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METHODS, APPARATUS AND SYSTEMS FOR SUPPORTING MOBILE INITIATED CONNECTION ONLY (MICO) WIRELESS TRANSMIT/RECEIVE UNITS (WTRUs)

Abstract

Methods, apparatus and systems for managing a connection state of a Wireless Transmit/Receive Unit (WTRU) that is in Mobile Initiated Communication Only (MICO) mode are disclosed. One representative method may include the WTRU obtaining information indicating that the WTRU is to initiate registration prior to sending a Service Request (SR). The representative method may further include the WTRU sending a registration request in accordance with the obtained information and sending a SR after registering with a Network Entity.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No: 62/502,043 filed on May 5, 2017, the contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.

FIELD

[0002] The disclosure relates to the field of wireless communications and, more particularly, to methods, apparatus and systems for supporting MICO WTRUs (e.g., in 5G).

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] A more detailed understanding may be had from the Detailed Description below, given by way of example in conjunction with drawings appended hereto. Figures in such drawings, like the detailed description, are examples. As such, the Figures and the detailed description are not to be considered limiting, and other equally effective examples are possible and likely. Furthermore, like reference numerals in the Figures indicate like elements, and wherein:

[0004] FIG. 1A is a system diagram illustrating an example communications system in which one or more disclosed embodiments may be implemented;

[0005] FIG. 1B is a system diagram illustrating an example wireless transmit/receive unit (WTRU) that may be used within the communications system illustrated herein in FIG. 1A according to an embodiment;

[0006] FIG. 1C is a system diagram illustrating an example radio access network (RAN) and an example core network (CN) that may be used within the communications system illustrated in FIG. 1A according to an embodiment;

[0007] FIG. 1D is a system diagram illustrating a further example RAN and a further example CN that may be used within the communications system illustrated in FIG. 1A according to an embodiment;

[0008] FIG. 1E is a system diagram illustrating another example radio access network and another example CN that may be used within the communications system illustrated in FIG. 1A;

[0009] FIG. 1F is a system diagram illustrating still another example radio access network and still another example CN that may be used within the communications system illustrated in FIG. 1A;

[0010] FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating a representative MICO WTRU moving to a new serving AMF;

[0011] FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating representative states including a representative RRC_INACTIVE state in a 5G New Radio;

[0012] FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating a representative registration procedure;

[0013] FIG. **5** is a diagram illustrating a representative determination procedure;
[0014] FIG. **6** is a diagram illustrating another representative determination procedure;
[0015] FIG. **7** is a diagram illustrating a representative Service Request (SR) triggered WTRU context retrieval procedure;
[0016] FIG. **8** is a diagram illustrating a Registration/SR procedure;
[0017] FIG. **9** is a diagram illustrating a representative MICO WTRU-initiated Connection release procedure;
[0018] FIG. **10** is a diagram illustrating a representative procedure in which a RAN is made aware of a MICO mode of a WTRU;
[0019] FIG. **11** is a diagram illustrating a representative procedure for a MICO WTRU to accept or reject RAN signaling;
[0020] FIG. **12** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method of facilitating a SR;
[0021] FIG. **13** is a flowchart illustrating another representative method of facilitating a SR;
[0022] FIG. **14** is a flowchart illustrating a further representative method of facilitating a SR;
[0023] FIG. **15** is a flowchart illustrating an additional representative method of facilitating a SR;
[0024] FIG. **16** is a flowchart illustrating yet another representative method of facilitating a SR;
[0025] FIG. **17** is a flowchart illustrating yet a further representative method of facilitating a SR;
[0026] FIG. **18** is a flowchart illustrating yet an additional representative method of accepting or rejecting a connection release;
[0027] FIG. **19** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method to facilitate a registration;
[0028] FIG. **20** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a SR;
[0029] FIG. **21** is a flowchart illustrating another representative method implemented by a NW when a WTRU is in MICO mode;
[0030] FIG. **22** is a flowchart illustrating a further representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a connection request;
[0031] FIG. **23** is a flowchart illustrating an additional representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a SR;
[0032] FIG. **24** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a registration; and
[0033] FIG. **25** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method implemented by a RAN entity to facilitate a SR.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0034] A detailed description of illustrative embodiments may now be described with reference to the figures. However, while the present invention may be described in connection with representative embodiments, it is not limited thereto and it is to be understood that other embodiments may be used or modifications and additions may be made to the described embodiments for performing the same function of the present invention without deviating therefrom.

[0035] Although the representative embodiments are generally shown hereafter using wireless network architectures, any number of different network architectures may be used including networks with wired components and/or wireless components, for example.

[0036] FIG. **1A** is a diagram illustrating an example communications system **100** in which one or more disclosed embodiments may be implemented. The communications system **100** may be a multiple access system that provides content, such as voice, data, video, messaging, broadcast, etc., to multiple wireless users. The communications system **100** may enable multiple wireless users to access such content through the sharing of system resources, including wireless bandwidth. For example, the communications systems **100** may employ one or more channel access methods, such as code division multiple access (CDMA), time division multiple access (TDMA), frequency division multiple access (FDMA), orthogonal FDMA (OFDMA), single-carrier FDMA (SC-

FDMA), zero-tail unique-word DFT-Spread OFDM (ZT UW DTS-s OFDM), unique word OFDM (UW-OFDM), resource block-filtered OFDM, filter bank multicarrier (FBMC) and the like. [0037] As shown in FIG. 1A, the communications system **100** may include wireless transmit/receive units (WTRUs) **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, **102d**, a radio access network (RAN) **103/104/105/113**, a CN **106/107/109/115**, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) **108**, the Internet **110**, and other networks **112**, though it will be appreciated that the disclosed embodiments contemplate any number of WTRUs, base stations, networks, and/or network elements. Each of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, **102d** may be any type of device configured to operate and/or communicate in a wireless environment. By way of example, the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, **102d**, any of which may be referred to as a “station” and/or a “STA”, may be configured to transmit and/or receive wireless signals and may include user equipment (UE), a mobile station, a fixed or mobile subscriber unit, a subscription-based unit, a pager, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a smartphone, a laptop, a netbook, a personal computer, a wireless sensor, a hotspot or Mi-Fi device, an Internet of Things (IoT) device, a watch or other wearable, a head-mounted display (HMD), a vehicle, a drone, a medical device and applications (e.g., remote surgery), an industrial device and applications (e.g., a robot and/or other wireless devices operating in an industrial and/or an automated processing chain contexts), a consumer electronics device, a device operating on commercial and/or industrial wireless networks, and the like. Any of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and **102d** may be interchangeably referred to as a UE.

[0038] The communications systems **100** may also include a base station **114a** and/or a base station **114b**. Each of the base stations **114a**, **114b** may be any type of device configured to wirelessly interface with at least one of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, **102d** to facilitate access to one or more communication networks, such as the CN **106/107/109/115**, the Internet **110**, and/or the other networks **112**. By way of example, the base stations **114a**, **114b** may be a base transceiver station (BTS), a Node-B, an eNode-B, a 5G access point (e.g., a gNB), a Home Node B, a Home eNode-B, a NR Node B, a site controller, an access point (AP), a wireless router, and the like. While the base stations **114a**, **114b** are each depicted as a single element, it will be appreciated that the base stations **114a**, **114b** may include any number of interconnected base stations and/or network elements.

[0039] The base station **114a** may be part of the RAN **103/104/105/113**, which may also include other base stations and/or network elements (not shown), such as a base station controller (BSC), a radio network controller (RNC), relay nodes, etc. The base station **114a** and/or the base station **114b** may be configured to transmit and/or receive wireless signals on one or more carrier frequencies, which may be referred to as a cell (not shown). The cell may further be divided into cell sectors. These frequencies may be in licensed spectrum, unlicensed spectrum, or a combination of licensed and unlicensed spectrum. A cell may provide coverage for a wireless service to a specific geographical area that may be relatively fixed or that may change over time. The cell may further be divided into cell sectors. For example, the cell associated with the base station **114a** may be divided into three sectors. Thus, in one embodiment, the base station **114a** may include three transceivers, e.g., one for each sector of the cell. In an embodiment, the base station **114a** may employ multiple-input multiple output (MIMO) technology and may utilize multiple transceivers for each sector of the cell. For example, beamforming may be used to transmit and/or receive signals in desired spatial directions.

[0040] The base stations **114a**, **114b** may communicate with one or more of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, **102d** over an air interface **115/116/117/119**, which may be any suitable wireless communication link (e.g., radio frequency (RF), microwave, centimeter wave, micrometer wave, infrared (IR), ultraviolet (UV), visible light, etc.). The air interface **115/116/117/119** may be established using any suitable radio access technology (RAT).

[0041] More specifically, as noted above, the communications system **100** may be a multiple access system and may employ one or more channel access schemes, such as CDMA, TDMA, FDMA,

OFDMA, SC-FDMA, and the like. For example, the base station **114a** in the RAN **103/104/105/113** and the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may implement a radio technology such as Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) Terrestrial Radio Access (UTRA), which may establish the air interface **115/116/117/119** using wideband CDMA (WCDMA). WCDMA may include communication protocols such as High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) and/or Evolved HSPA (HSPA+). HSPA may include High-Speed Downlink (DL) Packet Access (HSDPA) and/or High-Speed UL Packet Access (HSUPA).

[0042] In another embodiment, the base station **114a** and the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may implement a radio technology such as Evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA), which may establish the air interface **115/116/117/119** using Long Term Evolution (LTE) and/or LTE-Advanced (LTE-A), LTE-Advanced Pro (LTE-A Pro) and/or 5G New Radio (NR).

[0043] In an embodiment, the base station **114a** and the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may implement a radio technology such as NR Radio Access, which may establish the air interface **119** using NR.

[0044] In an embodiment, the base station **114a** and the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may implement multiple radio access technologies. For example, the base station **114a** and the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may implement LTE radio access and NR radio access together, for instance using dual connectivity (DC) principles. Thus, the air interface utilized by WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may be characterized by multiple types of radio access technologies and/or transmissions sent to/from multiple types of base stations (e.g., an eNB and a gNB).

[0045] In other embodiments, the base station **114a** and the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may implement radio technologies such as IEEE 802.11 (i.e., Wireless Fidelity (WiFi)), IEEE 802.16 (i.e., Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX)), CDMA2000, CDMA2000 1X, CDMA2000 EV-DO, Interim Standard 2000 (IS-2000), Interim Standard 95 (IS-95), Interim Standard 856 (IS-856), Global System for Mobile communications (GSM), Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE), GSM EDGE (GERAN), and the like.

[0046] The base station **114b** in FIG. 1A may be a wireless router, Home Node B, Home eNode-B, or access point, for example, and may utilize any suitable RAT for facilitating wireless connectivity in a localized area, such as a place of business, a home, a vehicle, a campus, an industrial facility, an air corridor (e.g., for use by drones), a roadway, and the like. In one embodiment, the base station **114b** and the WTRUs **102c**, **102d** may implement a radio technology such as IEEE 802.11 to establish a wireless local area network (WLAN). In another embodiment, the base station **114b** and the WTRUs **102c**, **102d** may implement a radio technology such as IEEE 802.15 to establish a wireless personal area network (WPAN). In yet another embodiment, the base station **114b** and the WTRUs **102c**, **102d** may utilize a cellular-based RAT (e.g., WCDMA, CDMA2000, GSM, LTE, LTE-A, LTE-A Pro, NR etc.) to establish a picocell or femtocell. As shown in FIG. 1A, the base station **114b** may have a direct connection to the Internet **110**. Thus, the base station **114b** may not be required to access the Internet **110** via the CN **106/107/109/115**.

[0047] The RAN **103/104/105/113** may be in communication with the CN **106/107/109/115**, which may be any type of network configured to provide voice, data, applications, and/or voice over internet protocol (VoIP) services to one or more of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, **102d**. The data may have varying quality of service (QoS) requirements, such as differing throughput requirements, latency requirements, error tolerance requirements, reliability requirements, data throughput requirements, mobility requirements, and the like. For example, the CN **106/107/109/115** may provide call control, billing services, mobile location-based services, pre-paid calling, Internet connectivity, video distribution, etc., and/or perform high-level security functions, such as user authentication. Although not shown in FIG. 1A, it will be appreciated that the RAN **103/104/105/113** and/or the CN **106/107/109/115** may be in direct or indirect communication with other RANs that employ the same RAT as the RAN **103/104/105/113** or a different RAT. For example, in addition to being connected to the RAN **103/104/105/113**, which may be utilizing an NR or E-UTRA radio technology, the CN **106/107/109/115** may also be in

communication with another RAN (not shown) employing a GSM, UMTS, CDMA 2000, WiMAX, or WiFi radio technology.

[0048] The CN **106/107/109/115** may also serve as a gateway for the WTRUs **102a, 102b, 102c, 102d** to access the PSTN **108**, the Internet **110**, and/or the other networks **112**. The PSTN **108** may include circuit-switched telephone networks that provide plain old telephone service (POTS). The Internet **110** may include a global system of interconnected computer networks and devices that use common communication protocols, such as the transmission control protocol (TCP), user datagram protocol (UDP) and/or the internet protocol (IP) in the TCP/IP internet protocol suite. The networks **112** may include wired and/or wireless communications networks owned and/or operated by other service providers. For example, the networks **112** may include another CN connected to one or more RANs, which may employ the same RAT as the RAN **103/104/105/113** or a different RAT.

[0049] Some or all of the WTRUs **102a, 102b, 102c, 102d** in the communications system **100** may include multi-mode capabilities (e.g., the WTRUs **102a, 102b, 102c, 102d** may include multiple transceivers for communicating with different wireless networks over different wireless links). For example, the WTRU **102c** shown in FIG. 1A may be configured to communicate with the base station **114a**, which may employ a cellular-based radio technology, and with the base station **114b**, which may employ an IEEE 802 radio technology. Some or all of the WTRUs **102a, 102b, 102c, 102d** in the communication system **100** may communicate with other devices using, for example Bluetooth technology.

