

Active Set Update (ASU) with High Speed
Downlink Shared Channel (HS-DSCH) Information

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates to handover mechanisms for mobile radio devices and,
10 more particularly, to simplifying signaling used to carry out a change in a serving
High Speed Downlink Shared Channel (HS-DSCH) cell change.

2. Discussion of Related Art

15 The Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) Release 5 (Rel5) introduced a new
HS-DSCH transport channel.

From the 3GPP Release 6 Technical Specification TS 25.308 v6.1.0 (2004-03), it is
set forth in Chapter 9 that mobile evaluated handover mechanisms provide the Radio
20 Resource Control (RRC) connection mobility in a CELL_DCH state (see 3GPP TS
25.331 v6.2.0 (2004-06) Chapter 7.1 for an overview of the RRC states and state
transitions including GSM). The mobility procedures are affected by the fact that the
High Speed Physical downlink shared channel (HS-PDSCH) allocation for a given
user equipment (UE) belongs to only one of the radio links assigned to the UE, the
25 serving *HS-DSCH radio link*. The cell associated with the serving HS-DSCH radio
link is defined as the *serving HS-DSCH cell*.

When conditions for an Active Set Update (ASU) (see 3GPP TS 25.331 v6.2.0 (2004-
06) Release 6, Chapter 8.3.4 Active Set Update) and Serving HS-DSCH cell change
30 (see 3GPP TS 25.308 v6.1.0 (2004-03) Release 6, Chapter 9, Mobility Procedures)
become simultaneously effective, i.e. when the serving HS-DSCH cell operation is to
be moved to the other active set cell and active set of the UE is to be modified (adding
new cell (1A), or replacing existing cell with new one (1B), RRC procedures involved
(Active Set Update (ASU) and Radio Bearer Control) must be performed separately,

one after the other. Depending on scenario either the ASU or Radio Bearer Control procedure is performed first. If the ASU is performed first, the Radio Bearer Control Procedure is delayed introducing performance degeneration to HS-DSCH transmission, which can critical for maintaining the connection, especially when

5 SRBs are mapped on HS-DSCH (required when introducing Fractional DPCH). In other scenario, the Radio Bearer Control procedure containing the necessary HS-DSCH information is needed to be performed first followed by ASU, due to fact that current serving HS-DSCH cell needs to be removed from the UEs AS before RNC is able to add new cell to the AS. This introduces a rather long delay for the ASU,

10 potentially risking the connection. In some cases this delay could not be tolerated and ASU has to be performed first causing a rather long break in HS-DSCH transmission instead.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

15 According to the first aspect of the present invention, a method for execution in network element of a radio communications system comprises deciding to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change for user equipment, and communicating information relating to said serving high-speed dedicated shared

20 channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface between a network element and said user equipment of said radio communication system. The method may further comprise receiving at the network element a measurement report from a user equipment, carrying out said step of deciding by making a decision at the network element to make said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell

25 change and to make an active set update, preparing a radio link at a new cell to operate as a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel radio link, carrying out said step of communicating by sending said active set update message from the network element to the user equipment, said active set update message including information about the high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change, receiving at the radio

30 network controller an active set update complete message from the user equipment, and starting a frame protocol in the radio link of the new cell.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, a network element comprises means for deciding to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell

change for user equipment, and means for communicating information relating to said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface between said network element and said user equipment. The network element may further comprise a receiver for receiving at the
5 radio network controller a measurement report from a user equipment wherein said decider is for making a decision at the network element to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change and to make an active set update; a preparer for preparing a radio link at a new cell to operate as a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel radio link wherein said means for communicating comprises
10 a sender for sending said active set update message from the network element to the user equipment, said active set update message including information about the high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change; said receiver for receiving at the radio network controller an active set update complete message from the user equipment; and a starter for starting a frame protocol in the radio link of the new cell.

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According to a third aspect of the present invention, a method for execution in user equipment comprises receiving an active set update message having information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change, and checking said active set update message for said information for configuring said user
20 equipment to operate with a new high-speed shared channel cell. The method of the third aspect of the invention may further comprise receiving said active set update message from a radio network controller with a radio link addition or removal to or from the active set, or both, wherein said checking comprises checking the active set update message for information about said serving high-speed dedicated shared
25 channel cell change, wherein said configuring comprises configuring said user equipment to operate with said new serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell, adding or removing, or both, a radio link to or from, or both, an active set, and sending an active set update complete message from the user equipment to the radio network controller.

