

DESCRIPTION

TITLE

CARRIER AGGREGATION WITH POWER HEADROOM REPORT

5

BACKGROUND:

Field:

Carrier aggregation (CA) is a technique that is applicable to such networks as evolved universal terrestrial radio access (E-UTRA) networks (E-UTRAN). E-UTRAN is just one example, as the technique may be used in other kinds of networks. In carrier aggregation, two or more component carriers (CCs) or serving cells can be aggregated in order to support wider transmission bandwidths up to, for example, 100MHz and for spectrum aggregation. In carrier aggregation, it is possible to configure a user equipment (UE) to aggregate a different number of component carriers or serving cells originating from the same enhanced node B (eNB) and of possibly different bandwidths in the uplink (UL) and the downlink (DL).

Description of the Related Art:

In releases 8 and 9 of the third generation partnership project (3GPP), without carrier aggregation, a power headroom report is triggered if any of the following occur, as described in 3GPP specification, 36.321: a timer called "prohibitPHR-Timer" expires or has expired and the path loss has changed more than a predetermined amount, "dl-PathlossChange" dB, since the transmission of a power headroom report when the user equipment has uplink resources for new transmission; a timer called "periodicPHR-Timer" expires; or

upon configuration or reconfiguration of the power headroom reporting functionality by upper layers, which is not used to disable the function. The "prohibitPHR-Timer," "periodicPHR-Timer," and "dl-PathlossChange," are configured by a radio resource controller. Similar power headroom report triggering could also be applied to carrier aggregation. When power headroom reporting is triggered, power headroom reports on all the scheduled CC (or serving cells) or configured CC (or configured serving cells) should be reported.

One approach to addressing power headroom reporting is to limit each power headroom report (PHR) to the corresponding component carrier. Although such an approach minimizes changes, because of potential hybrid automatic repeat request (HARQ) retransmission timing differences, the eNB cannot obtain a power headroom report from all component carriers at the same time. Furthermore, one logical channel identifier (LCID) is used per reported component carrier (or serving cell), increasing overhead.

Another option is to allow a cross carrier power headroom report with a cross carrier indicator for each power headroom report to indicate which component carrier (or serving cell) it is referring to. This approach requires one media access control (MAC) sub-header for each individual power headroom report or a "length" field to indicate the length for such variable size payload. Furthermore, there are only 2 R bits in the power headroom report MAC control element (CE) which is not enough to indicate 5 component carriers (or serving cells).

SUMMARY

A method, in certain embodiments, includes configuring a user equipment to send a power headroom report control element in uplink. The power headroom report control element includes a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being
5 reported. The method further includes receiving the power headroom report control element from the user equipment. The method additionally includes processing the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

10 In another embodiment, a method includes preparing a power headroom report control element, based on a trigger configured by a base station. The trigger determines when a power headroom report control element is to be sent in uplink. Preparing the control element includes incorporating a bitmap
15 indicating which power headroom reports are being reported. The method further includes sending the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

A computer readable medium, in certain further embodiments, is encoded with a computer program that, when
20 executed in hardware, causes the hardware to perform a process. The process includes configuring a user equipment to send a power headroom report control element in uplink. The power headroom report control element includes a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported.
25 The process further includes receiving the power headroom report control element from the user equipment. The process additionally includes processing the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

30 A computer readable medium, in another embodiment, is encoded with a computer program that, when executed in hardware, causes the hardware to perform a process. The

process can also include preparing a power headroom report control element, based on a trigger configured by a base station. The trigger determines when a power headroom report control element is to be sent in uplink. Preparing the
5 control element includes incorporating a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported. The process further includes sending the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

In certain embodiments, an apparatus includes at least
10 one processor and at least one memory including computer program code. The at least one memory and computer program code are configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to configure a user equipment to send a power headroom report control element in uplink. The power
15 headroom report control element includes a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported. The at least one memory and computer program code are also configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to receive the power headroom report control element from the
20 user equipment. The at least one memory and computer program code are further configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to process the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