[0050] FIG. 1B is a system diagram illustrating an example WTRU **102**. As shown in FIG. 1B, the WTRU **102** may include a processor **118**, a transceiver **120**, a transmit/receive element **122**, a speaker/microphone **124**, a keypad **126**, a display/touchpad **128**, non-removable memory **130**, removable memory **132**, a power source **134**, a global positioning system (GPS) chipset **136**, an interference management unit **139** and/or other peripherals **138**, among others. It will be appreciated that the WTRU **102** may include any sub-combination of the foregoing elements while remaining consistent with an embodiment.

[0051] The processor **118** may be a general purpose processor, a special purpose processor, a conventional processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in association with a DSP core, a controller, a microcontroller, Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGAs) circuits, any other type of integrated circuit (IC), a state machine, and the like. The processor **118** may perform signal coding, data processing, power control, input/output processing, and/or any other functionality that enables the WTRU **102** to operate in a wireless environment. The processor **118** may be coupled to the transceiver **120**, which may be coupled to the transmit/receive element **122**. While FIG. 1B depicts the processor **118** and the transceiver **120** as separate components, it will be appreciated that the processor **118** and the transceiver **120** may be integrated together in an electronic package or chip.

[0052] The transmit/receive element **122** may be configured to transmit signals to and/or receive signals from, a base station (e.g., the base station **114a**) over the air interface **115/116/117/119**. For example, in one embodiment, the transmit/receive element **122** may be an antenna configured to transmit and/or receive RF signals. In another embodiment, the transmit/receive element **122** may be an emitter/detector configured to transmit and/or receive IR, UV, or visible light signals, for example. In yet another embodiment, the transmit/receive element **122** may be configured to transmit and/or receive both RF and light signals. It will be appreciated that the transmit/receive element **122** may be configured to transmit and/or receive any combination of wireless signals.

[0053] Although the transmit/receive element **122** is depicted in FIG. 1B as a single element, the WTRU **102** may include any number of transmit/receive elements **122**. More specifically, the WTRU **102** may employ MIMO technology. Thus, in one embodiment, the WTRU **102** may include two or more transmit/receive elements **122** (e.g., multiple antennas) for transmitting and/or receiving wireless signals over the air interface **115/116/117/119**.

[0054] The transceiver **120** may be configured to modulate the signals that are to be transmitted by the transmit/receive element **122** and/or to demodulate the signals that are received by the transmit/receive element **122**. As noted above, the WTRU **102** may have multi-mode capabilities. Thus, the transceiver **120** may include multiple transceivers for enabling the WTRU **102** to communicate via multiple RATs. such as NR, UTRA and/or IEEE 802.11, for example.

[0055] The processor **118** of the WTRU **102** may be coupled to, and may receive user input data from, the speaker/microphone **124**, the keypad **126**, and/or the display/touchpad **128** (e.g., a liquid crystal display (LCD) display unit or organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display unit). The processor **118** may also output user data to the speaker/microphone **124**, the keypad **126**, and/or the display/touchpad **128**. In addition, the processor **118** may access information from, and/or store data in, any type of suitable memory, such as the non-removable memory **130** and/or the removable memory **132**. The non-removable memory **130** may include random-access memory (RAM), read-only memory (ROM), a hard disk, or any other type of memory storage device. The removable memory **132** may include a subscriber identity module (SIM) card, a memory stick, a secure digital (SD) memory card, and the like. In other embodiments, the processor **118** may access information from, and/or store data in, memory that is not physically located on the WTRU **102**, such as on a server or a home computer (not shown).

[0056] The processor **118** may receive power from the power source **134**, and may be configured to distribute and/or control the power to the other components in the WTRU **102**. The power source **134** may be any suitable device for powering the WTRU **102**. For example, the power source **134** may include one or more dry cell batteries (e.g., nickel-cadmium (NiCd), nickel-zinc (NiZn), nickel metal hydride (NiMH), lithium-ion (Li-ion), etc.), solar cells, fuel cells, and the like.

[0057] The processor **118** may be coupled to the GPS chipset **136**, which may be configured to provide location information (e.g., longitude and/or latitude) regarding the current location of the WTRU **102**. In addition to, or in lieu of, the information from the GPS chipset **136**, the WTRU **102** may receive location information over the air interface **115/116/117/119** from a base station (e.g., base stations **114a**, **114b**) and/or may determine its location based on the timing of the signals being received from two or more nearby base stations. It will be appreciated that the WTRU **102** may acquire location information by way of any suitable location-determination method while remaining consistent with an embodiment.

[0058] The processor **118** may be coupled to other peripherals **138**, which may include one or more software and/or hardware modules that provide additional features, functionality and/or wired or wireless connectivity. For example, the peripherals **138** may include an accelerometer, an e-compass, a satellite transceiver, a digital camera (for photographs and/or video), a universal serial bus (USB) port, a vibration device, a television transceiver, a hands free headset, a Bluetooth® module, a frequency modulated (FM) radio unit, a digital music player, a media player, a video game player module, an Internet browser, a Virtual Reality and/or Augmented Reality (VR/AR) device, an activity tracker, and the like. The peripherals **138** may include one or more sensors, the sensors may be one or more of a gyroscope, an accelerometer, a hall effect sensor, a magnetometer, an orientation sensor, a proximity sensor, a temperature sensor, a time sensor; a geolocation sensor; an altimeter, a light sensor, a touch sensor, a magnetometer, a barometer, a gesture sensor, a biometric sensor, and/or a humidity sensor and the like.

[0059] The processor **118** of the WTRU **102** may operatively communicate with various peripherals **138** including, for example, any of: the one or more accelerometers, the one or more gyroscopes, the USB port, other communication interfaces/ports, the display and/or other visual/audio indicators to implement representative embodiments disclosed herein.

[0060] The WTRU **102** may include a full duplex radio for which transmission and reception of some or all of the signals (e.g., associated with particular subframes for both the UL (e.g., for transmission) and downlink (e.g. for reception) may be, for example partially or fully, concurrent and/or simultaneous. The full duplex radio may include an interference management unit **139** to

reduce and/or substantially eliminate self-interference via either hardware (e.g., a choke) or signal processing via a processor (e.g., a separate processor (not shown) or via processor **118**). In an embodiment, the WTRU **102** may include a half-duplex radio for transmission and reception of some or all of the signals (e.g., associated with particular subframes for either the UL (e.g., for transmission) or the downlink (e.g., for reception)).

[0061] FIG. **1C** is a system diagram illustrating the RAN **103** and the CN **106** according to another embodiment. As noted above, the RAN **103** may employ a UTRA radio technology to communicate with the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** over the air interface **115**. The RAN **103** may also be in communication with the CN **106**. As shown in FIG. **1C**, the RAN **103** may include Node-Bs **140a**, **140b**, **140c**, which may each include one or more transceivers for communicating with the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** over the air interface **115**. The Node-Bs **140a**, **140b**, **140c** may each be associated with a particular cell (not shown) within the RAN **103**. The RAN **103** may also include RNCs **142a**, **142b**. It will be appreciated that the RAN **103** may include any number of Node-Bs and RNCs while remaining consistent with an embodiment.

[0062] As shown in FIG. **1C**, the Node-Bs **140a**, **140b** may be in communication with the RNC **142a**. Additionally, the Node-B **140c** may be in communication with the RNC **142b**. The Node-Bs **140a**, **140b**, **140c** may communicate with the respective RNCs **142a**, **142b** via an Iub interface. The RNCs **142a**, **142b** may be in communication with one another via an Iur interface. Each of the RNCs **142a**, **142b** may be configured to control the respective Node-Bs **140a**, **140b**, **140c** to which it is connected. In addition, each of the RNCs **142a**, **142b** may be configured to carry out or support other functionality, such as outer loop power control, load control, admission control, packet scheduling, handover control, macrodiversity, security functions, data encryption, and the like.

[0063] The CN **106** shown in FIG. **1C** may include a media gateway (MGW) **144**, a mobile switching center (MSC) **146**, a serving GPRS support node (SGSN) **148**, and/or a gateway GPRS support node (GGSN) **150**. While each of the foregoing elements are depicted as part of the CN **106**, it will be appreciated that any one of these elements may be owned and/or operated by an entity other than the CN operator.

[0064] The RNC **142a** in the RAN **103** may be connected to the MSC **146** in the CN **106** via an IuCS interface. The MSC **146** may be connected to the MGW **144**. The MSC **146** and the MGW **144** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to circuit-switched networks, such as the PSTN **108**, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and traditional land-line communications devices.

[0065] The RNC **142a** in the RAN **103** may also be connected to the SGSN **148** in the CN **106** via an IuPS interface. The SGSN **148** may be connected to the GGSN **150**. The SGSN **148** and the GGSN **150** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to packet-switched networks, such as the Internet **110**, to facilitate communications between and the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and IP-enabled devices.

[0066] As noted above, the CN **106** may also be connected to the other networks **112**, which may include other wired and/or wireless networks that are owned and/or operated by other service providers.

[0067] FIG. **1D** is a system diagram illustrating the RAN **104** and the CN **107** according to an embodiment. As noted above, the RAN **104** may employ an E-UTRA radio technology to communicate with the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** over the air interface **116**. The RAN **104** may also be in communication with the CN **107**.

[0068] The RAN **104** may include eNode-Bs **160a**, **160b**, **160c**, though it will be appreciated that the RAN **104** may include any number of eNode-Bs while remaining consistent with an embodiment. The eNode-Bs **160a**, **160b**, **160c** may each include one or more transceivers for communicating with the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** over the air interface **116**. In one embodiment, the eNode-Bs **160a**, **160b**, **160c** may implement MIMO technology. Thus, the eNode-B **160a**, for example, may use multiple antennas to transmit wireless signals to, and/or receive wireless signals

from, the WTRU **102a**.

[0069] Each of the eNode-Bs **160a**, **160b**, **160c** may be associated with a particular cell (not shown) and may be configured to handle radio resource management decisions, handover decisions, scheduling of users in the UL and/or DL, and the like. As shown in FIG. **1D**, the eNode-Bs **160a**, **160b**, **160c** may communicate with one another over an X2 interface. The eNode-B may include a full duplex radio similar to that of the WTRU **102** (e.g., with an interference management unit). The CN **107** shown in FIG. **1D** may include a mobility management entity (MME) **162**, a serving gateway (SGW) **164**, and a packet data network (PDN) gateway (or PGW) **166**. While each of the foregoing elements are depicted as part of the CN **107**, it will be appreciated that any of these elements may be owned and/or operated by an entity other than the CN operator.

[0070] The MME **162** may be connected to each of the eNode-Bs **160a**, **160b**, **160c** in the RAN **104** via an S1 interface and may serve as a control node. For example, the MME **162** may be responsible for authenticating users of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, bearer activation/deactivation, selecting a particular serving gateway during an initial attach of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, and the like. The MME **162** may provide a control plane function for switching between the RAN **104** and other RANs (not shown) that employ other radio technologies, such as GSM and/or WCDMA.

[0071] The serving gateway **164** may be connected to each of the eNode-Bs **160a**, **160b**, **160c** in the RAN **104** via the S1 interface. The serving gateway **164** may generally route and forward user data packets to/from the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**. The serving gateway **164** may perform other functions, such as anchoring user planes during inter-eNode-B handovers, triggering paging when DL data is available for the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, managing and storing contexts of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, and the like.

[0072] The serving gateway **164** may be connected to the PDN gateway **166**, which may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to packet-switched networks, such as the Internet **110**, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and IP-enabled devices.

[0073] The CN **107** may facilitate communications with other networks. For example, the CN **107** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to circuit-switched networks, such as the PSTN **108**, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and traditional land-line communications devices. For example, the CN **107** may include, or may communicate with, an IP gateway (e.g., an IP multimedia subsystem (IMS) server) that serves as an interface between the CN **107** and the PSTN **108**. In addition, the CN **107** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to the other networks **112**, which may include other wired and/or wireless networks that are owned and/or operated by other service providers.

[0074] FIG. **1E** is a system diagram illustrating the RAN **105** and the CN **109** according to an embodiment. The RAN **105** may be an access service network (ASN) that employs IEEE 802.16 radio technology to communicate with the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** over the air interface **117**. As will be further discussed below, the communication links between the different functional entities of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, the RAN **105**, and the CN **109** may be defined as reference points.

[0075] As shown in FIG. **1E**, the RAN **105** may include base stations **170a**, **170b**, **170c**, and an ASN gateway **182**, though it will be appreciated that the RAN **105** may include any number of base stations and ASN gateways while remaining consistent with an embodiment. The base stations **170a**, **170b**, **170c** may each be associated with a particular cell (not shown) in the RAN **105** and may each include one or more transceivers for communicating with the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** over the air interface **117**. In one embodiment, the base stations **170a**, **170b**, **170c** may implement MIMO technology. The base station **170a**, for example, may use multiple antennas to transmit wireless signals to, and/or receive wireless signals from, the WTRU **102a**. The base stations **170a**, **170b**, **170c** may also provide mobility management functions, such as handoff triggering, tunnel establishment, radio resource management, traffic classification, quality of service (QOS) policy

enforcement, and the like. The ASN gateway **182** may serve as a traffic aggregation point and may be responsible for paging, caching of subscriber profiles, routing to the CN **109**, and the like. [0076] The air interface **117** between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and the RAN **105** may be defined as an R1 reference point that implements the IEEE 802.16 specification. In addition, each of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may establish a logical interface (not shown) with the CN **109**. The logical interface between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and the CN **109** may be defined as an R2 reference point, which may be used for authentication, authorization, IP host configuration management, and/or mobility management.

[0077] The communication link between each of the base stations **170a**, **170b**, **170c** may be defined as an R8 reference point that includes protocols for facilitating WTRU handovers and the transfer of data between base stations. The communication link between the base stations **170a**, **170b**, **170c** and the ASN gateway **182** may be defined as an R6 reference point. The R6 reference point may include protocols for facilitating mobility management based on mobility events associated with each of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**.

[0078] As shown in FIG. **1E**, the RAN **105** may be connected to the CN **109**. The communication link between the RAN **105** and the CN **109** may be defined as an R3 reference point that includes protocols for facilitating data transfer and mobility management capabilities, for example. The CN **109** may include a mobile IP home agent (MIP-HA) **184**, an authentication, authorization, accounting (AAA) server **186**, and a gateway **188**. While each of the foregoing elements are depicted as part of the CN **109**, it will be appreciated that any of these elements may be owned and/or operated by an entity other than the CN operator.