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According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, user equipment comprises means for receiving an active set update message having information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change means for carrying out an active set update in the user equipment in response to the active set update message; and means for sending an active set update complete message. The active set update message may be from a radio network controller with a radio link addition or removal to or from the active set, or both, wherein said means for carrying out said active set update may comprise a checker for checking the active set update message for information about a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell change, a configuration module for configuring the user equipment to operate with a new serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell, and an adder and remover module for adding or removing, or both, a radio link to or from, or both, an active set.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, a method comprises communicating information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface from a network element to user equipment, and communicating information concerning completion of said cell change from said user equipment to said network element over said radio interface.

According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, a system comprises means for communicating information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface from a network element to user equipment, and means for communicating information concerning completion of said cell change from said user equipment to said network element over said radio interface. The system may have a plurality of interconnected radio network controllers, each radio network controller comprising a receiver for receiving at the radio network controller a measurement report from a user equipment a decider for making a decision at the radio network controller to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change and to make an active set update a preparer for

preparing a radio link at a new cell to operate as a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel radio link as well as said means for communicating information in the form of an active set update message from the radio network controller to the user equipment, said active set update message including information about the high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change the receiver for also receiving said information concerning completion of said cell change as an active set update complete message from the user equipment; and a starter for starting a frame protocol in the radio link of the new cell. The system may further comprise plural user equipment, each user equipment comprising a receiver for receiving said active set update message from said radio network controller with a radio link addition or removal to or from the active set, or both, a checker for checking the active set update message for information about a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell change, a configurer for configuring the user equipment to operate with a new serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell, an adder and remover module for adding or removing, or both, a radio link to or from, or both, an active set, and a sender for sending said active set update complete message from the user equipment to the radio network controller.

According to a seventh aspect of the present invention, a device for use in user equipment comprises means for checking an active set update message for information concerning a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change, and means for adding a cell, removing a cell, or both, from an active set used by said user equipment. The device may further comprise means for configuring said user equipment to operate with another serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell.

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According to an eighth aspect of the present invention, a device for use in a network element comprises means for deciding to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change; and means for preparing a cell to operate as said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell.

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According to a ninth aspect of the present invention, a data structure is provided for at least temporary storage in a computer readable medium for use in communicating information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface between a network element and
5 user equipment.

According to a tenth aspect of the present invention, a computer program stored on a computer readable medium is provided for execution of the steps of the first aspect of the present invention.

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According to an eleventh aspect of the present invention, a computer program stored on a computer readable medium is provided for execution of the steps of the third aspect of the present invention.

15 Because the RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message does not contain HS-DSCH related information, which could be utilized for a Serving HS-DSCH cell change, a separate Radio Bearer Control procedure is needed between the UE and the RNC for carrying out the Serving HS-DSCH cell change. Should HS-DSCH related information – applicable to Serving HS-DSCH cell change - be added to the RRC:
20 ACTIVE SET UPDATE message, an unnecessary Radio Bearer Control procedure could be avoided, and the drawbacks of the current method are overcome.

The described functionality will improve the Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure by modifying the existing Active Set Update (ASU) procedure to support
25 it. Therefore, signaling of the separate procedure regarding a Serving HS-DSCH cell change is avoided and a faster procedure is achieved.

Pros (+) and cons(-) of different implementation alternatives are listed below:

30 + Faster ASU, there is no need to perform Serving HS-DSCH cell change before ASU;

- + Less messages to be transferred; and
 - + Smaller transmission break in Serving HS-DSCH cell change or break fully avoided; but
- 5 - Longer ASU message

These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent in light of the detailed description of a best mode embodiment thereof, as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a message sequence regarding a combined Active Set Update and Intra-NodeB serving HS-DSCH cell change, according to the present invention.

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Fig. 2 shows how Figs. 2A, 2B, and 2C fit together to altogether show a combined Active Set Update (ASU) and Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure from the point-of-view of the UE, according to the present invention.

- 20 Fig. 3 shows the functionality in RNC in case of a 1B or 1C event, which removes the serving HS-DSCH cell from the active set, according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 shows the functionality in RNC in case of 1A event, which triggers the serving HS-DSCH cell change to the added cell in the active set, according to the present

25 invention.