25 An apparatus, in another embodiment, includes at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code. The at least one memory and computer program code are configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to prepare a power headroom report control
30 element, based on a trigger configured by a base station. The trigger determines when a power headroom report control element is to be sent in uplink. The at least one memory and

computer program code are also configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to prepare the control element by incorporating a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported. The at least one
5 memory and computer program code are also configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to send the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

In certain embodiments, an apparatus includes configuring
10 means for configuring a user equipment to send a power headroom report control element in uplink. The power headroom report control element includes a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported. The apparatus also includes receiving means for receiving the power headroom
15 report control element from the user equipment. The apparatus further includes processing means for processing the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

An apparatus, according to certain embodiments, includes
20 preparing means for preparing a power headroom report control element, based on a trigger configured by a base station. The trigger determines when a power headroom report control element is to be sent in uplink. Preparing the control element includes incorporating a bitmap indicating which power
25 headroom reports are being reported. The apparatus also includes sending means for sending the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

30 For proper understanding of the invention, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 illustrates carrier aggregation.

Figure 2 illustrates an E1/R/LCID sub-header.

Figure 3 illustrates a sub-header for power headroom reporting.

5 Figure 4 illustrates individual power headroom reports for each component carrier.

Figure 5 illustrates a power headroom report payload including a bitmap for power headroom reporting as the first octet.

10 Figure 6 illustrates a method according to certain embodiments of the present invention.

Figure 7 illustrates a method according to certain embodiments of the present invention.

15 Figure 8 illustrates a system according to certain embodiments of the present invention.

Figure 9 illustrates a format in which a single bit is used to indicate whether Type 1 power headroom report or Type 2 power headroom report is being used.

20 Figure 10 illustrates a format in which Type 1 and Type 2 power headroom reports are indicated via the R bit in the power headroom report payload for PCell.

25 Figure 11 illustrates a format in which a new logical channel identifier is used for a Type 2 power headroom report, while for Type 1 the format can correspond to a release 8 format.

Figure 12 illustrates a format in which each individual power headroom report is 6 bits, with R bits for byte alignment when the payload is not byte aligned.

Figure 13 illustrates a format in which each individual power headroom report is 6 bits, without R bits for byte alignment when the payload is byte aligned.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S):

Certain embodiments of the present invention report power headroom using a new power headroom report MAC control element which can start with a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported. Each bit of the bitmap can be
10 linked to a particular power headroom report (e.g. primary serving cell (PCell) PHR, secondary serving cell (SCell), such as SCell1, PHR#) and the order in which the bits are read in the bitmap also defines the order in which the power headroom reports follow the bitmap. The bitmap can, therefore, indicate
15 the size of the power headroom report MAC control element. Thus, the control element can address variable power headroom report size and can avoid using one sub-header per individual power headroom report.

It may be beneficial to limit power headroom reporting to
20 the serving cells that are scheduled to reduce overhead and simplify power headroom evaluation from user equipment side. Also, it may be beneficial for the eNB to obtain, at the same time, power headroom reports for all the serving cells scheduled. Because of potential hybrid automatic repeat
25 request (HARQ) retransmission timing differences, scheduling all component carriers with new transmission in the same transmission time interval (TTI) may not be feasible.

The principle of carrier aggregation is illustrated in Figure 1. Third generation partnership project (3GPP) release
30 8 (Rel-8) user equipment may be served by a stand-alone component carrier or serving cell, while release 10 (Rel-10)

terminals can be configured to receive or transmit simultaneously on multiple component carriers or remote serving cells in the same transmission time interval (TTI).

When carrier aggregation is configured, the user equipment only has one radio resource control (RRC) connection with the network. At RRC connection establishment/re-establishment, one serving cell provides the security input and the non-access stratum (NAS) mobility information (e.g. timing advance information (TAI)) similarly as in Rel-8/9. The security input can include one E-UTRAN cell global identifier (ECGI), one physical cell identity (PCI) and one absolute radio-frequency channel number (ARFCN).