[0079] The MIP-HA **184** may be responsible for IP address management, and may enable the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** to roam between different ASNs and/or different CNs. The MIP-HA **184** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to packet-switched networks, such as the Internet **110**, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and IP-enabled devices. The AAA server **186** may be responsible for user authentication and for supporting user services. The gateway **188** may facilitate interworking with other networks. For example, the gateway **188** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to circuit-switched networks, such as the PSTN **108**, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and traditional land-line communications devices. The gateway **188** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to the other networks **112**, which may include other wired and/or wireless networks that are owned and/or operated by other service providers.

[0080] Although not shown in FIG. **1E**, it will be appreciated that the RAN **105** may be connected to other ASNs, other RANs (e.g., RANs **103** and/or **104**) and/or the CN **109** may be connected to other CNs (e.g., CN **106** and/or **107**). The communication link between the RAN **105** and the other ASNs may be defined as an R4 reference point, which may include protocols for coordinating the mobility of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** between the RAN **105** and the other ASNs. The communication link between the CN **109** and the other CNs may be defined as an R5 reference, which may include protocols for facilitating interworking between home CNs and visited CNs.

[0081] In representative embodiments, the other network **112** may be a WLAN.

[0082] A WLAN in Infrastructure Basic Service Set (BSS) mode may have an Access Point (AP) for the BSS and one or more stations (STAs) associated with the AP. The AP may have an access or an interface to a Distribution System (DS) or another type of wired/wireless network that carries traffic in to and/or out of the BSS. Traffic to STAs that originates from outside the BSS may arrive through the AP and may be delivered to the STAs. Traffic originating from STAs to destinations outside the BSS may be sent to the AP to be delivered to respective destinations. Traffic between STAs within the BSS may be sent through the AP, for example, where the source STA may send traffic to the AP and the AP may deliver the traffic to the destination STA. The traffic between STAs within a BSS may be considered and/or referred to as peer-to-peer traffic. The peer-to-peer traffic may be sent between (e.g., directly between) the source and destination STAs with a direct

link setup (DLS). In certain representative embodiments, the DLS may use an 802.11e DLS or an 802.11z tunneled DLS (TDLS). A WLAN using an Independent BSS (IBSS) mode may not have an AP, and the STAs (e.g., all of the STAs) within or using the IBSS may communicate directly with each other. The IBSS mode of communication may sometimes be referred to herein as an “ad-hoc” mode of communication.

[0083] When using the 802.11ac infrastructure mode of operation or a similar mode of operations, the AP may transmit a beacon on a fixed channel, such as a primary channel. The primary channel may be a fixed width (e.g., 20 MHz wide bandwidth) or a dynamically set width via signaling. The primary channel may be the operating channel of the BSS and may be used by the STAs to establish a connection with the AP. In certain representative embodiments, Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance (CSMA/CA) may be implemented, for example in 802.11 systems. For CSMA/CA, the STAs (e.g., every STA), including the AP, may sense the primary channel. If the primary channel is sensed/detected and/or determined to be busy by a particular STA, the particular STA may back off. One STA (e.g., only one station) may transmit at any given time in a given BSS.

[0084] High Throughput (HT) STAs may use a 40 MHz. wide channel for communication, for example, via a combination of the primary 20 MHz channel with an adjacent or nonadjacent 20 MHz channel to form a 40 MHz wide channel.

[0085] Very High Throughput (VHT) STAs may support 20 MHz, 40 MHz, 80 MHz, and/or 160 MHz wide channels. The 40 MHz, and/or 80 MHz, channels may be formed by combining contiguous 20 MHz channels. A 160 MHz channel may be formed by combining 8 contiguous 20 MHz channels, or by combining two non-contiguous 80 MHz channels, which may be referred to as an 80+80 configuration. For the 80+80 configuration, the data, after channel encoding, may be passed through a segment parser that may divide the data into two streams. Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT) processing, and time domain processing, may be done on each stream separately. The streams may be mapped on to the two 80 MHz channels, and the data may be transmitted by a transmitting STA. At the receiver of the receiving STA, the above described operation for the 80+80 configuration may be reversed, and the combined data may be sent to the Medium Access Control (MAC).

[0086] Sub 1 GHz modes of operation are supported by 802.11af and 802.11ah. The channel operating bandwidths, and carriers, are reduced in 802.11af and 802.11ah relative to those used in 802.11n, and 802.11ac. 802.11af supports 5 MHz, 10 MHz and 20 MHz bandwidths in the TV White Space (TVWS) spectrum, and 802.11ah supports 1 MHz, 2 MHz, 4 MHz, 8 MHz, and 16 MHz bandwidths using non-TVWS spectrum. According to a representative embodiment, 802.11ah may support Meter Type Control/Machine-Type Communications, such as MTC devices in a macro coverage area. MTC devices may have certain capabilities, for example, limited capabilities including support for (e.g., only support for) certain and/or limited bandwidths. The MTC devices may include a battery with a battery life above a threshold (e.g., to maintain a very long battery life). WLAN systems, which may support multiple channels, and channel bandwidths, such as 802.11n, 802.11ac, 802.11af, and 802.11ah, include a channel which may be designated as the primary channel. The primary channel may have a bandwidth equal to the largest common operating bandwidth supported by all STAs in the BSS. The bandwidth of the primary channel may be set and/or limited by a STA, from among all STAs in operating in a BSS, which supports the smallest bandwidth operating mode. In the example of 802.11ah, the primary channel may be 1 MHz wide for STAs (e.g., MTC type devices) that support (e.g., only support) a 1 MHz mode, even if the AP, and other STAs in the BSS support 2 MHz, 4 MHz, 8 MHz, 16 MHz, and/or other channel bandwidth operating modes. Carrier sensing and/or Network Allocation Vector (NAV) settings may depend on the status of the primary channel. If the primary channel is busy, for example, due to a STA (which supports only a 1 MHz operating mode), transmitting to the AP, the entire available frequency bands may be considered busy even though a majority of the frequency

bands remains idle and may be available.

[0087] In the United States, the available frequency bands, which may be used by 802.11ah, are from 902 MHz to 928 MHz. In Korea, the available frequency bands are from 917.5 MHz to 923.5 MHz. In Japan, the available frequency bands are from 916.5 MHz to 927.5 MHz. The total bandwidth available for 802.11ah is 6 MHz to 26 MHz depending on the country code.

[0088] FIG. 1F is a system diagram illustrating the RAN 113 and the CN 115 according to an embodiment. As noted above, the RAN 113 may employ an NR radio technology to communicate with the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c over the air interface 119. The RAN 113 may also be in communication with the CN 115.

[0089] The RAN 113 may include gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c, though it will be appreciated that the RAN 113 may include any number of gNBs while remaining consistent with an embodiment. The gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may each include one or more transceivers for communicating with the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c over the air interface 119. In one embodiment, the gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may implement MIMO technology. For example, gNBs 180a, 180b may utilize beamforming to transmit signals to and/or receive signals from the gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c. Thus, the gNB 180a, for example, may use multiple antennas to transmit wireless signals to, and/or receive wireless signals from, the WTRU 102a. In an embodiment, the gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may implement carrier aggregation technology. For example, the gNB 180a may transmit multiple component carriers to the WTRU 102a (not shown). A subset of these component carriers may be on unlicensed spectrum while the remaining component carriers may be on licensed spectrum. In an embodiment, the gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may implement Coordinated Multi-Point (CoMP) technology. For example, WTRU 102a may receive coordinated transmissions from gNB 180a and gNB 180b (and/or gNB 180c).

[0090] The WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may communicate with gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c using transmissions associated with a scalable numerology. For example, the OFDM symbol spacing and/or OFDM subcarrier spacing may vary for different transmissions, different cells, and/or different portions of the wireless transmission spectrum. The WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may communicate with gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c using subframe or transmission time intervals (TTIs) of various or scalable lengths (e.g., containing varying number of OFDM symbols and/or lasting varying lengths of absolute time).

[0091] The gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may be configured to communicate with the WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c in a standalone configuration and/or a non-standalone configuration. In the standalone configuration, WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may communicate with gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c without also accessing other RANs (e.g., such as eNode-Bs 160a, 160b, 160c). In the standalone configuration, WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may utilize one or more of gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c as a mobility anchor point. In the standalone configuration, WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may communicate with gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c using signals in an unlicensed band. In a non-standalone configuration WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may communicate with/connect to gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c while also communicating with/connecting to another RAN such as eNode-Bs 160a, 160b, 160c. For example, WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c may implement DC principles to communicate with one or more gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c and one or more eNode-Bs 160a, 160b, 160c substantially simultaneously. In the non-standalone configuration, eNode-Bs 160a, 160b, 160c may serve as a mobility anchor for WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c and gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may provide additional coverage and/or throughput for servicing WTRUs 102a, 102b, 102c.

[0092] Each of the gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may be associated with a particular cell (not shown) and may be configured to handle radio resource management decisions, handover decisions, scheduling of users in the UL and/or DL, support of network slicing, dual connectivity, interworking between NR and E-UTRA, routing of user plane data towards User Plane Function (UPF) 184a, 184b, routing of control plane information towards Access and Mobility Management Function (AMF) 182a, 182b and the like. As shown in FIG. 1F, the gNBs 180a, 180b, 180c may

communicate with one another over an Xn interface.

[0093] The CN **115** shown in FIG. 1F may include at least one AMF **182a**, **182b**, at least one UPF **184a**, **184b**, at least one Session Management Function (SMF) **183a**, **183b**, and possibly a Data Network (DN) **185a**, **185b**. While each of the foregoing elements are depicted as part of the CN **115**, it will be appreciated that any of these elements may be owned and/or operated by an entity other than the CN operator.

[0094] The AMF **182a**, **182b** may be connected to one or more of the gNBs **180a**, **180b**, **180c** in the RAN **113** via an N2 interface and may serve as a control node. For example, the AMF **182a**, **182b** may be responsible for authenticating users of the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**, support for network slicing (e.g., handling of different PDU sessions with different requirements), selecting a particular SMF **183a**, **183b**, management of the registration area, termination of NAS signaling, mobility management, and the like. Network slicing may be used by the AMF **182a**, **182b** in order to customize CN support for WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** based on the types of services being utilized WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c**. For example, different network slices may be established for different use cases such as services relying on ultra-reliable low latency (URLLC) access, services relying on enhanced massive mobile broadband (eMBB) access, services for machine type communication (MTC) access, and/or the like. The AMF **182** may provide a control plane function for switching between the RAN **113** and other RANs (not shown) that employ other radio technologies, such as LTE, LTE-A, LTE-A Pro, and/or non-3GPP access technologies such as WiFi.

[0095] The SMF **183a**, **183b** may be connected to an AMF **182a**, **182b** in the CN **115** via an N11 interface. The SMF **183a**, **183b** may also be connected to a UPF **184a**, **184b** in the CN **115** via an N4 interface. The SMF **183a**, **183b** may select and control the UPF **184a**, **184b** and configure the routing of traffic through the UPF **184a**, **184b**. The SMF **183a**, **183b** may perform other functions, such as managing and allocating WTRU IP address, managing PDU sessions, controlling policy enforcement and QoS, providing downlink data notifications, and the like. A PDU session type may be IP-based, non-IP based, Ethernet-based, and the like.

[0096] The UPF **184a**, **184b** may be connected to one or more of the gNBs **180a**, **180b**, **180c** in the RAN **113** via an N3 interface, which may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to packet-switched networks, such as the Internet **110**, to facilitate communications between the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** and IP-enabled devices. The UPF **184**, **184b** may perform other functions, such as routing and forwarding packets, enforcing user plane policies, supporting multi-homed PDU sessions, handling user plane QoS, buffering downlink packets, providing mobility anchoring, and the like.

[0097] The CN **115** may facilitate communications with other networks. For example, the CN **115** may include, or may communicate with, an IP gateway (e.g., an IP multimedia subsystem (IMS) server) that serves as an interface between the CN **115** and the PSTN **108**. In addition, the CN **115** may provide the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** with access to the other networks **112**, which may include other wired and/or wireless networks that are owned and/or operated by other service providers. In one embodiment, the WTRUs **102a**, **102b**, **102c** may be connected to a local Data Network (DN) **185a**, **185b** through the UPF **184a**, **184b** via the N3 interface to the UPF **184a**, **184b** and an N6 interface between the UPF **184a**, **184b** and the DN **185a**, **185b**.

[0098] Although the RAN **113** is disclosed herein as providing certain operations, it is contemplated that the gNBs **180a**, **180b** and **180c** which are included in the RAN **113** may enable such operations.

[0099] Although the CN **115** is disclosed as providing certain operations, it is contemplated that the AMFs **182a**, **182b**, the SMFs **183a**, **183b** and/or the UPFs **184a**, **184b** which are included in the CN **115** may enable such operations.

[0100] In view of FIGS. 1A-1D, and the corresponding description of FIGS. 1A-1D, one or more, or all, of the functions described herein with regard to one or more of: WTRU **102a-d**, Base Station **114a-b**, eNode-B **160a-c**, MME **162**, SGW **164**, PGW **166**, gNB **180a-c**, AMF **182a-b**, UPF **184a-**

b, SMF **183a-b**, DN **185a-b**, and/or any other device(s) described herein, may be performed by one or more emulation devices (not shown). The emulation devices may be one or more devices configured to emulate one or more, or all, of the functions described herein. For example, the emulation devices may be used to test other devices and/or to simulate network and/or WTRU functions.

[0101] The emulation devices may be designed to implement one or more tests of other devices in a lab environment and/or in an operator network environment. For example, the one or more emulation devices may perform the one or more, or all, functions while being fully or partially implemented and/or deployed as part of a wired and/or wireless communication network in order to test other devices within the communication network. The one or more emulation devices may perform the one or more, or all, functions while being temporarily implemented/deployed as part of a wired and/or wireless communication network. The emulation device may be directly coupled to another device for purposes of testing and/or may performing testing using over-the-air wireless communications.