Fig. 5 shows a system comprising plural RNCs with an associated Node B and plural UEs, only one of each type being illustrated, according to the present invention.

30 BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

List of Abbreviations (see 3GPP TR 21.905 for a comprehensive list)

3GPP 3rd Generation Partnership Project

Active Set Set of radio links simultaneously involved in a specific communication

- service between a UE and a UTRAN access point
- ASU Active Set Update
- CPICH Common Pilot Channel
- H-RNTI HS-DSCH Radio Network Temporary Identifier
- 5 HSDPA High Speed Downlink Packet Access
- HS-DSCH High Speed Downlink Shared Channel
- HS-PDSCH High Speed Physical Downlink Shared Channel
- HS-SCCH High Speed Shared Control Channel
- Iu Interconnection point between an RNC or a BSC and a 3GPP core
- 10 Network
- Iub Interface between an RNC and a Node B
- Iur A logical interface between two RNCs
- MAC-hs High Speed Medium Access Control
- NBAP Node-B Application Part
- 15 Node B A logical node responsible for radio transmission/reception in one or more cells to/from the User Equipment. Terminates the Iub interface towards the RNC.
- RB Radio Bearer
- RNC Radio Network Controller
- 20 RNTI Radio Network Temporary Identity
- RRC Radio Resource Control
- UE User Equipment
- UTRAN Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network
- 25 As suggested above, 3GPP specifies Active Set Update being independent from Serving HS-DSCH cell change, i.e. HS-DSCH information is not transferred with Active Set Update but with a separate Radio Bearer Control procedure. Should the condition for the Active Set Update become effective simultaneously with the Serving HS-DSCH cell change, two separate RRC-procedures must be performed according to
- 30 the prior art: Active Set Update procedure and Radio Bearer Control procedure. The applicable Radio Bearer Control procedure is either Radio Bearer Reconfiguration, Transport Channel Reconfiguration or Physical Channel Reconfiguration.

According to the present invention, should the combined Active Set Update and Serving HS-DSCH cell change be needed, HS-DSCH information will be transferred with the RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message. Therefore, a separate Radio Bearer Control procedure is not needed, i.e the sending of an RRC: (a) RADIO BEARER RECONFIGURATION message, (b) TRANSPORT CHANNEL RECONFIGURATION message, or (c) PHYSICAL CHANNEL RECONFIGURATION message from the RNC to the UE and corresponding response message RRC: (a) RADIO BEARER RECONFIGURATION COMPLETE, (b) TRANSPORT CHANNEL RECONFIGURATION COMPLETE, or (c) PHYSICAL CHANNEL RECONFIGURATION is avoided.

A typical use case would be the UE sending an RRC: MEASUREMENT REPORT message to the Radio Network Controller (RNC) containing an intra-frequency reporting event 1B: *A primary CPICH leaves the reporting range* or 1C: *A non-active primary CPICH becomes better than an active primary CPICH* (for a detailed description of these events see the reference in the paragraph immediately following below). These reporting events will initiate the Active Set Update procedure and also a Serving HS-DSCH cell change when the radio link in question is the serving HS-DSCH radio link. In these cases, if the RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message contained HS-DSCH information, a separate Radio Bearer Control procedure would not be needed. This will be seen as a faster procedure since the sending of two separate RRC-messages between the UE and the RNC is avoided. According to the invention, a combined Active Set Update and Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure may also be made applicable when the cell is to be added to the active set, that is, when the UE sends reporting event 1A: *A primary CPICH enters the reporting range*.

Reference is made to Chapter 14 (Specific functions) of 3GPP TS 25.331 v6.2.0 (2004-06) (Rel6), particularly Chapter 14.1 (Intra-frequency measurements), where Reporting event 1A (A primary CPICH (common pilot channel) enters the reporting range) is described in Chapter 14.1.2.1, Reporting event 1B (A primary CPICH leaves the reporting range) is described in Chapter 14.1.2.2, and Reporting event 1C (A non-active primary CPICH becomes better than an active primary CPICH) is described in Chapter 14.1.2.3.

According further to the present invention, the following existing information elements will be added to the RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message (see TS 25.331 v6.2.0 (2004-06) (Release 6) Chapter 10.2.1 ACTIVE SET UPDATE) as optional information elements (IEs):

1. MAC-hs reset indicator (TS 25.331 10.3.6.24)
2. Serving HS-DSCH radio link indicator (TS 25.331 10.3.6.27)
3. HS-SCCH info (TS 25.331 10.3.6.36a)
4. New H-RNTI (TS 25.331 10.3.3.14a)
5. HARQ info (TS 25.331 10.3.5.7a).