This cell that provides the security input and the NAS mobility information is referred to as the primary serving cell (PCell). In the downlink, the carrier corresponding to the PCell is the downlink (DL) primary component carrier (DL PCC) while in the uplink it is the uplink (UL) primary component carrier (UL PCC).

Depending on user equipment capabilities, secondary serving cells (SCells) can be configured to form, together with the PCell, a set of serving cells. In the downlink, the carrier corresponding to an SCell is a downlink secondary component carrier (DL SCC) while in the uplink it is an uplink secondary component carrier (UL SCC).

In view of the above, the configured set of serving cells for a user equipment may always include one PCell and one or more SCells. For each SCell, the usage of uplink resources by the user equipment in addition to the downlink ones can be configurable. The number of DL SCCs configured can, therefore, be set always to be larger or equal to the number of UL SCCs and, thus, no SCell can be configured for usage of

uplink resources only. Additionally, the number of serving cells that can be configured can depend upon the aggregation capability of the user equipment.

Furthermore, to assist the scheduler, the eNB can
5 configure user equipment to send buffer status reports (BSRs) and power headroom reports in uplink. BSR can indicate the amount of data the user equipment has available for transmission. A power headroom report can provide the eNB with information about the difference between the nominal user
10 equipment maximum transmit power and the estimated power for uplink synchronization channel (UL-SCH) transmission.

A power headroom report can be sent by the user equipment in uplink in the form of PHR media access control (MAC) control elements in which the "power headroom" field indicates
15 the power headroom level. In the context of carrier aggregation, per component carrier (or serving cell) power headroom reporting can be used, and, optionally, per user equipment power headroom reporting can also be used on top of those.

20 As mentioned above, a new power headroom report MAC control element can be provided, which starts with a bitmap indicating which PHRs are being reported. Each bit of the bitmap can be linked to a particular power headroom report (e.g. PCell PHR, SCell1 PHR...) and the order in which the bits
25 are read in the bitmap can also define the order in which the power headroom reports follow the bitmap. The bitmap therefore indicates the size of the power headroom report MAC control element.

The bit in the bitmap can indicate whether a power
30 headroom (PH) field is being reported. For example, a bit set to "1" can indicate that a power headroom field for a

corresponding secondary cell is being reported. The bit set to "0", on the other hand, can indicate that a power headroom field for a corresponding secondary cell is not being reported. Thus, for example if the bit for SCell_i is set to
5 zero, the power headroom field for the secondary cell with secondary cell index *i* is not being reported. Alternatively, the opposite convention can be used, wherein "1" indicates that a report is not being provided and "0" indicates that a report is being provided.

10 For example, the bitmap can be 8 bits long and can be organized as follows. A first bit can be used for a user equipment power headroom report (UE-PHR). The use of the first bit for UE-PHR is, of course, an optional item. In some embodiments, there may be no need for such a PHR in addition
15 to per-CC PHR.

A second bit can be used for Type 1 PHR for PCell. A third bit can be used for Type 2 PHR for PCell. Fourth through seventh bits can be for PHR of SCell1, SCell2, SCell3, and SCell4. There can also be one reserved bit. In other
20 embodiments, such as if the first bit is not used for UE-PHR, there can be more than one reserved bit.

Type 1 and Type 2 power headroom reports may employ the following definition. Their presence can be indicated to the eNB. Type 1 power headroom report can be computed as:
25 $P_{\text{cmax},c}$ minus PUSCH power. Type 2 power headroom report can be computed as: $P_{\text{cmax},c}$ minus PUCCH power minus PUSCH power

There are some additional considerations as well. For PCell, if in a TTI there can be either only Type 1 or Type 2 PHR, one bit in the bitmap can be used to indicate the type.