[0102] The one or more emulation devices may perform the one or more, including all, functions while not being implemented/deployed as part of a wired and/or wireless communication network. For example, the emulation devices may be utilized in a testing scenario in a testing laboratory and/or a non-deployed (e.g., testing) wired and/or wireless communication network in order to implement testing of one or more components. The one or more emulation devices may be test equipment. Direct RF coupling and/or wireless communications via RF circuitry (e.g., which may include one or more antennas) may be used by the emulation devices to transmit and/or receive data.

[0103] Although the WTRU is described in FIGS. **1A-IF** as a wireless terminal, it is contemplated that in certain representative embodiments such a terminal may use (e.g., temporarily or permanently) wired communication interfaces with the communication network.

[0104] In certain representative embodiments, a MICO WTRU **102** may determine whether the MICO WTRU **102** performs a registration update, for example before a SR according to any of: a pre-configured flag, a network (NW) (e.g., NW **113/115**) provided flag and/or other criteria, among others.

[0105] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may include a Temporary User ID (TUID) of the MICO WTRU **102** in a SR which, for example may enable WTRU information retrieval if the serving Access and Mobility Management Function (AMF) does not have a context (e.g., a WTRU context).

[0106] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may read identifiers of serving AMFs (e.g., an AMF **182a**) from broadcast system information and may compare the identifiers to one or more stored TUIDs to determine whether the MICO WTRU **102** has moved to a new AMF (e.g., an AMF **182b**).

[0107] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may indicate a preference to initiate a connection from the MICO WTRU **102** itself and the NW (e.g., NW **113/115**) may refrain from releasing the connection of the MICO WTRU **102** (e.g., if such a preference is accepted).

[0108] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may reject the RAN signaling, for example to place the MICO WTRU **102** into an RRC_INACTIVE mode and the MICO WTRU **102** may remain in CONNECTED mode and/or may go to IDLE mode.

[0109] If the NW (e.g., NW **113/115**) determines, desires or wants to update or is to update configuration parameters for the MICO WTRU **102** (e.g., Network Slice Selection Assistance Information (NSSAI), an extended discontinuous reception (eDRX), and/or a MICO periodic timer, among others), the NW **113/115** may use an SR procedure to trigger the MICO WTRU **102** to perform a registration procedure.

Representative MICO Mode

[0110] A “Mobile Originated Only” (MOO) function/procedure and/or feature may be a service

requirement for Machine Type Communication (MTC). For example, the NW (e.g., NW **113/115**) may reduce frequency of mobility management procedures for MOO devices. A Power Saving Mode (PSM) feature may address MOO for infrequent Mobile Terminated service requirements. The PSM mode may be similar to power-off, with the WTRU **102** remaining registered. The WTRU **102** may exit (e.g., may only exit) PSM mode when the WTRU **102** has Mobile Originated (MO) data and/or signaling. The WTRU **102** may not be reachable when the WTRU **102** is in PSM mode.

[0111] A MICO mode WTRU **102** may not be reachable (e.g., may always not be reachable) while in CM-IDLE. The core NW (CN) **115** may reject any request for downlink data or signaling delivery for a MICO WTRU **102** that is in IDLE mode. The WTRU **102** in MICO mode may be reachable (e.g., may be only reachable) for mobile terminated data and/or signaling when the MICO WTRU **102** is in CM-CONNECTED mode. A MICO WTRU **102** may initiate a CM-IDLE mode to CM-CONNECTED mode switch procedure due to any of the following triggers: (1) a change in the MICO WTRU **102** (e.g., a change in its configuration), for example that may require and/or cause an update to the MICO WTRU registration with the NW **113/115**; (2) a registration timer (e.g., a periodic registration timer) that may expire; (3) MO data that may be pending; and/or (4) MO signaling that may be pending (e.g., a SM procedure that may be initiated), among others.

[0112] The MICO WTRU **102** may negotiate with the NW **113/115** as to whether the MICO WTRU **102** may enter the MICO mode. The WTRU **102** may indicate a preference for the MICO mode during an initial registration and/or a registration update. The AMF **182a** may determine whether the MICO mode is allowed for the WTRU **102** based on: (1) a local configuration, (2) WTRU subscription information, (3) WTRU indicated preferences; and/or (4) NW policies. The AMF **182a** may indicate the determination to the WTRU (e.g., the MICO WTRU determination) **102** during the registration procedure.

[0113] A “Mobile Deregistration at the End of Communication” function/procedure and/or feature, by which the WTRU **102** may perform deregistration at the end of communication without additional NAS signaling may be implemented. The WTRU **102** may indicate a preference for Deregistration At the End of Communication (DAEC) during a registration procedure. The AMF **182a** may determine whether the DAEC is supported for the WTRU, and may indicate the support for DAEC during the registration signaling. When the AMF **182a** applies the DAEC to the WTRU **102**, the AMF **182a** may consider that the WTRU **102** may enter RM-DEREGISTERED at the release of an N2 connection for the WTRU **102**, and that the WTRU **102** may move to RM-DEREGISTERED when leaving the CM-CONNECTED mode. This type of WTRU **102** may share a common characteristic with the MICO WTRU **102** in that both may be unreachable except in CONNECTED mode.

[0114] Although a MICO WTRU **102** is described hereinafter, various representative embodiments herein are equally applicable to other type of WTRUs **102** including a DAEC WTRU **102** and other mobile WTRUs **102**.

[0115] In certain representative embodiments, representative procedures may be implemented, for example to enable a MICO WTRU **102** to be recognized in a serving AMF **182**.

[0116] FIG. **2** is a diagram illustrating a representative MICO WTRU **102** moving to a new serving AMF **182b**.

[0117] Referring to FIG. **2**, in representative network **200**, a WTRU **102** may be located in a first registration area **210** including a first plurality of tracking areas TA1-TA4 and may be served by a first AMF **182a**. The WTRU **102** may move to a second serving area **220** including a second plurality of tracking areas TA5-TA8 that may be served by a second AMF **182b**. The WTRU **102** (e.g., a typical WTRU or non-MICO WTRU) may be assigned the first registration area **210** from which the WTRU is being served and may perform a registration area update when the WTRU **102** leaves the configured registration area (e.g., the first registration area **210**). The NW **113/115** may limit the paging area to the registration area **210** or **220** of the WTRU **102**. MICO WTRUs **102** are

not supposed to and/or do not receive paging in IDLE mode and a normal registration area configuration may not be used for the MICO WTRUs **102**. A WTRU **102** in a MICO mode (hereafter sometimes referred to as a MICO WTRU) may be assigned an “all PLMN” registration area such that the MICO WTRU **102** may not perform registration area updates (e.g., except for periodic registration update) when the MICO WTRU **102** remains in the same registered PLMN. The MICO WTRU **102** may move into a new area which is not served by the first AMF **182a** that the MICO WTRU **102** previously registered with. For example, a new AMF (e.g., the second AMF **182b**) may be selected to serve the MICO WTRU **102** when the MICO WTRU **102** is to initiate a connection (e.g. with a SR message and/or a periodic registration update). The new AMF (e.g., the second AMF **182b**) may reject the SR or the periodic registration update (e.g., because the new AMF **182b** may not recognize the MICO WTRU **102**), which may trigger the MICO WTRU **102** to register again.

[0118] For example, first, the MICO WTRU **102** may be registered with the old serving AMF **182a** using a WTRU context via a gNB **180a**. Then, the MICO WTRU **102** may move to a new area without registration. Next, the MICO WTRU **102** may send a SR to a new serving AMF **182b** via a new gNB **180c**. Last the AMF may send a service reject to the MICO WTRU **102** via the gNB **180c**. for example because the AMF **182b** does not recognize the MICO WTRU **102**.

[0119] If this scenario happens frequently (e.g., more frequently, for example, above a threshold level), the “service-reject-then-re-register” approach may significantly delay the mobile initiated communication and may imposes extra signaling overhead to the NW **113/115**.

[0120] For example, registration may be performed by the MICO WTRU **102** before an SR, for example to avoid a Service Reject, and to avoid extra signaling overhead. The MICO WTRU **102** may be provided, by the NW **113/115**, a Within Serving AMF (WSA) area, which may be a list of Tracking Areas, and, for example, may enable the MICO WTRU **102** to determine whether the MICO WTRU **102** is within (e.g., still within) the serving area of the registered AMF **182a**. When (e.g., only when) the MICO WTRU **102** determines that the MICO WTRU **102** is outside of the serving area of the registered AMF **182a**. the MICO WTRU **102** may initiate the registration procedure before any originated communication.

Representative Procedures to Keep a MICO WTRU in CONNECTED Mode

[0121] In general, a RAN **113** (e.g., including one or more gNBs **180**) may initiate a connection release according to one or more conditions such as inactivity (e.g., user inactivity) and/or radio communication failure. For example, the RAN **113** may maintain an inactivity timer for the WTRU **102** and when no data activity is detected before the timer expires, the RAN **113** may initiate the connection release. For the MICO mode, the WTRU **102** is only reachable in the CONNECTED mode. If the connection is released prematurely and data is still pending, there may be no way to bring the MICO WTRU **102** back to CONNECTED mode until the next time the MICO WTRU **102** initiates a connection. In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** in the MICO mode may make connection release decisions. In other representative embodiments, the NW **113/115** may maintain the MICO WTRU **102** in CONNECTED mode longer. under certain criteria (e.g., when the NW **113/115** determines a longer connection is appropriate and/or necessary).

[0122] The AMF **182a** may maintain a connection timer for the MICO WTRU **102**. When the RAN **113** inactivity timer expires, the RAN **113** may request an N2 connection (e.g., a signaling connection between the RAN **113** and the AMF **182a**) release. If the AMF **182a** determines that the MICO WTRU connection is not to be released according to its own connection timer, the AMF **182a** may reject the release request of the RAN **113** and the RAN **113** may maintain the MICO WTRU **102** in CONNECTED mode. In certain representative embodiments, a procedure may be implemented to make the AMF **182a** aware of WTRU data activities, for example to enable the AMF **182a** to maintain a connection timer and/or inactivity timer. In certain representative embodiments, a procedure may be implemented to prevent the RAN **113** from initiating a RRC connection release when the RAN **113** requests to release the N2 connection, for example by the

AMF **182a** by providing the RAN **113** with WTRU-specific inactivity information (e.g., timer information).

Representative Procedures to Prevent MICO WTRU From Entering RRC Inactive Mode

[0123] FIG. **3** is a diagram illustrating representative states including a representative RRC_INACTIVE state (e.g., a New RRC_INACTIVE state) in a 5G New Radio (e.g., for a WTRU **102**).

[0124] Referring to FIG. **3**, in a RAN **113** (e.g., a 5G RAN), RRC states **300** may include any of: (1) an RRC_CONNECTED state **310**; (2) an RRC_INACTIVE state **320**; and/or (3) an RRC_IDLE state **330**, among others. For WTRUs **102** in an INACTIVE state **320**, the Core Network-Access Network (CN-AN) connection may be maintained as in the CONNECTED state **310**. The CN-AN connection may be between the (RAN) and the CN and may have both control plane (CP) (for example, an N2 interface in 5G for signaling) and user plane (UP) (for example, an N3 interface in 5G for data) connections. The WTRU **102** in the INACTIVE state **320** may behave more like a WTRU in an IDLE mode. For example, the WTRU **102** in the INACTIVE state **320** may follow a cell selection/reselection procedure when the WTRU **102** changes cells. The CN **115** may not be aware of the INACTIVE state **320** of the WTRU **102** and may continue to consider the WTRU **102** to be in CONNECTED state **310**, so CN paging may not be performed towards the INACTIVE WTRU **102**. Procedures may be implemented to determine by the CN **115** that the WTRU **102** is in an INACTIVE state **320** and not in a CONNECTED state **310**, for example to enable proper paging of MICO WTRUs **102**. As an example, when downlink (DL) data is received from the CN **115**, an anchor RAN **113** may initiate paging and may manage a RAN paging area for the INACTIVE WTRU **102**. In certain representative embodiments, conditions may be set forth that trigger a state switch between the RRC_INACTIVE state **320** and one of the two other states **310** or **330**.

[0125] The benefit of having an INACTIVE state **320** may include power saving and reduced signaling overhead (for example brought by the frequent RRC_IDLE<>RRC_CONNECTED switch). For MICO WTRUs **102**, both the power saving and signal reduction benefit may not be useful and/or needed, and putting a MICO WTRU **102** in an RRC_INACTIVE mode/state **320** may incur potential technical complexities. As such, in certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may be prevented from entering the RRC_INACTIVE state **320**.

Representative Procedures Having Long Periodic Timer (e.g., to Prevent the WTRU From Performing Registration Update)

[0126] When a WTRU **102** informs the NW **113/115** of certain configuration modifications or negotiates certain parameters, the WTRU **102** may trigger certain registration update procedures such as a Routing Area Update (RAU) and/or a Tracking Area Update (TAU). The registration update may be done, for example for the WTRU **102** to inform the NW **113/115** of some internal changes including any of: (1) a DRX Cycle, and/or (2) certain capability parameters, among others. When the WTRU **102** triggers the RAU procedure and/or the TAU procedure, the NW **113/115** may reply with an “Accept” message. The “handshake” may work as a negotiation between the two entities.

[0127] It is contemplated that for 5G systems, there may be scenarios/situations where the WTRU **102** (e.g., a MICO WTRU) may not have a chance to start a registration update procedure, (for example, when the WTRU **102** has a long periodic registration timer). During an IDLE mode **330**, if a periodic registration timer is running (since the WTRU **102** may only send registration update message when the periodic timer expires), the WTRU **102** may send a SR message. The periodic registration timer may be reset when the WTRU **102** goes back to the IDLE mode **330**. The same situation may occur while the periodic timer is running. The WTRU **102** may not be able to perform the registration procedure for a long time. In certain representative embodiments, procedures may be implemented for the WTRU **102** to negotiate with the NW **113/115** in case of some internal configuration changes, and/or for any other reason.

