CLAIMS

1. A network node (203) configured to operate as a first node in a communications network (200) for a user device (201) initiating a small data transmission communication session through a receiving node (202) in the communications network (200), the network node (203) being configured to:
receive a request from the receiving node (202); and
send a message to the receiving node (202), the message comprising an indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

2. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is RETRIEVE UE CONTEXT RESPONSE message.

3. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message comprises user equipment (UE) context information, and the UE context information comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

4. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 3, wherein the UE context information comprises an access stratum configuration (AS-Config) field (504) and an access stratum context (AS-Context) field (505), the AS-Config field (504) comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

5. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first node (203) is a source node in the communications network (200).

6. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first node (203) is a last serving node that maintains small data transmission configuration information for the user device (201) in the communications network (200).

7. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the request from the receiving node (202) is part of an XnAP Retrieve UE Context procedure.

8. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the network node (203) is a gNodeB (102).

9. A method for implementation at a network node (203) configured to operate as a first node in a communications network (200) for a user device (201) initiating a small data transmission communication session through a receiving node (202) in the communications network, the method comprising:
receiving a request from the receiving node (202); and
sending a message to the receiving node (202), the message comprising an indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the message is RETRIEVE UE CONTEXT RESPONSE message.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the message comprises UE context information, and the UE context information comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the UE context information comprises an AS-Config field (504) and an AS-Context field (505), the AS-Config field (504) comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

13. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first node (203) is a source node in the communications network (200).

14. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first node (203) is a last serving node that maintains small data transmission configuration information for the user device (201) in the communications network (200).

15. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the request from the receiving node (202) is part of an XnAP Retrieve UE Context procedure.

16. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the network node (203) is a gNodeB (102).

17. A network node (202) configured to operate as a receiving node in a communications network (200) for a user device (201) initiating a small data transmission communication session through the receiving node, the network node (202) being configured to:

receive (1001) a request from the user device (201) for the network node (202) to operate as the receiving node for the small data transmission communication session;

send (1002) a request to a first node (203) in the communications network for context information for the user device (201); and

receive (1003) a message from the first node (203) comprising the context information for the user device (201), the context information comprising an indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

18. The network node (202) as claimed in claim 17, wherein the message is RETRIEVE UE CONTEXT RESPONSE message.

19. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 17, wherein the message comprises UE context information, and the UE context information comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

20. The network node (203) as claimed in claim 19, wherein the UE context informaiton comprises an AS-Config field (504) and an AS-Context field (505), the AS-Config field (504) comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

21. The network node (202) as claimed in claim 17, wherein the network node (202) is configured to operate as a receiving node for the user device (201) after relocating the context information for the user device from the first node (203) to the network node (202).

22. The network node (202) as claimed in claim 17, wherein the network node (202) is a gNodeB.

23. A method (1000) for implementation at a network node (202) configured to operate as a receiving node in a communications network (200) for a user device (201) initiating a small data transmission communication session through the receiving node (202), the method comprising:

receiving (1001) a request from the user device (201) for the network node (202) to operate as the receiving node for the small data transmission communication session;

sending (1002) a request to a first node (203) in the communications network (200) for context information for the user device (201); and

receiving (1003) a message from the first node (203) comprising the context information for the user device (201), the context information comprising an indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

24. The method (1000) as claimed in claim 23, wherein the message is RETRIEVE UE CONTEXT RESPONSE message.

25. The method (1000) as claimed in claim 23, wherein the message comprises UE context information, and the UE context information comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

26. The method (1000) as claimed in claim 25, wherein the UE context information comprises an AS-Config field (504) and an AS-Context field (505), the AS-Config field (504) comprises the indication of small data transmission configuration information (506) for the user device (201).

27. The method (1000) as claimed in claim 23, wherein the network node (202) is configured to operate as a receiving node for the user device (201) after relocating the context information for the user device from the first node (203) to the network node (202).

28. The method (1000) as claimed in claim 23, wherein the network node (202) is a gNodeB.

29. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-readable instructions that, when executed at a computer system, cause the computer system to perform the method of claims 9-16 or claims 23-28.

30. A system, comprising a network node (203) and a network node (202), wherein the network node (203) is configured to perform the method of any one of claims 9-16, and the network node (202) is configured to perform the method of any one of claims 23-28.