Assuming the High Speed Synchronization Control Channel (HS-SCCH) and Hybrid automatic-repeat-request (HARQ) configuration are in most cases not cell specific information in the UTRAN, typically only the above IEs 1, 2 and 4 need to be included in the RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message performing the Serving HS-DSCH cell change.

When the RNC decides to delete a cell - which is also the current serving HS-DSCH cell - from the active set and initiate the Active Set Update procedure, the UE performs an Active Set Update and Serving HS-DSCH cell change with the one procedure, according to the present invention.

Accordingly, the RNC sends an RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message to the UE and the UE responds after a successful procedure with an RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE COMPLETE message. The UE will, in addition to the ASU, also update HS-DSCH information of the new cell and perform a Serving HS-DSCH cell change. The invention is applicable both to intra-NodeB and inter-NodeB cases (see TS 25.308 v6.1.0 (2004-03) (Release 6) Chapter 9.1 Mobility Procedures).

Fig. 1 describes a message sequence with the combined ASU and Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure with the numerals on the square blocks 1-6 to the right side of Fig. 1 corresponding to the numbered paragraphs below. The example concerns Intra-NodeB serving HS-DSCH cell change but is not limited thereto.

- 1) UE 10 has an active set including two cells 12, 14 under BTS 16: *Cell1* 12 and *Cell2* 14. The maximum size of the active set is 2 (see reference numeral 17). As indicated at reference numeral 18, UE 10 is in CELL_DCH state having one PS NRT radio bearer mapped onto the HS-DSCH transport channel. *Cell1* 12 is currently the
5 serving HS-DSCH cell.
- 2) UE sends to the RRC in RNC 20: MEASUREMENT REPORT on a line 22 regarding reporting event 1B: *A primary CPICH leaves the reporting range* regarding *Cell1* 12.
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- 3) RNC 20 decides 24 to delete *Cell1* 12 from the active set and to perform 26 a change of the serving HS-DSCH cell from *Cell1* to *Cell2*.
- 4) RNC prepares a radio link at *Cell2* 14 to operate as a serving HS-DSCH radio link
15 by exchanging the signals shown on lines 28, 29 and 30. A synchronized procedure is applied.
- 5) RNC sends RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message on a line 32 to UE 10. Unlike the prior art, the message contains HS-DSCH related information: *Serving HS-DSCH radio link indicator* and *New H-RNTI*. UE deletes *Cell1* from the active set, performs
20 Serving HS-DSCH cell change and acknowledges successful procedure with RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE COMPLETE message on a line 34.
- 6) RNC 20 sends a request on a line 36 to delete radio link at *Cell1* and *Cell1* 12 then
25 acknowledges a successful deletion procedure by a signal on a line 38 back to the RNC.

Figure 2 shows a combined Active Set Update and Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure, according to the present invention, from the point of view of the UE. The
30 procedure is carried out by the functional blocks in the UE responsible for RRC signalling. Illustrations of these functional entities can be found for example for both the UE and RNC at TS 25.331 (Release 6) v6.2.0: Chapter 4.2. RRC layer model, Figure 4.2-1: UE side model of RRC; TS 25.301 (Release 6) v6.0.0: Chapter 5.5.,

Interactions between RRC and lower layers in the C plane, Figure 10: Interactions between RRC and lower layers.

The procedure illustrated in Fig. 2 is applicable both to intra-NodeB and inter-NodeB cases. Radio links may be under control of either a Serving RNC or a Drift RNC.