Representative Procedures for MICO WTRUs With “All PLMN” Registration Area

[0128] When a MICO WTRU **102**, which is configured with an “all PLMN” registration area, moves to a new area that is outside of the serving area (e.g., scope) of its registered AMF **182a**, the MO connection request (e.g. SR) may be rejected by the new serving AMF **182b** and the WTRU **102** may have to re-register with the new AMF **182b** before the WTRU **102** can communicate. If the MICO WTRU **102** always performs re-registration preventively before SR, for example to avoid potential service rejections, signaling may be wasted when the WTRU **102** is still in the serving area **210** of the registered AMF **182a**. In certain representative embodiments, procedures may be implemented, for example to ensure that unnecessary re-registration does not take place often.

[0129] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may receive an indication from a NW entity (e.g., of the NW **113/115**) that the MICO WTRU **102** should (e.g., should always) or is to perform a registration procedure before a connection request. The indication may be sent in the same Registration Accept message that confirms an MICO mode for the WTRU **102**. The NW **113/115** may choose to set the indication when the NW **113/115** configures the “all PLMN” registration area for the MICO WTRU **102**. Any of the following may be taken into consideration for setting the indication including: [0130] (1) if the profile of the WTRU **102** indicates that the communication of the WTRU **102** (communication needs and/or uses of the WTRU **102**) may be or is infrequent (e.g., very infrequent or below a threshold level), the NW **113/115** and/or a NW entity **180, 182-184** may choose to set and/or may set the indication. Even though the re-registration procedure before connection request sometimes may not be necessary and/or appropriate, the re-registration procedure may be tolerated (for example, because the re-registration procedure may not or does not happen often (e.g., above a threshold level)). In certain representative embodiments, the profile of the WTRU **102** may indicate that the WTRU's communication needs may be frequent and the NW **113/115** (e.g., a NW entity **180, 182-185**) should not or is not to set the indication. [0131] (2) if the “mobility pattern” of the WTRU **102** indicates that the WTRU **102** moves frequently and a roaming range of the WTRU **102** is beyond a serving area **210** of the AMF **182a** (e.g., which may mean that the WTRU **102** is likely (e.g., more likely), for example above a threshold rate, to be out of the serving area **210** of the AMF **182a**), the NW **113/115** and/or a NW entity **180, 182, 183, 184** and/or **185** may set (e.g., choose to set) the indication. If the mobility pattern of the WTRU **102** indicates that the WTRU **102** is stationary, substantially stationary and/or roams (e.g., only roams) in an area (e.g., a limited area), the NW **113/115** and/or a NW entity **180, 182, 183, 184** and/or **185** may not set the indication.

[0132] FIG. **4** is a diagram illustrating a representative registration procedure **400** in which the NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182a** or another NW entity **182-185**) may provide “always register before service request” (always RBSR) indication to the WTRU **102**.

[0133] Referring to FIG. **4**, at **410** a WTRU **102** may send a registration request including information indicating a MICO mode preference to an AMF **182a**. At **420**, the AMF **182a** may check the WTRU profile, mobility patterns and other information regarding the WTRU **102**. At **430**, the AMF **182a** may send a registration accept including information indicating that a MICO mode accepted and the always RBSR indication to the WTRU **102**. In certain representative embodiments, the always RBSR indication may be pre-configured, for example in the MICO WTRU **102**. The WTRU **102** may include the pre-configured indication, together with a MICO mode preference, during the registration procedure.

[0134] If a WTRU **102** is in the MICO mode and this always RBSR indication is set, for example by signaling from the NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182** and/or other NW entity **183-185**) and/or via a pre-configuration, the WTRU **102** may check the following criteria to determine whether the WTRU **102** may or is to perform the RBSR (e.g., the always RBSR).

[0135] The NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182**) and/or the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** has been configured with an “all PLMN” registration area. If the NW **113/115** and/or the WTRU **102** determines that the WTRU **102** has not been configured with the “all PLMN”

registration area, the WTRU **102** may not perform (e.g., may not necessarily perform) the RBSR (e.g., always RBSR). For example, the WTRU **102** may not send a registration request with an MICO preference and/or the AMF **182** executing a check of the profile of the WTRU **102** may not send a registration accept that includes an indication that: (1) the MICO mode is accepted; and/or (2) an always RBSR indication.

[0136] The WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** has moved out (e.g., really moved out) of its Tracking Area (TA) (e.g., that the WTRU **102** has moved (e.g., just moved) from a previous TA to a new TA). The WTRU **102** may read the TA identifier of the current TA when the WTRU **102** wakes up for mobile originated service, and may compare the current TA identifier (e.g., which was read) to the stored TA identifier. If the current TA identifier and the stored TA identifier are the same, the WTRU **102** may not have moved out of the TA from which the WTRU **102** previously registered with the NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182** or other NW entity **183-185**). The WTRU **102** may not perform registration again, for example because the WTRU **102** is still within the service area of the previously registered AMF **182**.

[0137] If the WTRU **102** has determined that the WTRU **102** may or is to perform a Registration update procedure before a SR, the WTRU **102** may initiate the Registration with a flag (e.g., an “Active Flag”) that may indicate that data is or may be pending after the Registration procedure. In this case, the following SR message may not be sent.

[0138] FIG. **5** is a diagram illustrating a representative determination procedure **500** (e.g., for the MICO WTRU **102** to determine (e.g., to decide) whether registration should, may or is to be performed before a SR).

[0139] Referring to FIG. **5**, the representative determination procedure **500** may include, at block **510**, in the WTRU **102**, a connection request being received from an upper layer. At block **520**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether a SR is desired and/or need to be sent to the NW **113/115** based on the connection request. If a SR is not desired and/or need to be sent to the NW **113/115**, at block **530**, the WTRU **102** may send one or more periodic registration updates. If a SR is desired and/or need to be sent to the NW **113/115**, at block **540**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether a MICO mode is set. If the MICO mode is not set, processing moves to block **585** to send the SR. If the MICO mode is set, at block **550**, the WTRU **102** may determine that an “all PLMN” registration area is set. If the “all PLMN” registration area is not set, processing moves to block **585** to send the SR. If the “all PLMN” registration area is set, at block **560**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether an “always-register” indication is set. If the always-register indication is not set at block **560**, processing moves to block **585** to send the SR. If the always-register indication is set, at block **565**, the Tracking Area ID may be read (e.g., the most up to date Tracking Area ID may be read). At block **570**, the WTRU **102** may compare the latest Tracking Area ID with the stored tracking area IDs to determine if a match exists. If a match exists at block **570**, processing moves to block **585** to send the SR (e.g., without any prior registration update) (as the WTRU **102** is still within a tracking area that the NW **113/115** may associate with the WTRU **102**). If a match does not exist, at block **575**, the WTRU **102** may store the latest tracking area. At block **580**, the WTRU **102** may register the WTRU **102** with the NW **113/115** (as the WTRU **102** is no longer within a tracking area that the NW **113/115** associates with the WTRU **102** such that a service reject can occur). At block **585**, the WTRU **102** may send the SR to the NW **113/115**.

[0140] FIG. **6** is a diagram illustrating another representative determination procedure to determine whether registration should, may or is to be performed before a SR.

[0141] Referring to FIG. **6**, the representative determination procedure **600** may include, at block **610**, in the WTRU **102**, a connection request being received from an upper layer. At block **620**, the WTRU **102** may determine that a SR is desired and/or need to be sent to the NW **113/115** based on the connection request. At block **630**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether a MICO mode is set. If the MICO mode is set, at block **640**, the WTRU **102** may determine that an “all PLMN” registration area is set. If the MICO mode is not set, processing may move to block **690** to send a

SR to the NW **113/115** (e.g., without any prior registration update). If the “all PLMN” registration area is set, at block **650**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether an “always-register” indication is set. If the all PLMN” registration area is not set, processing may move to **660** to receive a Tracking Area ID from broadcast system information and/or a mobile originated operation. If the always-register” indication is not set, processing may move to block **690** to send a SR to the NW **113/115** (e.g., without any prior registration update). If the always-register” indication is set or processing has moved from block **640** to block **660**, the Tracking Area ID is received and/or read from broadcast system information and/or a mobile originated operation. At block **670**, the WTRU **102** may compare the received/read Tracking Area ID with one or more stored Tracking Area IDs to determine if a match exists. If a match exists, at block **670**, processing moves to block **690** to send the SR (e.g., without any prior registration update) (as the WTRU **102** is still within a tracking area that the NW **113/115** associates with the WTRU **102**). If a match does not exist, at block **680**, the WTRU may store the received Tracking Area ID. At block **685**, the WTRU **102** may register the WTRU **102** with the NW **113/115** (as the WTRU **102** may no longer be within a Tracking Area that the NW **113/115** can associate with the WTRU **102** such that a Service Reject can occur). At block **690**, the WTRU **102** may send the SR to the NW **113/115**.

[0142] Although the determination of whether the WTRU is in a registration area is disclosed to be based on Tracking Area Identifiers (TA IDs), one of skill in the art understands that it may be based on AMF IDs, in addition to or in lieu of TA IDs. For example, a received AMF Identifier (ID) may be matched to one or more stored AMF IDs to provide a similar registration area determination.

[0143] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may include a MICO mode indication and/or a TUID of the MICO WTRU **102** in the SR message. In other representative embodiments, the TUID being included in the SR may imply the MICO mode indication (e.g., a MICO mode preference) at the same time. In legacy WTRUs **102**, triggering of the SR procedure is based on the whether the WTRU **102** is “registered” in the TA (e.g., on a TA list). The legacy WTRUs **102** do not provide any “area information” to the CN **115** when starting the SR procedure.

[0144] In certain representative embodiment, the WTRU **102** may or is to add a previous TA Identifier of the WTRU **102** to the SR message. The AMF **182a** from the added previous TA Identifier may identify (e.g., uniquely identify) the WTRU **102**, in case the WTRU **102** was allocated a TUID by the same AMF **182a**. If the serving AMF **182b** is a new AMF (e.g., the serving AMF **182b** did not previously serve the WTRU **102**) and/or the serving AMF **182b** may not have a context of the WTRU **102**, the new AMF **182b** may not reject the SR, if the new AMF **182b** receives: (1) the MICO indication, (2) the TUID and/or (3) the TA Identifier of where the WTRU **102** was allocated the TUID.

[0145] The new AMF **182b** may map the information (e.g., all of the information) to an address of the old AMF **182a** and may retrieve the WTRU context from the old AMF **182a**, which may be derived from the TUID. The new AMF **182b** may re-allocate a new TUID for the WTRU **102** after the SR procedure is handled.

[0146] FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating a representative SR triggered WTRU context retrieval procedure from an old AMF **182a** (e.g., from an AMF that previously served the WTRU **102**).

[0147] Referring to FIG. 7, the SR triggered WTRU context retrieval procedure **700** may include, at **720**, that the WTRU **102** sends toward a new AMF **182b** that serves the WTRU **102**, an SR including, for example, a MICO mode indication (e.g., a MICO preference) and/or a TUID. At **730**, the RAN **113** (e.g., a gNB **180**) may forward the information from the SR via an N2 message to the new AMF **182b**. At **740**, the new AMF **182b** may send an Information Request including the TUID of the WTRU **102** to the old AMF **182a**. At **750**, the old AMF **182a** may send an Information Response including, for example, a Subscriber Permanent Identification (SUPI) (which may be similar to an IMSI) and/or a Mobility Management (MM) context (e.g., a collection of information related to UE's mobility management). At **760**, an authentication/security operation may be performed between the WTRU **102** and the new AMF **182b** and between the new AMF **182b** and

an Authentication Server Function (AUSF) **710** (e.g., the network function that may handle WTRU authentication).

[0148] At **770**, the new AMF **182b** may send an N2 message to the RAN **113**. The N2 message may include information to be sent via the RAN **113** to the WTRU **102** to enable a RRC Connection Reconfiguration. At **780**, the RAN **113** may, based on the N2 message, send a RRC Connection Reconfiguration to the WTRU **102**. At **790**, the new AMF **182b** may send a WTRU configuration including a new TUID toward the WTRU **102** via the RAN **113**. At **795**, the RAN **113** may forward the WTRU Configuration to the WTRU **102**.

[0149] In certain representative embodiments, the RAN **113** in the NW **113/115** may broadcast a list of identifiers of the AMFs **182** whose serving area covers the RAN **113**. The whole or part of the identifier of the AMF **182** may be broadcasted. If an AMF identifier appears in the broadcast information of the RAN **113**, the RAN **113** is within the serving area of the AMF **182**.

[0150] When a MICO WTRU **102** has a pending SR, the MICO WTRU **102** may read (e.g., may first read) the AMF identifiers from the RAN broadcasted information and may compare these AMF identifiers to the AMF ID section of the stored TUID. The AMF ID in the TUID is associated with the AMF **182**, with which the WTRU **102** has registered, if the same AMF ID appears in the broadcast information of the current RAN and the WTRU **102** is within (e.g., still within) the serving area of the last registered AMF **182**. In this case, the WTRU **102** may send an SR, for example, immediately (e.g., right away). In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may initiate a registration procedure prior to or before sending the SR (e.g., first initiate a registration procedure and then send an SR, for example only sending the SR after the registration of the WTRU **102**).

[0151] FIG. **8** is a diagram illustrating a Registration/SR procedure.

[0152] Referring the FIG. **8**, the Registration/SR procedure **800** may include, at block **810**, in the WTRU **102**, a connection request being received from an upper layer. At block **820**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether a SR is desired and/or need to be sent to the NW **113/115** based on the connection request. If an SR is not desired and/or need to be sent to the NW **113/115**, at block **830**, the WTRU **102** may send one or more periodic registration updates. If the SR is desired and/or need to be sent to the NW **113/115**, at block **840**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether a MICO mode is set. If the MICO mode is not set, processing may move to block **890** to send the SR. If the MICO mode is set, at block **850**, the WTRU **102** may determine that an “all PLMN” registration area is set. If the “all PLMN” registration area is not set, processing may move to block **890** to send the SR. If the “all PLMN” registration area is set, at block **860**, the WTRU **102** may read the AMF IDs from broadcast system information. At block **870**, the WTRU **102** may compare the read AMF ID associated with the TUID with the AMF IDs from the broadcast system information (e.g., in the list of AMF IDs) to determine whether the AMF ID associated with the TUID of the WTRU **102** is in the list.

