## CLAIMS

1. A method for transitioning a remote station from a current serving network node having first security context to a new serving network node, comprising:

the remote station providing at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein the first security context includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

the remote station generating at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, based on an information element associated with the first security context;

the remote station forwarding a first message to the new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element associated with the first security context;

the remote station receiving, in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

the remote station determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

the remote station protecting communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context.

2. A method for transitioning as defined in claim 1, wherein the information element comprises a count value.

3. A method for transitioning as defined in claim 2, wherein the count value is updated for a session.

4. A method for transitioning as defined in claim 1, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

5. A method for transitioning as defined in claim 1, wherein the remote station comprises a mobile user equipment.

6. A method for transitioning as defined in claim 1, wherein the second message includes a message authentication code (MAC), and the remote station determines that the response is based on the at least one legacy key by determining that the MAC was calculated using the at least one legacy key.

7. A remote station, comprising:

means for providing at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein a first security context of a current serving network node includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

means for generating at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, based on an information element associated with the first security context;

means for forwarding a first message to a new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element signaling associated with the first security context;

means for receiving, in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

means for determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

means for protecting communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context.

8. A remote station as defined in claim 7, wherein the information element comprises a count value.

9. A remote station as defined in claim 8, wherein the count value is updated for a session.

10. A remote station as defined in claim 7, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

11. A remote station, comprising:

a processor configured to:

provide at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein a first security context of a current serving network node includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

generate at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, based on the legacy key and an information element associated with the first security context;

forward a first message to a new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element associated with the first security context;

receive, in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

determine that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

protect communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context.

12. A remote station as defined in claim 11, wherein the information element comprises a count value.

13. A remote station as defined in claim 12, wherein the count value is updated for a session.

14. A remote station as defined in claim 11, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

15. A computer program product, comprising:

computer-readable storage medium, comprising:

code for causing a computer to provide at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein a first security context of a current serving network node includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

code for causing a computer to generate at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, based on an information element associated with the first security context;

code for causing a computer to forward a first message to a new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element associated with the first security context;

code for causing a computer to receive, in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

code for causing a computer to determine that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

code for causing a computer to protect communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context.

16. A computer program product as defined in claim 15, wherein the information element comprises a count value.

17. A computer program product as defined in claim 16, wherein the count value is updated for a session.

18. A computer program product as defined in claim 15, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

## CLAIMS

1. A method for transitioning a remote station from a current serving network node having a first security context to a new serving network node, comprising:

providing, by the remote station, at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein the first security context includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

generating, by the remote station, at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, using an information element associated with the first security context;

forwarding, by the remote station, a first message to the new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element associated with the first security context;

receiving, by the remote station in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

determining, by the remote station, that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

protecting, by the remote station, communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context,

wherein the information element comprises a count value and the count value is updated for a session.

**2**. A method for transitioning as defined in claim **1**, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

**3**. A method for transitioning as defined in claim **1**, wherein the remote station comprises a mobile user equipment.

**4**. A method for transitioning as defined in claim **1**, wherein the second message includes a message authentication code (MAC), and the remote station determines that the response is based on the at least one legacy key by determining that the MAC was calculated using the at least one legacy key.

**5**. A method for transitioning as defined in claim **1**, wherein the at least one session key is calculated from the information element and a root key.

**6**. A remote station, comprising:

means for providing at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein a first security context of a current serving network node includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

means for generating at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, using an information element associated with the first security context;

means for forwarding a first message to a new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element signaling associated with the first security context;

means for receiving, in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

means for determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

means for protecting communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context,

wherein the information element comprises a count value and the count value is updated for a session.

**7**. A remote station as defined in claim **6**, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

**8**. A remote station as defined in claim **6**, wherein the at least one session key is calculated from the information element and a root key.

**9**. A remote station, comprising:

a processor configured to:

provide at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein a first security context of a current serving network node includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

generate at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, using an information element associated with the first security context;

forward a first message to a new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element associated with the first security context;

receive, in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

determine that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

protect communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context,

wherein the information element comprises a count value and the count value is updated for a session.

**10**. A remote station as defined in claim **9**, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

**11**. A remote station as defined in claim **9**, wherein the at least one session key is calculated from the information element and a root key.

**12**. A computer program product, comprising:

non-transitory computer-readable medium, comprising:

code for causing a computer to provide at least one legacy key associated with a second security context, wherein a first security context of a current serving network node includes a security property that is not supported by the second security context;

code for causing a computer to generate at least one session key, in accordance with the first security context, using an information element associated with the first security context;

code for causing a computer to forward a first message to a new serving network node, wherein the first message includes the information element associated with the first security context;

code for causing a computer to receive, in response to the first message, a second message from the new serving network node, wherein the second message has a response based on either the at least one legacy key or the at least one session key;

code for causing a computer to determine that the new serving network node does not support the first security context if the response of the second message is based on the at least one legacy key; and

code for causing a computer to protect communications based on the at least one legacy key upon determining that the new serving network node does not support the first security context,

wherein the information element comprises a count value and the count value is updated for a session.

**13**. A computer program product as defined in claim **12**, wherein the first security context is an enhanced UMTS security context, and the second security context is a legacy security context.

**14**. A computer program product as defined in claim **12**, wherein the at least one session key is calculated from the information element and a root key.