1. An HS-DSCH transport channel is allocated to the UE. The RNC decides to execute a combined Active Set Update and Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure and sends RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE message to the UE as shown in a step 200. This corresponds to the UE 10 of Fig. 1 receiving the ASU signal on the line 32.
2. An Active Set Update procedure is initiated when the RNC orders a UE in CELL_DCH state to make one of the following modifications to the active set of the connection: Radio link addition 202, Radio link removal 206 or Combined radio link addition and removal 204. These steps 202, 204, 206 can be understood as the UE 10 deciding exactly which type of order has been made by the RNC 20.
3. In the case where the UE decides the RNC has ordered a Radio link addition as shown in a step 202, the UE first adds a radio link to the active set in a step 208. Then the UE proceeds to the Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure as follows:
 - i. In a decision step 210, the UE checks the *Serving HS-DSCH radio link indicator* IE and *New H-RNTI* IE. If they are included, the Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure is executed. As illustrated by a step 212, the UE considers the radio link (RL), determined by the Serving HS-DSCH radio link indicator, as the serving HS-DSCH radio link. As also shown in the step 212, the UE uses the value of the New H-RNTI as the UE identity in the HS-SCCH reception procedure in the physical layer.
 - ii. If *HS-SCCH info* IE and *HARQ info* IE are included, as determined in a decision step 214, the UE receives the HS-SCCH(s) according to the *HS-SCCH channelization code* IE on the serving HS-DSCH radio link applying the scrambling code as received in the *DL Scrambling code* IE. UE also configures the MAC-hs entity with the number of HARQ processes indicated in *Number of Processes* IE and assigns to each of these HARQ processes ID as indicated in a step 216.

- iii. If the *MAC-hs reset indicator* IE is included, as determined in a decision step 218, the UE resets the MAC-hs entity as shown in a step 220. A decision step 222 is next executed to determine if the addition is a combined RL removal and addition (see section 4 below for the reason for this).
- 5 4. In the case where the RNC has ordered "Combined" Radio link addition and removal, as shown being determined by the UE in the step 204, the UE first checks the size of the current active set as shown in a step 226.
- i. If the size of the active set is below the maximum allowed, the UE first adds radio link to the active set as per step 208. Then the UE proceeds to the
10 Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure, which is executed according to the steps described above in sections 3i, 3ii and 3iii as shown in Fig. 2 with the same reference numerals as described previously except using the suffix "a". Finally, after execution of the step 222 wherein a positive determination is made that a combined RL removal and addition was ordered by the RNC, the
15 UE removes the radio link from the AS as shown in a step 224 followed by a step 290 in which the UE notifies the RRC in the RNC that the ASU is completed. If it is determined in the step 222 that a combined RL removal and addition was not ordered, i.e., the RNC has merely ordered (in step 202) a radio link addition, the step 290 is executed directly, without executing step
20 224.
- ii. If the decision step 226 determines that the size of the active set is the maximum allowed, and if the RL, is determined in a step 228 by the *Serving HS-DSCH radio link indicator* IE, is already in the active set, the UE proceeds to the Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure, which is executed
25 according to the above described sections 3i, 3ii and 3iii. Finally UE removes and adds a radio link as shown in steps 224b, 208b and then step 290 is executed.
- iii. As shown in the steps below step 226 in Fig. 2 and to the right of decision step 228, if the size of the active set is the maximum allowed, and if the RL,
30 determined in the step 228 by means of the *Serving HS-DSCH radio link indicator* IE, is not in the active set, UE removes and adds a radio link as shown in steps 224a, 208a. Then the UE proceeds to the Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure, which is executed according similarly to the above

described sections 3i, 3ii and 3iii as shown in the steps 210a, 212a, 214a, 216a, 218a, 220a and 222a.

- 5 5. In the case where the RNC has ordered the Radio link removal as shown being determined by the UE in a step 206, the UE proceeds to the Serving HS-DSCH cell change procedure beginning with a decision step 210c (similar to decision step 210) and then proceeds to execute a series of steps 212c, 214c, 216c, 218c, 270c which are executed in a manner similar to that already described in steps 212, 214, 216, 218, 220 in the sections 3i, 3ii and 3iii and in steps 212a, 214a, 216a, 218a, 220a in the sections 4i, 4ii and 4iii above. Finally, the UE removes the radio link as shown in a step 272.
- 10 6. At the conclusion of whichever one of the three parallel procedures shown in Fig. 2 is executed, the UE sends RRC: ACTIVE SET UPDATE COMPLETE message as shown in the step 290 corresponding to the message signal on the line 34 in Fig. 1.

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Fig. 3 shows the functionality from the point of view of the RNC in case an RRC:MEASUREMENT REPORT message is received on the line 22 of Fig. 1 reporting event 1B or 1C, which leads to removal of the serving HS-DSCH cell from the active set, as shown in a step 302. See 3GPP TR 25-922 v 6.0.1 (2004-04) entitled "Radio Resource Management Strategies" for a description of events 1A, 1B and 1C. Either synchronized or unsynchronized procedures can be used. Radio links may be under control of either the Serving RNC or a Drift RNC.