[0153] If the AMF ID of the AMF **182** associated the TUID of the WTRU is in the list at block **870**, processing may move to block **890** to send the SR (e.g., without any prior registration update) (as the WTRU **102** is still served by one of the AMFs **182**, for example broadcast in the system information. If the AMF ID associated with the TUID of the WTRU **102** is not in the list, at block **880**, the WTRU **102** may register the WTRU **102** with the NW **113/115** (as the WTRU **102** may no longer be served by a AMF **182** corresponding to a AMF ID on the list such that a service reject can occur). At block **890**, the WTRU **102** may send the SR to the NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182**).

[0154] For example, the WTRU **102** may determine if the WTRU **102** is within the AMF's service area **210** or **220** by reading AMF IDs in the System Information (SI).

[0155] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may start or restart a timer after a registration (e.g., each registration, for example including periodic registration updates). The length of the timer may indicate the period of time since a last registration (e.g., during which period, the WTRU **102** is likely to be within (e.g., still be within) the service area **210** or **220** of the

registered AMF **182a** or **182b**). When the MICO WTRU **102** needs to or is to send a SR, the MICO WTRU **102** may check if the timer is running. If the timer is running, the WTRU **102** is likely (e.g., very likely, for example above a threshold level) to be within the same service area **210** or **220** of the last registered AMF **182a** or **182b** and the MICO WTRU **102** may send the SR, for example immediately and/or right away. In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may or is likely to be out of the service area **210** or **220** of the last registered AMF **182a** or **182b** and the MICO WTRU **102** may perform (e.g., may need to perform) registration again before sending the SR. The length of the timer may be preconfigured in the WTRU **102** or provided by the NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182** or other NW entity **180**, and **183-185**).

Representative Procedure for Keeping MICO WTRU in Connected Mode

[0156] To keep the MICO WTRU **102** in CONNECTED mode longer (e.g., reasonably longer or for more than a threshold period), the NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182** or other NW entities **180**, **183-185**) may determine that the WTRU **102** has a requirement (e.g., to remain in CONNECTED mode). The NW **113/115** may have difficulty to make this determination based on the WTRU profile. Certain assistance information from the WTRU **102** may be used in this determination.

[0157] In certain embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may include in the SR an indication of the characteristics of the service which enables the NW **113/115** to determine that the WTRU **102** is to be or needs to be kept in CONNECTED mode longer than usual. The indication of the service characteristics may include (1) a delay tolerance value and/or a “high-level delay-tolerant” indicator; and/or (2) a latency value and/or “high-latency” indication, among others, for example to provide a threshold that may be: (1) WTRU-specific; (2) application-specific; (3) service-specific; and/or (4) class-specific (e.g., device class-specific) among others. For example, a specific WTRU **102** may have a specific delay tolerance, a specific latency, a specific application executing, a specific service requirement, and/or a specific device class, among others that may be considered when the MICO WTRU **102** is in the CONNECTED mode (for example to avoid prematurely moving into another mode (e.g., disconnecting)).

[0158] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may include in the SR information or a flag indicating a preference that the connection release may be or is to be initiated by the WTRU **102** itself and not initiated by the NW (e.g., the RAN **113** or the CN **115**). After receiving the SR with the preference indication, the NW **113/115** may determine whether to allow the WTRU **102** to initiate (e.g., whether the RAN **113** or the NW **113/115** is allowed to let the WTRU **102** initiate) the connection release based on WTRU subscription data and/or NW policies. If connection release by the WTRU **102** is accepted, the NW (e.g., the CN **115** or the RAN **113**) may instruct the other one of the RAN **113** or the CN **115**) not to initiate the connection release for the WTRU **102**. When the WTRU **102** has determined autonomously (e.g., by itself) that the WTRU **102** has finished data communication, the WTRU **102** may initiate a connection release through any of: (1) a NAS procedure and/or (2) a RRC procedure. The WTRU **102** may start a timer after the WTRU **102** enters the CONNECTED mode. If the timer expires and the data communication of the WTRU **102** is not completed and/or the WTRU **102** cannot determine whether the data communication is completed, the WTRU **102** may or is to initiate a connection release (e.g., a connection release anyway).

[0159] FIG. **9** is a diagram illustrating a representative MICO WTRU initiated Connection release procedure.

[0160] Referring to FIG. **9**, the representative MICO WTRU initiated Connection release procedure **900** may include, at **910**, a registration between the AMF **182a** and the MICO WTRU **102** via the RAN **113**. The registration may include MICO mode information indicating that the WTRU is in a MICO mode. At **920**, the MICO WTRU may send a SR via the RAN **113** to the AMF **182a** and may include information indicating that the WTRU **102** prefers a WTRU initiated Connection release (for example to reduce and/or substantially eliminate a premature release by the NW **113/115**). At **930**, the NW **113/115** (e.g., via the AMF **182a**) may accept the WTRU's preference

according to and/or based on a profile of the MICO WTRU **102** and one or more network policies. At **940**, the AMF **182a** may send a N2 message to the RAN **113** (e.g., the gNB **180**) to establish the preference (e.g., for a WTRU initiated Connection release). At **950**, the MICO WTRU **102** may determine that data communication is complete. In certain representative embodiments, at **960**, **970** and **980**, the WTRU **102** may initiate and complete a connection release via a NAS initiated message. In other representative embodiments, at **985** and **990**, the WTRU **102** may initiate and complete a connection release via a RRC initiated message.

[0161] In a first option, at **960**, the WTRU **102** may send a NAS release request to the AMF **182a** via the RAN **113**. At **970**, an N2 connection release is performed between the AMF **182a** and the RAN **113**. At **980**, the RAN **113** may send a RRC Connection Release to the WTRU **102** to release the RRC connection. In a second option, at **985**, the WTRU **102** may send a RRC Connection Release Request to the RAN **113**. At **990**, an N2 connection release is performed between the AMF **182a** and the RAN **113**.

[0162] At **995**, the MICO WTRU **102** may enter RRC_IDLE mode after either the first or second option is complete.

[0163] In certain representative embodiments, the MICO WTRU **102** may in the SR include information indicating a preferred “inactivity time period” before the connection may be released. The NW **113/115** may determine whether the WTRU **102** preferred inactivity period indicated in the SR may be accepted based on WTRU subscription data and/or NW policies. If the WTRU preferred inactivity period indicated in the SR is accepted, the NW (e.g., CN **115**) may instruct the RAN **113** to set the “inactivity timer” based on the preferred inactivity period value.

[0164] The representative procedures described herein may apply to MICO WTRUs that perform deregistration at the end of a communication.

Representative Procedures for Preventing MICO WTRUs From Entering an RRC_INACTIVE State

[0165] FIG. **10** is a diagram illustrating a representative procedure in which a RAN is aware of (e.g., made aware of) a MICO mode of a WTRU via N2 signaling.

[0166] Referring to FIG. **10**, in the representative procedure **1000**, at **1010**, a registration is performed between the AMF **182a** and the MICO WTRU **102** via the RAN **113**. The registration may include MICO mode information indicating that the WTRU is in a MICO mode. At **1020**, the MICO WTRU **102** may send a RRC Connection Request to the RAN **113**. At **1030**, the RAN **113** may send a RRC Connection Setup to the WTRU **102**. At **1040**, the MICO WTRU **102** may send a RRC Connection Setup Complete to the RAN **113** which may include an SR. At **1050**, the RAN **113** may send the SR to the NW (e.g., the AMF **182a**). At **1060**, the AMF **182a** may send an N2 message to the RAN **113**. The N2 message may include MICO mode information that may indicate that the WTRU **102** is in the MICO mode. At **1070**, the RAN **113** may store the MICO mode indication in a WTRU context. At **1080**, the RAN **113** may send a RRC Connection Reconfiguration to the WTRU **102**.

[0167] For example, the RAN **113** may be informed of the MICO mode of a WTRU **102** (e.g., via an indicator or other information) by the CN **115**) via N2 signaling during the SR procedure. The RAN **113** may store the indication and/or information in its WTRU context and may refrain from triggering a state switch to the RRC_INACTIVE state for the WTRU **102**.

[0168] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** in the MICO mode may include a MICO mode indication in the RRC Connection establishment request message, for example if the RRC Connection Request is triggered by a pending SR. If the RRC Connection Request is triggered by non-service-request signaling (e.g., by a periodic registration update, among others) the MICO mode may be changed after the registration procedure is over and/or completed. In some representative embodiments, such as for those triggered by a non-SR signaling, the WTRU **102** may not include the MICO mode indication in the RRC Connection Request.

[0169] FIG. **11** is a diagram illustrating a representative procedure for a MICO WTRU **102** to

accept or reject RAN signaling (e.g., that would place the MICO WTRU **102** into an INACTIVE state).

[0170] Referring to FIG. **11**, in the representative procedure **1100**, at **1110**, a registration is performed between the AMF **182a** and the MICO WTRU **102** via the RAN **113**. The registration may include MICO mode information indicating that the WTRU **102** is in a MICO mode. At **1120**, an RRC connection may be established between the WTRU **102** and the RAN **113**. At **1120**, the RAN **113** may determine that the WTRU is to be placed into INACTIVE state (e.g., RRC_INACTIVE) according to some criterion (e.g., an inactivity timer). At **1140**, the RAN **113** may send a RRC Connection Release to the WTRU **102** including information indicating a switch to RRC_INACTIVE state. In certain representative embodiments, at **1150** and **1160**, the WTRU **102** may reject the Connection Release. In other representative embodiments, at **1170**, **1180** and **1190**, the WTRU **102** may accept the Connection Release.

[0171] In a first option, at **1150**, the WTRU **102** may send a RRC Connection Release Reject to the RAN **113**. The RRC Connection Release Reject may include a cause code indicating “MICO mode.” At **1160**, the WTRU **102** may remain in Connected mode.

[0172] In a second option, at **1170**, the WTRU **102** may send a RRC Connection Release Complete to the RAN **113**. The RRC Connection Release Complete may include information indicating that the WTRU is entering RRC_IDLE mode. At **1180**, an N2 connection release is performed between the AMF **182a** and the RAN **113**. At **1190**, the WTRU **102** may enter the RRC_IDLE mode.

[0173] In certain representative embodiments, the RAN **113** may not be aware of the MICO mode of the WTRU **102**, and may initiate a Request (e.g., via RRC signaling, for example using a RRC Connection Release with an RRC_INACTIVE state switch instruction) to put and/or place the WTRU **102** into the RRC_INACTIVE mode. The WTRU **102**, in the MICO mode, may reject the Request (for example with a cause of “MICO mode”) and the WTRU **102** may stay in the RRC_CONNECTED mode. In various representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may enter (e.g., directly enter) the RRC_IDLE mode upon or after the Request to enter the RRC_INACTIVE and may send a response message to the RAN **113** indicating that the WTRU **102** is going to enter the RRC_IDLE mode. Upon or after reception of the response message by the RAN **113**, the RAN **113** may initiate an N2 connection release towards the CN **115**.

[0174] The representative procedures described herein may apply to MICO WTRUs **102** that perform deregistration at the end of a communication.

Representative Procedures for Triggering a Registration Procedure

[0175] In certain representative embodiments, a “handshake” (e.g., a new handshake) may be realized between the WTRU **102** and the NW **113/115** during the SR procedure. The WTRU **102** may or is to indicate to the NW **113/115** that the WTRU **102** wants, in addition to or in lieu of the regular and/or legacy purpose of the SR message, to inform the NW **113/115** of certain configuration changes and/or parameters, for example by inserting a flag in the SR message. For example, a new information element may be defined to serve this purpose (e.g., to indicate or inform the NW **113/115** of configuration changes/parameters). On the NW side, in addition to processing the regular SR message, the NW **113/115** may respond back to the WTRU **102**, using a Service Accept message, to finalize the negotiation/handshake. It is contemplated that these procedures/mechanisms described herein may be implemented as a new functionality, for example in 5G or may be realized by the WTRU **102** and the NW **113/115** informing each other of the support during the first registration (e.g., during the Attach or the first Registration).

[0176] If the NW **113/115** wants and/or is to update configuration parameters for the WTRU **102** (e.g. NW Slice Selection Assistance Information (NSSAI), an eDRX and/or a MICO periodic timer, among others), the NW **113/115** may use the SR procedure to trigger the WTRU **102** to perform a registration procedure. The NW **113/115** may include an explicit indication in the Service Accept or Reject message (e.g., with a cause code in the reject message) informing the WTRU **102** that certain configuration parameters are to be and/or need to be updated. The reception of the flag in

the Service Accept or Reject message may cause the WTRU **102** to perform a registration procedure. In certain representative embodiments, the NW **113/115** (e.g., the AMF **182**) may send the configuration parameters which are to be and/or which need to be updated in the Service Accept or Reject message. The WTRU **102** may perform the Registration procedure if the WTRU **102** receives new configuration parameters in the Service Accept or Reject message (e.g., a Service Accept or Reject NAS message).

[0177] FIG. **12** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method of facilitating a SR.

[0178] Referring to FIG. **12**, the representative method **1200** may include, at block **1210**, a WTRU **102** performing a first registration with a NE (e.g., an AMF **182a** or another network device). The WTRU **102** may indicate to the NW **113/115** via the NE **182a** that the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode. At block **1220**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** is registered in an “all PLMN” registration area. At block **1230**, on condition that the WTRU **102** operating in the MICO mode is not registered in the “all PLMN” registration area, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** is outside of a registration area associated with the first registration based on any of: (1) location related information associated with the WTRU **102** received after the first registration of the WTRU **102**; (2) information from a Mobile Originated (MO) service initiated after the first registration of the WTRU **102** with the NE **113/115**, and/or (3) a network provided flag. At block **1240**, the WTRU **102** may send a SR. At block **1250**, on condition that the WTRU **102** is determined to be outside the registration area, the WTRU **102** may perform a second registration or a registration update (e.g., with another NE (e.g., the AMF **182b**) prior to the SR.

[0179] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may obtain information indicating that the WTRU **102** is to initiate the second registration or the registration update for sending of the SR. For example, the WTRU **102** may perform the second registration or the registration update by sending a registration request in accordance with the obtained information.

[0180] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may obtain the information via a preconfiguration and/or via network signaling (e.g., signaling via the network **113/115**).

