN nodes (see TS 23.236 [8]). NRI is part of the temporary identity TMSI (CS domain) or P-TMSI (PS domain), which is assigned by the serving CN node to the MS.

Within the shared network NRIs has to be coordinated between the operators at least due to following reasons:

- to avoid redirection when the non-supporting UE performs LA/RA update.
- to guarantee that correct UE answers to paging (TMSI/P-TMSI shall be unique within shared network).
- to guarantee that a non-supporting UE in visited PLMN will not change network due LA/RA update or Detach/Attach function.

NRI coordination is also required between the shared network and the dedicated networks of the sharing partners:

- to guarantee that non-supporting UE in visited PLMN remain registered in the same operators network when the UE moves from dedicated network to a shared network.
- to avoid redirection when the non-supporting UE in home PLMN performs LA/RA update from dedicated network to a shared network.

In figure A.1 below operators A, B and C have both shared and dedicated networks, operator D has only dedicated network and operator E only shared network.

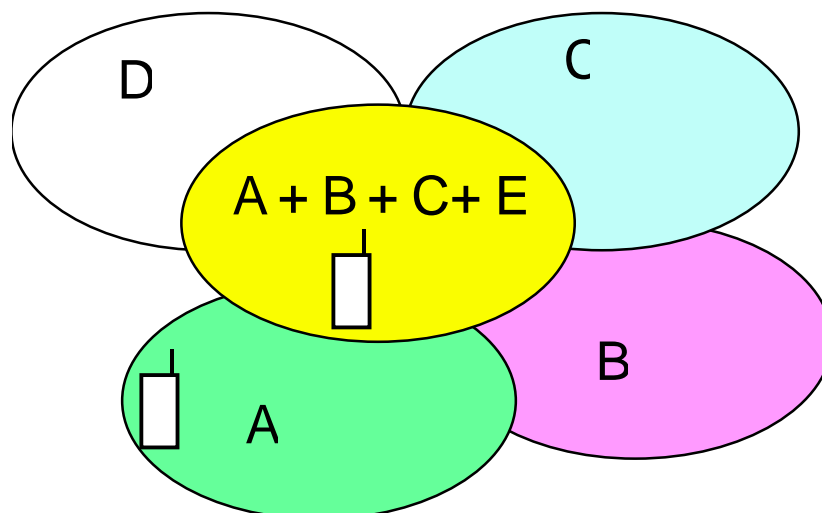


Figure A.1: Shared and Dedicated network example

In the above, one or more of the operators in the shared network may deploy Iu-Flex or A/Gb-Flex between that shared radio access network and their core networks. Additionally, operators may deploy Iu-Flex or A/Gb-Flex within their dedicated core networks. For non-supporting UEs, NRI coordination is needed not only within the shared network, but also between the shared network and the dedicated networks.

A.2 Alternatives for NRI split in UTRAN and GERAN

Sharing operators need to coordinate the used NRI, following alternatives are considered:

- 1) even split of NRI space, 1...3 most significant bits of NRI is used to identify the CN operator.
- 2) individual NRI values used to identify the CN operator.

Alternative 1; even split of NRI space

31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0			
CS/PS		'VLR-restart'						CN operator ID	Non shared NRI for CN operator internal use.																									

A calculation for the possible number of subscribers in this scenario is:

- With max 4 sharing CN operators, two most significant bits of NRI is required to identify the CN operator.
- 3 bits are used for the restart counter.
- 5 bits of NRI allows 32 independent NRI values for each CN operator.
- This leaves 20 bits for every MSC that is 1 M non-purged TMSI.

The following aspects need to be considered for this solution:

- If more bits are needed for the restart counter or CN operator ID, each additional bit reduces the available TMSI space half.
- The basic configuration allows 32 M TMSI values for each CN operator, a lot of TMSI values are wasted if some sharing partners have substantially less subscribers than others.
- It may not be feasible in large networks that use Iu-Flex or A/Gb-Flex for load balancing (see Annex A, network configuration examples in TS 23.236 [8]).
- The number of NRI bits used for CN operator ID may need to be fixed in the initial planning. Otherwise configuration of all existing nodes must be changed when new partners join the shared network.

Alternative 2; individual NRI values used to identify the CN operator

This could be considered in the case where a network is shared between one big and many small CN operators.

31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0		
CS/PS		'VLR-restart'					Shared NRI space																										

- The biggest CN operator who needs more pool areas and TMSI space takes NRI values 32...63, [1xxxxx], this means 32M TMSI values when 4 bit is used for restart counter.
- Rest of shared NRI space is allocated to other CN operators in blocks of 4M TMSI values like NRI = 28 - 31 [0111xx], 24 - 27 [0110xx] 0 - 3 [000xx]. Initially gaps can be left between allocated NRI range that can be used for expansion.