- Optionally the user plane transmission of the RBs mapped to HS-DSCH is stopped in the Iub frame protocol layer in the current serving HS-DSCH cell to minimize the amount of data in the BTS buffer prior to serving HS-DSCH cell change as shown in a step 304.
- In case of event 1B the serving HS-DSCH cell is changed to the new cell with the RADIO LINK RECONFIGURATION NBAP-procedure as shown in a step 306.
- In case of event 1C, as shown in a step 308, the new RL is setup with the RADIO LINK SETUP/RADIO LINK ADDITION NBAP-procedure. If the new RL in the new radio link set is also the new serving HS-DSCH cell the RADIO LINK SETUP NBAP-procedure is used to setup the new serving HS-DSCH cell. If the new serving HS-DSCH cell is some other RL, the RADIO LINK

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RECONFIGURATION NBAP-procedure is used to setup the new serving HS-DSCH cell.

- RNC sends the ACTIVE SET UPDATE RRC-message on the line 32 shown in Fig. 1 including the new serving HS-DSCH cell related information as shown in a step 310 in Fig. 3.
 - RNC receives the ACTIVE SET UPDATE COMPLETE RRC-message on the line 34 in Fig. 1 from the UE as shown in step 312 in Fig. 3.
 - RNC deletes the removed RL (old serving HS-DSCH cell), with the RADIO LINK DELETION NBAP-procedure as shown in step 314.
 - The user plane transmission of the RBs mapped to HS-DSCH is started in the Iub frame protocol layer in the new serving HS-DSCH cell. Starting could be done for instance according to any one of the following three alternatives:
 - 1) When frame protocol flow control has granted the permission and the L1 synchronization has been indicated to RNC with the NBAP:SYNCHRONIZATION INDICATION message as shown in a step 316.
 - 2) Immediately when frame protocol flow control has granted the permission as shown in a step 318.
 - 3) When frame protocol flow control has granted the permission and the defined period of time has elapsed as shown in a step 320.
- Selection between different methods can be based on information:
- If the new serving HS-DSCH cell is included in the existing Radio Link Set, or it is the new radio link which is setup with NBAP: RADIO LINK SETUP message.
 - If the BTS scheduler is aware of synchronization status of the RL.

The foregoing steps may be carried out in functional blocks in the RNC that are responsible for RRC and NBAP signaling. Illustrations of these functional entities may be found for example for the RNC RRC at TS 25.331 (Release 6) v.6.2.0: Chapter 4.2. RRC layer model, Figure 4.2-2: UTRAN side RRC model (DS-MAP system), Figure 4.2-3: UTRAN side RRC model (DS-41 System) NBAP: TS 25.430 (Release 6) v6.1.0: Chapter Iub Interface Protocol Structure, Figure 7: Iub Interface Protocol Structure. Optionally, the functional block responsible for frame protocol is affected.

Fig. 4 shows the functionality in RNC in case of RRC:MEASUREMENT REPORT message is received indicative of event 1A, which triggers the serving HS-DSCH cell change to the added cell in the active set. Either synchronized or unsynchronized procedures can be used. Radio links may be under control of either Serving RNC or Drifting RNC. The functionality follows the functionality in Fig. 3 with similar steps numbered similarly except using the suffix "a" as in steps 302a, 304a, 308a, 310a, 312a, 314a, 316a, 318a, and 320a, but note that only the MAC-d flow(s) is (are) deleted, the RL is not deleted in the old serving HS-DSCH cell.