[0181] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may determine that the WTRU **102** is registered to an “all PLMN” registration area.

[0182] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may determine whether an “always register” indication is set, on condition that the WTRU **102** is registered to the “all PLMN” registration area.

[0183] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may send a registration request to perform the second registration (e.g., an update) prior to the SR, on condition that an “always register” indication is set.

[0184] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may obtain a Tracking Area (TA) identifier of a TA of the WTRU indicated in a broadcast signal. For example, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** is outside of the registration area based on whether the obtained TA identifier (e.g., associated with the AMF **182a** or **182b**) matches a stored TA identifier associated with a NE (e.g., associated with the AMF **182a**) last serving the WTRU **102** (e.g., such that the WTRU **102** is to perform the second registration or the registration update conditioned on the obtained TA identifier (e.g., associated with the AMF **182a** or **182b**) not matching the stored TA (e.g., associated with the AMF **182a**).

[0185] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may obtain an identifier associated with a registration area of the WTRU **102** indicated in a broadcast signal. For example, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** is outside of the registration area based on whether the obtained identifier matches a stored identifier associated with a NE (e.g., the AMF **182a** or other NE **180, 183-185**) last serving the WTRU **102** such that the performing of the second registration or the registration update is conditioned on the obtained identifier not matching the stored identifier. In certain representative embodiments, the identifier may be one of: (1) a Tracking area

identifier (e.g., associated with an AMF serving a registration area); (2) a Routing Area identifier or (2) an AMF identifier (e.g., identifying an AMF serving the registration area).

[0186] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may send the SR without any second registration or registration update prior to sending the SR, on condition that the obtained TA identifier matches the stored TA identifier.

[0187] FIG. **13** is a flowchart illustrating another representative method of facilitating a SR registration.

[0188] Referring to FIG. **13**, the representative method **1300** implemented by a WTRU **102** operating in a MICO mode and registered in a first registration area may include, at block **1310**, a WTRU **102** determining whether the WTRU is outside (e.g., located outside) of the first registration area based on any of: (1) information from a latest Mobile Originated (MO) service of the WTRU **102** or (2) a network provided flag. At block **1320**, the WTRU **102** may perform a registration update, on condition that the WTRU **102** is determined to be outside the first registration area. At block **1330**, the WTRU **102** may send an SR after the registration update.

[0189] FIG. **14** is a flowchart illustrating a further representative method of facilitating a SR.

[0190] Referring to FIG. **14**, the representative method **1400** may include, at block **1410**, a WTRU **102** performing a first registration with a NE (e.g., an AMF **182a**). The WTRU **102** may indicate to the NW **113/115** via the NE (e.g., the AMF **182a**) that the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode. At block **1420**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU is registered in an “all PLMN” registration area. At block **1430**, the WTRU **102** may selectively perform, prior to the sending of a SR, a second registration or a registration update based on the WTRU **102** not being registered in an “all PLMN” registration area and the WTRU **102** being outside of a registration area associated with the first registration. At block **1440**, the WTRU **102** may send the SR.

[0191] FIG. **15** is a flowchart illustrating an additional representative method of facilitating a SR.

[0192] Referring to FIG. **15**, the representative method **1500** may include, at block **1510**, a WTRU **102** sending a SR that includes WTRU-specific information. The WTRU-specific information may include: (1) an indication that the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode; and/or (2) a Temporary User Identifier (TUID) of the WTRU **102**. At block **1520**, the WTRU **102** may receive a Connection Reconfiguration message and a WTRU Configuration message including a new TUID, different from the TUID in the SR.

[0193] FIG. **16** is a flowchart illustrating yet another representative method of facilitating a SR.

[0194] Referring to FIG. **16**, the representative method **1600** may include, at block **1610**, a WTRU **102** receiving a broadcast signal indicating a Network Entity (NE) identifier associated with a NE (e.g., the AMF **182a** or **182b**) currently serving the WTRU **102**. At block **1620**, the WTRU **102** (e.g., AS layer, a L1 layer, a L2 layer, a MAC layer, a physical layer, or another lower layer, among others) may receive a connection request from a higher layer (e.g., a NAS layer, another higher layer, among others). At block **1630**, the WTRU **102** may determine, by a second layer (e.g., an AS layer, a L1 layer, an L2 layer, a MAC layer, a physical layer, or the other lower layer, among others), whether the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode. At block **1640**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the received NE identifier matches a stored NE identifier associated with a NE (e.g., the AMF **182a**) last serving the WTRU **102**, on condition that the WTRU **102** is operating in the MICO mode. At block **1650**, the WTRU **102** may send a SR including WTRU-specific information, on condition that the received NE identifier (e.g., the AMF **182a** or **182b**) matches the stored NE identifier (e.g., the AMF **182a**).

[0195] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may send a new registration or a registration update prior to sending a SR, on condition that the received NE identifier (e.g., the AMF **182a** or **182b**) does not match the stored NE identifier (e.g., the AMF **182a**).

[0196] FIG. **17** is a flowchart illustrating yet a further representative method of facilitating a SR.

[0197] Referring to FIG. **17**, the representative method **1700** may include, at block **1710**, a WTRU **102** obtaining information indicating that the WTRU is to initiate registration prior to sending a SR.

At block **1720**, the WTRU **102** may send a registration request in accordance with the obtained information. At block **1730**, the WTRU **102** may send the SR after registering with a NE (e.g., an AMF **182b**).

[0198] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may obtain the information via a preconfiguration or via network signaling.

[0199] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode and may send the registration request prior to the SR on condition that the WTRU **102** is operating in the MICO mode.

[0200] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may determine whether the WTRU **102** is registered to an “all PLMN” registration area and may send the registration request prior to the SR on condition that the WTRU **102** is registered to an “all PLMN” registration area.

[0201] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may receive a broadcast signal indicating a Tracking Area (TA) identifier of a TA of the WTRU **102**, may receive a connection request from a higher layer, and may determine, by a second layer, whether the WTRU **102** is operating in the MICO mode.

[0202] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may determine at least whether the indicated TA identifier matches a stored TA identifier associated with a NE (e.g., the AMF **182a**) last serving the WTRU **102**, on condition that the WTRU **102** is operating in MICO mode, and may send the SR, on condition that the indicated TA identifier matches the stored TA identifier.

[0203] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU **102** may send a new registration or a registration update prior to sending the SR, on condition that the indicated TA identifier does not match the stored TA identifier.

[0204] FIG. **18** is a flowchart illustrating yet an additional representative method of accepting or rejecting a connection release.

[0205] Referring to FIG. **18**, the representative method **1800** implemented by a WTRU **102** in a MICO mode may include, at block **1810**, the WTRU **102** receiving, from a NE (e.g., a gNB **180**) of a RAN **113**, a Connection Release. At block **1820**, the WTRU **102** may determine whether to accept the Connection Release. At block **1830**, on condition that the WTRU **102** accepts the Connection Release, the WTRU may: (1) send a Connection Release Complete, and (2) enter into an idle mode. At block **1840**, on condition that the WTRU **102** does not accept the Connection Release, the WTRU **102** may: (1) send a Connection Release Reject with a cause code indicating that the WTRU **102** is operating in the MICO mode, and (2) remain in a connected mode.

[0206] FIG. **19** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method implemented to facilitate a registration.

[0207] Referring to FIG. **19**, the representative method **1900** implemented by a WTRU **102** may include, at block **1910**, the WTRU **102** sending to a NE (e.g., an AMF **182**, or other NE such as a gNB **180**, or CN entity **183-185**) a first message. At block **1920**, the WTRU **102** may obtain information indicating that the WTRU **102** is to initiate registration. At block **1930**, the WTRU may send a registration request in accordance with the obtained information. For example, the obtained information may be a cause code or an indication included in a second message from the NE **180** and **182-185**. In certain representative embodiments, the first message may be a service request and/or the second message may be a service accept or a service reject message. In various representative embodiments, the WTRU may perform a registration update and may update configuration parameters based on the registration update.

[0208] FIG. **20** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a SR.

[0209] Referring to FIG. **20**, the representative method **2000** implemented by a Network Entity (NE) (e.g., an AMF **182**, or other NE such as a gNB **180**, or CN entity **183-185**) may include, at block **2010**, the NE **182** sending information indicating that the WTRU **102** is to initiate registration prior to sending an SR. At block **2020**, the NE **182** may receive a registration request in

accordance with the obtained information. At block **2030**, the NE **113/115** may receive the SR after the WTRU **102** is registered.

[0210] FIG. **20** is a flowchart illustrating another representative method implemented by a NW when a WTRU is in MICO mode.

[0211] Referring to FIG. **21**, the representative method **2100** implemented by a NE (e.g., an AMF **182**, or other NE **180, 183-185**) of the NW **113/115** may include, at block **2110**, the NE **180, 182-185** determining whether the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode. At block **2120**, on condition that the WTRU **102** is operating in the MICO mode, the NE **180, 182-185** of the NW **113/115** may: (1) set an inactivity timer for a period which is longer than a period for a WTRU **102** not in the MICO mode; (2) prevent a connection release of the WTRU **102** for inactivity of the WTRU **102**; and/or (3) negotiate with the WTRU **102** so that the WTRU **102** is configured to autonomously release the connection with the NE **180, 182-185** of the NW **113/115**.

[0212] FIG. **22** is a flowchart illustrating a further representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a connection request.

[0213] Referring to FIG. **22**, the representative method **2200** implemented by a NE (e.g., an AMF **182b**, or other NE **180, 183-185**) of the NW **113/115** may include, at block **2210**, the NE **182b** receiving a message requesting a connection of a WTRU **102** including WTRU-specific information. At block **2220**, the NE **182b** may determine from the WTRU-specific information, another NE (e.g., the AMF **182a**) that last served the WTRU **102**. At block **2230**, the NE **182b** may send to the other NE (e.g., the AMF **182a**), an information request for information to connect the WTRU **102** with the NE **182b**.

[0214] In certain representative embodiments, the NE **182b** may receive, from the other NE **182a**, the requested information to connect the WTRU **102** and may authenticate and connect the WTRU **102** based on the information received from the other NE **182a**.

[0215] In certain representative embodiments, the WTRU-specific information may include any of: (1) an indication that the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode; and/or (2) a Temporary User Identifier (TUID) of the WTRU **102**.

[0216] FIG. **23** is a flowchart illustrating an additional representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a SR.

[0217] Referring to FIG. **23**, the representative method **2300** implemented by a NE (e.g., an AMF **182**, or other NE **180, 183-185**) of the NW **113/115** may include, at block **2310**, the NE **182** receiving a registration request to register a WTRU **102** including an indication that the WTRU is operating in a MICO mode. At block **2320** the NE **182** may receive from the WTRU **102** (e.g., via a RAN **113**) after registration, a SR including a preference for WTRU-initiated connection release of the WTRU **102**. At block **2330**, the NE **182** may receive from one of: (1) the WTRU **102** (e.g., via a RAN entity **180** of RAN **113**) a NAS release request) or (2) the RAN **113** (e.g., the gNB **180**) a N2 connection release (e.g., in accordance with a RRC Connection release request from the WTRU **102**). For example, for one option, the WTRU **102** may send an RRC Connection release request to the RAN **113** and the RAN **113** may perform a N2 connection release with the AMF **182** thereafter. At block **2340**, the NE **182** may release a connection toward the WTRU **102**.

[0218] In certain representative embodiments, the NE **182** may determine whether to accept the preference and may send to the RAN entity (e.g., the gNB **180**) of the RAN **113** serving the WTRU **102** that the preference is accepted.

[0219] In certain representative embodiments, the NE **182** may check any of: (1) a WTRU profile; or (2) a WTRU mobility pattern.

[0220] FIG. **24** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method implemented by a NW to facilitate a registration.

[0221] Referring to FIG. **24**, the representative method **2400** implemented by a NE (e.g., an AMF **182**, or other NE such as a gNB **180**, or CN entity **183-185**) may include, at block **2410**, the NE **180, 182-185** receiving from the WTRU **102** a first message. At block **2420**, the NE **180, 182-185**

may determine that the WTRU is to initiate a registration. At block **2430**, the NE **180**, **182-185** may send to the WTRU information indicating that the WTRU is to initiate the registration. At block **2440**, the WTRU may receive a registration request in accordance with the sent information. For example, the sent information may be a cause code or an indication included in a second message from the NE **180** and **182-185**. In certain representative embodiments, the first message may be a service request and/or the second message may be a service accept or a service reject message. [0222] FIG. **25** is a flowchart illustrating a representative method implemented by a RAN entity to facilitate a SR.

[0223] Referring to FIG. **25**, the representative method **2500** implemented by a RAN entity (RE) (e.g., a gNB **180**) of the RAN **113** may include, at block **2510**, the RAN entity **180** receiving a message including an SR for the WTRU **102**. A registration of the WTRU **102** with a Network Entity (NE) (e.g., AMF **182** may indicate that the WTRU **102** is operating in a MICO mode. At block **2520**, the RE **180** may send to the NE **182** the SR. At block **2530**, the RE **180** may receive from the NE **182**, a message including information that the WTRU **102** is operating in the MICO mode. At block **2540**, the RE **180** may store the information that the WTRU **102** is operating in the MICO mode in a context of the WTRU **102**. At block **2550**, the RE **180** may halt a trigger of a change to an RRC inactive state for the WTRU **102** based on the stored information in the context of the WTRU **102**.

[0224] Although only two AMFs **182a** and **182b** are shown, any number of AMF may be implemented in a CN **115**.

[0225] Various NEs and REs are illustrated herein. These NEs may include one or more processors, one or more transmitters and one or more receivers and one or more memories operatively communicating, and configured to execute the method of any of the embodiments disclosed herein.

[0226] WTRUs are illustrated herein. The WTRUs may include one or more processors, one or more transmitters and one or more receivers and one or more memories operatively communicating, and configured to execute the method of any of the embodiments disclosed herein.