30 Still another possibility for PCell is to indicate Type 1 and Type 2 power headroom reports via the R bit in the MAC

sub-header for PCell. This format is illustrated in Figure 9. Still another possibility for PCell is to indicate Type 1 and Type 2 power headroom reports via the R bit in the power headroom report payload for PCell. This format is illustrated
5 in Figure 10. A further alternative is to use a new logical channel identifier for Type 2 power headroom report, while for Type 1 the format can correspond to a release 8 format. Then, if there is only a power headroom report for PCell included, the bitmap byte is not needed. This format is illustrated in
10 Figure 11.

The order of SCells can be according the order in which they are configured or according to a cell index or component carrier index. If only a power headroom report for one serving cell is needed in a TTI, a simplified format could be
15 used.

The new power headroom report format could use a new logical channel identifier (LCID) or make use of one of the R bits of the subheader to indicate the occurrence of the bitmap. This bit is denoted E1 in Figure 2. The bitmap could
20 either follow the MAC Sub-header for a power headroom report, or it can be as the first byte of the power headroom report payload. Figure 3 illustrates the bitmap for the power headroom report has a sub-header.

The individual power headroom report for each component
25 carrier, each type or per UE PHR can resemble that found in Release 8 or Release 9: 1 byte for each component carrier with 2 R bits + 6 bits PH. This approach is illustrated in Figure 4. Alternatively, each individual power headroom report can be 6 bits, with R bits for byte alignment when the payload is
30 not byte aligned, as shown in Figure 12; when it is byte aligned, no R bit needed, as shown in Figure 13. Figure 5

shows an alternative embodiment in which the first octet of the payload is the bitmap for the power headroom report.

Various embodiments of the present invention may provide advantageous effects. For example, in certain embodiments, there may be no need to have a separate MAC sub-header for each individual power headroom report (different type of power headroom report, per component carrier power headroom report for each component carrier and per-UE power headroom report). Thus, overhead may be reduced. Additionally, issues arising from uncertainty of variable size may be avoided or handled. Furthermore, certain embodiments of the present invention may clearly and efficiently indicate which component carriers have power headroom report included, without a cross-CC indicator for each individual power headroom report separately.

Figure 6 illustrates a method according to certain embodiments of the present invention. The method can include an eNB configuring 610 power headroom reporting for a user equipment. In the method, a power headroom report can be triggered 620. The method can additionally include determining 630 which type of power headroom report and the power headroom of which component carrier(s) should be included in the power headroom report MAC control element. The method can also include indicating 640 with the bitmap the type of power headroom report and the power headroom reports of at least one component carrier.

The method can include receiving 650 the power headroom report control element at the base station from the user equipment. The method additionally includes processing 630 the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

The method can include processing 631 the received power headroom report control element, wherein the control element includes the bitmap in a media access control subheader or in a payload. The method can also include processing 633 the
5 received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap is exactly eight bits. The method can also include processing 635 the received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap includes a first bit for a user equipment power headroom report, a second bit for a type 1
10 power headroom report for a primary serving cell, a third bit for a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell, fourth through seventh bits for power headroom reports for four secondary cells, and a reserved bit. Because the eight bits can include a reserved bit, the power headroom
15 report control element can alternatively be said to be exactly seven bits in length.

The method can further include indicating 637, in the bitmap, for a primary serving cell, type 1 and type 2 power headroom reports via an R bit in the power headroom report
20 payload for primary serving cell. The method can additionally include using 639 a logical channel identifier for Type 2 power headroom report, while for Type 1 the format can correspond to a release 8 format.