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Fig. 5 shows a system which should be understood having a plurality of interconnected radio network controllers with associated Node B 500 and a plurality of user equipment 10, only one of each type being illustrated. The RNC/Node B interface (Iub) applies NBAP signaling protocol and an air-interface (Uu) lies between the NodeB and the UE. Each radio network controller comprises a receiver 502 for receiving at the radio network controller via Node B a measurement report on the line 22 of Fig. 1 from a user equipment and which processes the measurement report in order to put it in appropriate form for presentation to other functional modules within the RNC. Some of the steps carried out by the block 502 may for instance includes steps similar to steps 302, 304 or 302a, 304a of Fig. 3 or Fig. 4, respectively, in whole or in part. A decider 504 is responsive to the measurement report as processed by the receiver 502 for making a decision whether to make a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH) cell change and whether to make an active set update. Such a decider can carry out its decision for instance in conjunction with steps 302, 304 or steps 302a, 304a and/or the steps 24, 26 of Fig. 1. Also included is a preparer 506 for preparing a radio link at a new cell to operate as a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel radio link. Such a preparer may for instance carry out steps 306 or 308 of Fig. 3 or step 308 or of Fig. 4, or those described by the block 4 of Fig. 1. Once the preparer makes the above mentioned preparations it triggers a sender 508 for sending an active set update message 32 from the radio network controller via Node B to the user equipment as in the bloc 5 of Fig. 1, the active set update message including information about the high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell change (see step 310 or 310a of Fig. 3 or 4). Subsequently, the receiver 502 of the RNC 20 receives an active set

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update complete message 34 from the user equipment via Node B which triggers a starter 520 to start a frame protocol in the radio link of the new cell (see step 312 or 312a).

- 5 One of the plural user equipment 10 is also shown in detail. Each user equipment comprises a receiver 530 for receiving an active set update message 32 from a radio network controller 20 via Node B 500 with a radio link addition or removal to or from the active set, or both. See step 200 of Fig. 2A. A checker 532 checks the active set update message for information about a serving high-speed dedicated downlink
- 10 shared channel (HS-DSCH) cell change, if any as shown for instance in steps 202, 204, 206 of Fig. 2. If such is present, a configuration module 534 configures the user equipment to operate with another or a new serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell as detailed for instance in the steps of Fig. 2. Once this is carried out, a module 536 for adding or removing, or both, a radio link to or from, or both, an
- 15 active set, adds a link, removes a link, or does both. Then a sender 538 sends an active set update complete message 34 from the user equipment to the radio network controller via Node B as shown in step 290 of Fig. 2. As mentioned previously, the receiver 502 in the RNC then triggers the starter 520 to start the frame protocol in the radio link of the new cell.
- 20 It should be understood that some or all of the functional blocks shown in the RNC of Fig. 5 will typically be carried out as coded instructions, i.e., a computer program embodied in either a computer readable medium or in an integrated circuit with equivalent dedicated hardware or a combination thereof. For instance, an integrated circuit 550 may be utilized to carry out the functions of the decider 504 and the
- 25 preparer 506 of the RNC 20 of Fig. 5. As such, the integrated circuit 550 may be viewed as means for carrying out the change to the new HS-DSCH cell within the RNC. Similarly, an integrated circuit 510 may be used in the user equipment 10 to carry out the functions of the adder and remover module 536, the configuration module 534 and the checker module 532. Such an integrated circuit 560 may be
- 30 viewed as means for carrying out the change to the new HS-DSCH cell within the UE. It should also be understood that although the Node B and the UE are shown with a

single antenna used by means of a duplexer for both sending and receiving over the air-interface, there could of course be separate sending and receiving antennas.

Although the invention has been shown and described with respect to a best mode embodiment thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the
5 foregoing and various other changes, omissions and additions in the form and detail thereof may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS:

1. Method for execution in a network element (20) of a radio communications system, comprising:
 - deciding (24, 26) to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change for user equipment, and
 - communicating (32) information relating to said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface between a network element and said user equipment of said radio communication system.

2. The method of claim 1, for execution in said network element (10) of said radio communications system, further comprising:
 - receiving (302, 302a) at the network element a measurement report (22) from a user equipment (10),
 - carrying out said step of deciding by making a decision (24, 26) at the network element to make said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change and to make an active set update,
 - preparing a radio link (306, 308, 308a) at a new cell to operate as a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel radio link,
 - carrying out said step of communicating by sending said active set update message (32) from the network element to the user equipment, said active set update message including information about the high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change,
 - receiving at the radio network controller an active set update complete message (34) from the user equipment, and
 - starting a frame protocol (316, 318, 320; 316a, 318a, 320a) in the radio link of the new cell.