Following aspects need to be considered for this solution:

- If more bits are needed for the restart counter or NRI, each additional bit reduces the available TMSI space half.
- The initial planning of NRI length should take into account the pool area configurations of all sharing operators.

TMSI per LA:

Taking the example configurations mentioned above but changing the TMSI allocation per LA would result in an increase of the addressing space, then the same TMSI value can be used multiple times in the same VLR. More considerations with this TMSI per LA approach can be found in TS 23.236 [8].

Annex B (normative): Interaction with other network capabilities

B.1 General

The provision of services and service capabilities in a network should not be restricted by the existence of network sharing. Therefore, all new features (or enhancements to existing features) should be specified to work in network sharing environments. If it is not possible to specify complete support for Network Sharing (i.e. PLMNs in a Shared Network has the same features/capabilities and the same operational situation as a stand alone PLMN) then such deviations are documented in this Annex.

B.2 Support for RAN sharing for CSG and hybrid cells

A cell with closed/hybrid access can only broadcast one CSG ID but may broadcast several PLMN IDs. If a cell with closed/hybrid access broadcasts several PLMNs (see clauses 5.2 and 5.2a) for a UE supporting shared network or a non-supporting UE that performs the PLMN selection (see clause 4.2.3.2), it is the operator responsibility to coordinate the CSG IDs between the operators' PLMNs. For further details on Closed Subscriber Group (CSG) and closed/hybrid access, see TS 36.300 [10] and TS 25.467 [17].

Annex C (informative): Change History

Change history								
Date	TSG #	TSG Doc.	CR	Rev	Cat	Subject/Comment	Old	New
2010-12	SP-50	SP-100693	0023	2	B	Introduction of MOCN GERAN	9.1.0	10.0.0
2011-01	-	-	-	-	-	Update of LTE logo to LTE-Advanced logo	10.0.0	10.0.1
2011-03	SP-51	SP-110076	0027	1	F	NITZ in connection with network sharing	10.0.1	10.1.0
2011-03	SP-51	SP-110076	0028	2	F	LLC sequence number handling in the redirection procedure	10.0.1	10.1.0
2011-03	SP-51	SP-110061	0029	1	A	RAN sharing for the H(e)NB (CSG cell in the closed access mode and in the hybrid access mode)	10.0.1	10.1.0
2011-03	SP-51	SP-110076	0030	4	F	Cell Broadcast and Warning System Services for network sharing configuration	10.0.1	10.1.0
2011-06	SP-52	SP-110432	0033	4	F	Network sharing and provision of service capabilities	10.1.0	10.2.0
2011-09	SP-53	SP-110457	0034	5	B	Introduction of FULL-MOCN-GERAN feature	10.2.0	11.0.0
2012-03	SP-55	SP-120088	0037	2	B	SRVCC and Network Sharing from E-UTRAN	11.0.0	11.1.0
2012-03	SP-55	SP-120088	0039	-	D	Editorial corrections on redirection message for Non-supporting UEs in a MOCN configuration	11.0.0	11.1.0
2012-03	SP-55	SP-120079	0040	1	B	Introduction of FULL-MOCN-GERAN feature	11.0.0	11.1.0
2012-03	SP-55	SP-120079	0043	1	C	FULL-MOCN-GERAN support	11.0.0	11.1.0
2012-03	SP-55	SP-120088	0045	2	B	EAB for network sharing	11.0.0	11.1.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120251	0046	2	F	Support for RAN sharing for CSG and hybrid cells	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120237	0051	2	A	SRVCC and Network Sharing	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120251	0053	2	F	EAB overload control from CN to RAN for UTRAN/GERAN in shared networks	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120248	0054	1	B	rSRVCC in network sharing with LTE to CS and back to LTE	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120251	0060	1	F	Network Sharing Corrections for SRVCC	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120246	0061	2	F	Corrections for MOCN GERAN	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120251	0062	2	B	GWCN for GERAN	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120252	0063	3	B	SIRIG support in shared networks	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120246	0064	1	B	Selection of PLMN for the CS Domain in CSFB towards a shared GERAN	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-06	SP-56	SP-120239	0068	4	F	EAB in shared networks	11.1.0	11.2.0
2012-09	SP-57	SP-120486	0057	6	F	Network Sharing Corrections following review of GWCN UTRAN	11.2.0	11.3.0
2012-09	SP-57	SP-120483	0074	-	F	Impact of SIRIG on the BSS in a shared network	11.2.0	11.3.0

History

Document history		
V11.3.0	November 2012	Publication