Figure 7 illustrates a method according to another
25 embodiment of the present invention. The method of Figure 7 includes an eNB configuring 710 triggers for sending a power headroom report. The method can also include preparing 720 the power headroom report control element, based on the triggers. Preparing 720 the control element includes incorporating 730 a
30 bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported. The method further includes sending 740 the

prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

The preparing 720 the control element can include preparing 721 the bitmap in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

5 The preparing 720 the control element can include preparing 723 the bitmap to be exactly eight bits. The preparing 720 the control element can include preparing 725 the bitmap to include a first bit for a user equipment power headroom report, a second bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a
10 primary serving cell, a third bit for a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell, fourth through seventh bits for power headroom reports for four secondary cells, and a reserved bit.

The method can further include indicating 727, in the
15 bitmap, for a primary serving cell, type 1 and type 2 power headroom reports via an R bit in the power headroom report payload for primary serving cell. The method can additionally include using 729 a logical channel identifier for Type 2 power headroom report, while for Type 1 the format can
20 correspond to a release 8 format.

The methods described in Figures 6-7 can be variously implemented. For example, the methods can be implemented using hardware technique or by making a general purpose computing device a particular machine by supplying it with
25 software instructions. The software instructions may be on a computer-readable medium, which may be any suitable medium that is tangible, such as a non-transitory computer readable medium. Thus, for example, the medium could be hard disk drive or a flash drive. Any form of random access memory
30 (RAM) or read only memory (ROM) is acceptable. The software instructions can be structurally and/or functionally

interrelated with hardware to perform the methods described above.

Figure 8 illustrates a system according to certain embodiments of the present invention. The system as
5 illustrated in Figure 8 can include a first apparatus 810 and a second apparatus 820. The first apparatus 810 may be, for example, an eNB, base station, or similar device. The second apparatus 820 may be, for example, a user equipment that is equipped for communication in a network that permits carrier
10 aggregation.

The first apparatus 810 and the second apparatus 820 may each include at least one memory 830 including computer program code 840, as well as at least one processor 850. The memory 830 may be any suitable data storage device, such as
15 RAM or ROM. The computer program code 840 may be any suitable computer instructions, such instructions that are compiled into a machine language or provided in an interpreted language. The at least one processor 850 may be any processing device, such as one or more controllers, a central processing
20 unit (CPU), or an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC). The at least one memory 830 and the computer program code 840 can be configured to, with the at least one processor 850, cause the first apparatus 810 or second apparatus 820 to perform a process, such as the processes illustrated in Figure
25 6-7.

The first apparatus 810 and the second apparatus 820 may further include a transceiver 860 that includes a receiver 863 and transmitter 867. The first apparatus 810 and the second apparatus 820 may each be configured to communicate using a
30 respective antenna 870 over a wireless link 880.

One having ordinary skill in the art will readily understand that the invention as discussed above may be practiced with steps in a different order, and/or with hardware elements in configurations which are different than those which are disclosed. Therefore, although the invention has been described based upon these preferred embodiments, it would be apparent to those of skill in the art that certain modifications, variations, and alternative constructions would be apparent, while remaining within the spirit and scope of the invention.

WE CLAIM:

1. A method, comprising:

configuring a user equipment to send a power headroom
report control element in uplink, wherein the power headroom
5 report control element includes a bitmap indicating which
power headroom reports are being reported;

receiving the power headroom report control element from
the user equipment; and

processing the received power headroom report control
10 element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising processing
the received power headroom report control element, wherein
the bitmap is in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising
15 processing the received power headroom report control element,
wherein the bitmap comprises at least one bit for a type 1
power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2
power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

4. The method of any of claims 1-3, further comprising
20 processing the received power headroom report control element,
wherein the bitmap comprises bits for power headroom reports
for a plurality of secondary cells.

5. A method, comprising:

preparing a power headroom report control element, based
25 on a trigger configured by a base station, wherein the trigger
determines when a power headroom report control element is to
be sent in uplink, wherein preparing the control element
includes incorporating a bitmap indicating which power
headroom reports are being reported; and

sending the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the preparing the control element comprises preparing the bitmap in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

7. The method of claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the preparing the control element comprises preparing the bitmap to include at least one bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

8. The method of any of claims 5-7, wherein the preparing the control element comprises preparing the bitmap to include bits for power headroom reports for a plurality of secondary cells.