3. Network element (20), comprising:
 - means for deciding (504) to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change for user equipment; and
 - means for communicating (508) information relating to said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface between said network element and said user equipment.
4. The network element of claim 3, further comprising:
 - a receiver (502) for receiving at the network element a measurement report from a user equipment wherein said means for deciding (504) is for making a decision at the network element to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change and to make an active set update;
 - a preparer (506) for preparing a radio link at a new cell to operate as a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel radio link wherein said means for communicating comprises a sender (508) for sending said active set update message from the network element to the user equipment, said active set update message including information about the high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change;
 - said receiver for receiving at the network element an active set update complete message (34) from the user equipment; and
 - a starter (520) for starting a frame protocol in the radio link of the new cell.
5. Method for execution in user equipment, comprising:
 - receiving (200) an active set update message (32) having information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change, and

checking (532) said active set update message for said information for configuring said user equipment to operate with a new high-speed shared channel cell.

6. The method of claim 5, for execution in said user equipment (10), further comprising:

receiving (200) said active set update message (32) from a radio network controller (20) with a radio link addition or removal to or from the active set, or both, wherein said checking comprises checking (210, 210a, 210c) the active set update message for information about said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change, wherein said configuring comprises configuring (216, 216a, 216c) said user equipment to operate with said new serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell,

adding (208, 208a, 208b) or removing (224, 224b, 224c), or both, a radio link to or from, or both, an active set, and

sending (290) an active set update complete message (34) from the user equipment to the radio network controller.

7. User equipment, comprising:

means for receiving (530) an active set update message (32) having information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change;

means for carrying out (560) an active set update in the user equipment in response to the active set update message; and

means for sending (538) an active set update complete message (34).

8. The user equipment (10) of claim 7, wherein said active set update message is from a radio network controller with a radio link addition or removal to or from the active set, or both, said means for carrying out said active set update comprises:

a checker (532) for checking the active set update message for information about a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH) cell change;

a configuration module (534) for configuring the user equipment to operate with a new serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell; and

an adder and remover module (536) for adding or removing, or both, a radio link to or from, or both, an active set.

9. Method, comprising:

communicating (32) information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface from a network element (20) to user equipment (10), and

communicating (34) information concerning completion of said cell change from said user equipment to said network element over said radio interface.

10. System, comprising:

means for communicating information relating to a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface from a network element to user equipment; and

means for communicating information concerning completion of said cell change from said user equipment to said network element over said radio interface.

11. The system of claim 10, having a plurality of interconnected radio network controllers (20), each radio network controller comprising:
- a receiver (502) for receiving at the radio network controller a measurement report (22) from a user equipment (10);
 - a decider (504) for making a decision at the radio network controller to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change and to make an active set update;
 - a preparer (506) for preparing a radio link at a new cell to operate as a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel radio link as well as said means for communicating (508) information in the form of an active set update message (32) from the radio network controller to the user equipment, said active set update message including information about the high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change;
 - the receiver for also receiving said information concerning completion of said cell change as an active set update complete message (34) from the user equipment; and
 - a starter (520) for starting a frame protocol in the radio link of the new cell.
12. The system of claim 11, further comprising plural user equipment (10), each user equipment comprising:
- a receiver (530) for receiving said active set update message (32) from said radio network controller with a radio link addition or removal to or from the active set, or both,
 - a checker (532) for checking the active set update message for information about a serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel (HS-DSCH) cell change,
 - a configurer (534) for configuring the user equipment to operate with a new serving high-speed dedicated downlink shared channel cell,

an adder and remover module (536) for adding or removing, or both, a radio link to or from, or both, an active set, and

a sender (538) for sending said active set update complete message from the user equipment to the radio network controller.

13. Device (560) for use in user equipment (10), comprising:

means for checking (532) an active set update message (32) for information concerning a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change; and

means for adding a cell, removing a cell, or both, from an active set used by said user equipment.

14. The device of claim 13, further comprising means for configuring (534) said user equipment to operate with another serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell.

15. (Currently Amended) Device (550) for use in a network element (20), comprising:

means for deciding (504) to make a serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell change; and

means for preparing (506) to communicate that a cell to operate as said serving high-speed dedicated shared channel cell in an active set update message for transmission over a radio interface between said network element and user equipment.

16. Data structure for at least temporary storage in a computer readable medium for use in communicating (32) information relating to a serving high-speed

dedicated shared channel cell change in an active set update message over a radio interface between a network element and user equipment.

17. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium for execution of the steps of claim 1.

18. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium for execution of the steps of claim 5.

19. An integrated circuit for execution of the steps of claim 1.

20. An integrated circuit for execution of the steps of claim 5.