[0227] Although features and elements are described above in particular combinations, one of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that each feature or element can be used alone or in any combination with the other features and elements. In addition, the methods described herein may be implemented in a computer program, software, or firmware incorporated in a computer readable medium for execution by a computer or processor. Examples of non-transitory computer-readable storage media include, but are not limited to, a read only memory (ROM), random access memory (RAM), a register, cache memory, semiconductor memory devices, magnetic media such as internal hard disks and removable disks, magneto-optical media, and optical media such as CD-ROM disks, and digital versatile disks (DVDs). A processor in association with software may be used to implement a radio frequency transceiver for use in a WTRU, a UE, a terminal, a base station, an RNC, or any host computer.

[0228] Moreover, in the embodiments described above, processing platforms, computing systems, controllers, and other devices containing processors are noted. These devices may contain at least one Central Processing Unit (“CPU”) and memory. In accordance with the practices of persons skilled in the art of computer programming, reference to acts and symbolic representations of operations or instructions may be performed by the various CPUs and memories. Such acts and operations or instructions may be referred to as being “executed.” “computer executed” or “CPU executed.”

[0229] One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the acts and symbolically represented operations or instructions include the manipulation of electrical signals by the CPU. An electrical system represents data bits that can cause a resulting transformation or reduction of the electrical signals and the maintenance of data bits at memory locations in a memory system to thereby reconfigure or otherwise alter the CPU's operation, as well as other processing of signals. The memory locations where data bits are maintained are physical locations that have particular

electrical, magnetic, optical, or organic properties corresponding to or representative of the data bits. It should be understood that the exemplary embodiments are not limited to the above-mentioned platforms or CPUs and that other platforms and CPUs may support the provided methods.

[0230] The data bits may also be maintained on a computer readable medium including magnetic disks, optical disks, and any other volatile (e.g., Random Access Memory (“RAM”)) or non-volatile (e.g., Read-Only Memory (“ROM”)) mass storage system readable by the CPU. The computer readable medium may include cooperating or interconnected computer readable medium, which exist exclusively on the processing system or are distributed among multiple interconnected processing systems that may be local or remote to the processing system. It is understood that the representative embodiments are not limited to the above-mentioned memories and that other platforms and memories may support the described methods.

[0231] In an illustrative embodiment, any of the operations, processes, etc. described herein may be implemented as computer-readable instructions stored on a computer-readable medium. The computer-readable instructions may be executed by a processor of a mobile unit, a network element, and/or any other computing device.

[0232] There is little distinction left between hardware and software implementations of aspects of systems. The use of hardware or software is generally (but not always, in that in certain contexts the choice between hardware and software may become significant) a design choice representing cost vs. efficiency tradeoffs. There may be various vehicles by which processes and/or systems and/or other technologies described herein may be effected (e.g., hardware, software, and/or firmware), and the preferred vehicle may vary with the context in which the processes and/or systems and/or other technologies are deployed. For example, if an implementer determines that speed and accuracy are paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly hardware and/or firmware vehicle. If flexibility is paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly software implementation. Alternatively, the implementer may opt for some combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware.

[0233] The foregoing detailed description has set forth various embodiments of the devices and/or processes via the use of block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples. Insofar as such block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples contain one or more functions and/or operations, it will be understood by those within the art that each function and/or operation within such block diagrams, flowcharts, or examples may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof. Suitable processors include, by way of example, a general purpose processor, a special purpose processor, a conventional processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in association with a DSP core, a controller, a microcontroller, Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Application Specific Standard Products (ASSPs); Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) circuits, any other type of integrated circuit (IC), and/or a state machine.

[0234] Although features and elements are provided above in particular combinations, one of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that each feature or element can be used alone or in any combination with the other features and elements. The present disclosure is not to be limited in terms of the particular embodiments described in this application, which are intended as illustrations of various aspects. Many modifications and variations may be made without departing from its spirit and scope, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art. No element, act, or instruction used in the description of the present application should be construed as critical or essential to the invention unless explicitly provided as such. Functionally equivalent methods and apparatuses within the scope of the disclosure, in addition to those enumerated herein, will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing descriptions. Such modifications and variations are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims. The present disclosure is to

be limited only by the terms of the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled. It is to be understood that this disclosure is not limited to particular methods or systems.

[0235] It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting. As used herein, when referred to herein, the terms “user equipment” and its abbreviation “UE” may mean (i) a wireless transmit and/or receive unit (WTRU), such as described infra; (ii) any of a number of embodiments of a WTRU, such as described infra; (iii) a wireless-capable and/or wired-capable (e.g., tetherable) device configured with, inter alia, some or all structures and functionality of a WTRU, such as described infra; (iii) a wireless-capable and/or wired-capable device configured with less than all structures and functionality of a WTRU, such as described infra; or (iv) the like. Details of an example WTRU, which may be representative of any UE recited herein, are provided below with respect to FIGS. 1-5.

[0236] In certain representative embodiments, several portions of the subject matter described herein may be implemented via Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), digital signal processors (DSPs), and/or other integrated formats. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that some aspects of the embodiments disclosed herein, in whole or in part, may be equivalently implemented in integrated circuits, as one or more computer programs running on one or more computers (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more computer systems), as one or more programs running on one or more processors (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more microprocessors), as firmware, or as virtually any combination thereof, and that designing the circuitry and/or writing the code for the software and or firmware would be well within the skill of one of skill in the art in light of this disclosure. In addition, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the mechanisms of the subject matter described herein may be distributed as a program product in a variety of forms, and that an illustrative embodiment of the subject matter described herein applies regardless of the particular type of signal bearing medium used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of a signal bearing medium include, but are not limited to, the following: a recordable type medium such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a CD, a DVD, a digital tape, a computer memory, etc., and a transmission type medium such as a digital and/or an analog communication medium (e.g., a fiber optic cable, a waveguide, a wired communications link, a wireless communication link, etc.).

[0237] The herein described subject matter sometimes illustrates different components contained within, or connected with, different other components. It is to be understood that such depicted architectures are merely examples, and that in fact many other architectures may be implemented which achieve the same functionality. In a conceptual sense, any arrangement of components to achieve the same functionality is effectively “associated” such that the desired functionality may be achieved. Hence, any two components herein combined to achieve a particular functionality may be seen as “associated with” each other such that the desired functionality is achieved, irrespective of architectures or intermediate components. Likewise, any two components so associated may also be viewed as being “operably connected”, or “operably coupled”, to each other to achieve the desired functionality, and any two components capable of being so associated may also be viewed as being “operably couplable” to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Specific examples of operably couplable include but are not limited to physically mateable and/or physically interacting components and/or wirelessly interactable and/or wirelessly interacting components and/or logically interacting and/or logically interactable components.

[0238] With respect to the use of substantially any plural and/or singular terms herein, those having skill in the art can translate from the plural to the singular and/or from the singular to the plural as is appropriate to the context and/or application. The various singular/plural permutations may be expressly set forth herein for sake of clarity.


[0239] It will be understood by those within the art that, in general, terms used herein, and

especially in the appended claims (e.g., bodies of the appended claims) are generally intended as “open” terms (e.g., the term “including” should be interpreted as “including but not limited to,” the term “having” should be interpreted as “having at least,” the term “includes” should be interpreted as “includes but is not limited to.” etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, where only one item is intended, the term “single” or similar language may be used. As an aid to understanding, the following appended claims and/or the descriptions herein may contain usage of the introductory phrases “at least one” and “one or more” to introduce claim recitations. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim recitation by the indefinite articles “a” or “an” limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim recitation to embodiments containing only one such recitation, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases “one or more” or “at least one” and indefinite articles such as “a” or “an” (e.g., “a” and/or “an” should be interpreted to mean “at least one” or “one or more”). The same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim recitations. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is explicitly recited, those skilled in the art will recognize that such recitation should be interpreted to mean at least the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of “two recitations,” without other modifiers, means at least two recitations, or two or more recitations). Furthermore, in those instances where a convention analogous to “at least one of A, B, and C, etc.” is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., “a system having at least one of A, B, and C” would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). In those instances where a convention analogous to “at least one of A, B, or C, etc.” is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., “a system having at least one of A, B, or C” would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that virtually any disjunctive word and/or phrase presenting two or more alternative terms, whether in the description, claims, or drawings, should be understood to contemplate the possibilities of including one of the terms, either of the terms, or both terms. For example, the phrase “A or B” will be understood to include the possibilities of “A” or “B” or “A and B.” Further, the terms “any of” followed by a listing of a plurality of items and/or a plurality of categories of items, as used herein, are intended to include “any of,” “any combination of,” “any multiple of,” and/or “any combination of multiples of” the items and/or the categories of items, individually or in conjunction with other items and/or other categories of items. Moreover, as used herein, the term “set” or “group” is intended to include any number of items, including zero. Additionally, as used herein, the term “number” is intended to include any number, including zero.

[0240] In addition, where features or aspects of the disclosure are described in terms of Markush groups, those skilled in the art will recognize that the disclosure is also thereby described in terms of any individual member or subgroup of members of the Markush group.

[0241] As will be understood by one skilled in the art, for any and all purposes, such as in terms of providing a written description, all ranges disclosed herein also encompass any and all possible subranges and combinations of subranges thereof. Any listed range can be easily recognized as sufficiently describing and enabling the same range being broken down into at least equal halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, tenths, etc. As a non-limiting example, each range discussed herein may be readily broken down into a lower third, middle third and upper third, etc. As will also be understood by one skilled in the art all language such as “up to,” “at least,” “greater than,” “less than,” and the like includes the number recited and refers to ranges which can be subsequently broken down into subranges as discussed above. Finally, as will be understood by one skilled in the

art, a range includes each individual member. Thus, for example, a group having 1-3 cells refers to groups having 1, 2, or 3 cells. Similarly, a group having 1-5 cells refers to groups having 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 cells, and so forth.

[0242] Moreover, the claims should not be read as limited to the provided order or elements unless stated to that effect. In addition, use of the terms “means for” in any claim is intended to invoke 35 U.S.C. § 112,  custom-character 6 or means-plus-function claim format, and any claim without the terms “means for” is not so intended.

[0243] A processor in association with software may be used to implement a radio frequency transceiver for use in a wireless transmit receive unit (WTRU), user equipment (UE), terminal, base station, Mobility Management Entity (MME) or Evolved Packet Core (EPC), or any host computer. The WTRU may be used in conjunction with modules, implemented in hardware and/or software including a Software Defined Radio (SDR), and other components such as a camera, a video camera module, a videophone, a speakerphone, a vibration device, a speaker, a microphone, a television transceiver, a hands free headset, a keyboard, a Bluetooth® module, a frequency modulated (FM) radio unit, a Near Field Communication (NFC) Module, a liquid crystal display (LCD) display unit, an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display unit, a digital music player, a media player, a video game player module, an Internet browser, and/or any Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) or Ultra Wide Band (UWB) module.

[0244] Although the invention has been described in terms of communication systems, it is contemplated that the systems may be implemented in software on microprocessors/general purpose computers (not shown). In certain embodiments, one or more of the functions of the various components may be implemented in software that controls a general-purpose computer.

[0245] In addition, although the invention is illustrated and described herein with reference to specific embodiments, the invention is not intended to be limited to the details shown. Rather, various modifications may be made in the details within the scope and range of equivalents of the claims and without departing from the invention.

Claims

1.-39. (canceled)

40. A method implemented by a network entity (NE), comprising: receiving a first registration request message from a Wireless Transmit/Receive Unit (WTRU), wherein the first registration request message includes information indicating the WTRU has a preference to operate in a Mobile Initiated Communication Only (MICO) mode; sending a first registration accept message to the WTRU, wherein first registration accept message includes information indicating the MICO mode is accepted for the WTRU and the WTRU is registered in a first registration area; receiving a second registration request message from the WTRU operating in MICO mode, wherein the WTRU is outside of the first registration area; sending a second registration accept message to the WTRU; and after sending the second registration accept message, receiving a service request message from the WTRU.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the first registration request message is an initial registration request message.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein the second registration request message is a registration update request message.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein the first registration area includes a set of tracking areas.

44. The method of claim 40, wherein the second registration request message is received from the WTRU in a tracking area not included in the first registration area.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the second registration request message is received from the WTRU in the TA prior to receiving a SR message from the WTRU in the TA.

46. The method of claim 40, wherein the first registration area is a non-all PLMN registration area.

47. The method of claim 40, wherein the second registration accept message includes information indicating the WTRU is registered in a second registration area.

48. The method of claim 40, further comprising: sending a service accept message to the WTRU; and receiving, from the WTRU, Mobile Originated (MO) data after sending the service accept message.

49. The method of claim 40, further comprising: sending a service accept message to the WTRU; and receiving, from the WTRU, Mobile Originated (MO) signaling after sending the service accept message.

50. A network entity (NE), comprising: circuitry including any of a transceiver, memory, and a processor which are configured to: receive a first registration request message from a Wireless Transmit/Receive Unit (WTRU), wherein the first registration request message includes information indicating the WTRU has a preference to operate in a Mobile Initiated Communication Only (MICO) mode, send a first registration accept message to the WTRU, wherein first registration accept message includes information indicating the MICO mode is accepted for the WTRU and the WTRU is registered in a first registration area, receive a second registration request message from the WTRU operating in MICO mode, wherein the WTRU is outside of the first registration area, send a second registration accept message to the WTRU, and after sending the second registration accept message, receive a service request message from the WTRU.

51. The NE of claim 50, wherein the first registration request message is an initial registration request message.

52. The NE of claim 50, wherein the second registration request message is a registration update request message.

53. The NE of claim 50, wherein the first registration area includes a set of tracking areas.

54. The NE of claim 50, wherein the second registration request message is received from the WTRU in a tracking area not included in the first registration area.

55. The NE of claim 54, wherein the second registration request message is received from the WTRU in the TA prior to receiving a SR message from the WTRU in the TA.

56. The NE of claim 50, wherein the first registration area is a non-all PLMN registration area.

57. The NE of claim 50, wherein the second registration accept message includes information indicating the WTRU is registered in a second registration area.

58. The NE of claim 50, wherein the circuitry is configured to: send a service accept message to the WTRU, and receive, from the WTRU, Mobile Originated (MO) data after sending the service accept message.

59. The NE of claim 50, wherein the circuitry is configured to: send a service accept message to the WTRU; and receive, from the WTRU, Mobile Originated (MO) signaling after sending the service accept message.