9. A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program that, when executed in hardware, causes the hardware to perform a process, the process comprising:

providing configuring a user equipment to send a power headroom report control element in uplink, wherein the power headroom report control element includes a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported;

receiving the power headroom report control element from the user equipment; and

processing the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

10. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the process includes processing the received power headroom report control element, wherein the control element includes the bitmap in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the process includes processing the received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap comprises at least one bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

12. The non-transitory computer readable medium of any of claims 9-11, wherein the process includes processing the received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap comprises bits for power headroom reports for a plurality of secondary cells.

13. A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program that, when executed in hardware, causes the hardware to perform a process, the process comprising:

preparing a power headroom report control element, based on a trigger configured by a base station, wherein the trigger determines when a power headroom report control element is to be sent in uplink, wherein preparing the control element includes incorporating a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported; and

sending the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the preparing the control element comprises preparing the bitmap in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the preparing the control element can include preparing the bitmap to include at least one bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

16. The computer readable medium of any of claims 13-15, wherein the preparing the control element can include preparing the bitmap to include bits for power headroom reports for a plurality of secondary cells.

5 17. An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code,

wherein the at least one memory and computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the
10 apparatus at least to

configure a user equipment to send a power headroom report control element in uplink, wherein the power headroom report control element includes a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported,

15 receive the power headroom report control element from the user equipment, and

processing the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the at least one
20 memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to process the received power headroom report control element, wherein the control element includes the bitmap in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

25 19. The apparatus of claim 17 or claim 18, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to process the received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap includes comprises at least one

bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

20. The apparatus of any of claims 17-19, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to process the received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap comprises bits for power headroom reports for a plurality of secondary cells.

21. An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code,

wherein the at least one memory and computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to

prepare a power headroom report control element, based on a trigger configured by a base station, wherein the trigger determines when a power headroom report control element is to be sent in uplink; wherein preparing the control element includes incorporating a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported, and

send the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to prepare the control element by preparing the bitmap in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

23. The apparatus of claim 21 or claim 22, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to prepare the control element by preparing the bitmap to include at least one bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

24. The apparatus of any of claims 21-23, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to prepare the control element by preparing the bitmap to include bits for power headroom reports for a plurality of secondary cells.

25. An apparatus, comprising:

15 configuring means for configuring a user equipment to send a power headroom report control element in uplink, wherein the power headroom report control element includes a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported;

20 receiving means for receiving the power headroom report control element from the user equipment; and

 processing means for processing the received power headroom report control element based on the configuration of the user equipment.

25 26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processing means are configured to process the received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap is in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

30 27. The apparatus of claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the processing means are configured to process the received power

headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap comprises at least one bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

5 28. The apparatus of any of claims 25-27, wherein the processing means are configured to process the received power headroom report control element, wherein the bitmap comprises bits for power headroom reports for a plurality of secondary cells.

10 29. An apparatus, comprising:

 preparing means for preparing a power headroom report control element, based on a trigger configured by a base station, wherein the trigger determines when a power headroom report control element is to be sent in uplink, wherein
15 preparing the control element includes incorporating a bitmap indicating which power headroom reports are being reported;
 and

 sending means for sending the prepared power headroom report control element to the base station.

20 30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the preparing means are configured to prepare the bitmap in a MAC subheader or in a payload.

 31. The apparatus of claim 29 or claim 30, wherein the preparing means are configured to prepare the control element
25 comprises preparing the bitmap to include at least one bit for a type 1 power headroom report for a primary serving cell or a type 2 power headroom report for the primary serving cell.

 32. The apparatus of any of claims 29-31, wherein the preparing means are configured to prepare the control element

comprises preparing the bitmap to include bits for power headroom reports for a plurality of secondary cells.