**Concept Paper for introducing the slicing of transfer frames**

# Purpose

The purpose of the proposed work is to update the TM synchronization and coding blue book (CCSDS 131.0-B) for introducing transfer frames slicing.

# Key Technical Features

The updated Blue Book, with respect the current issue, will include the introduction of an optional slicer that allows to decouple the transfer frame length from the codeword/codeblock length.

This will be done by using the same slicing strategy that was adopted for LDPC encoding of a stream of synch-marked transfer frames (SMTFs).

# Benefits

Currently the CCSDS 131.0-B foresees that all block codes, except LDPC of a SMTFs stream, shall perform the encoding of a transfer frame. Thus, the transfer frame length depends on the maximum codeword/codeblock length. For instance, for RS(223,255), I=5, the transfer frame length shall be fixed to 8920 bits.

Slicing will instead allow to have a transfer frame length that is independent of the codeword/codeblock length, hence introducing an additional degree of freedom. Additionally, although not part of this project, is an enabler for the introduction of variable length frames, that could be potentially introduced in future CCSDS standards, or, act as interface to other standards (e.g., ITU GFP).

# Requirements of prospective missions

Space-to-Earth links in future space missions could require multiple coding options depending on the mission phases. For instance, a spacecraft orbiting around a Lagrange point, transmitting in X-Band, could require high-rate coding options during nominal phases, with the aim of maximizing the spectral efficiency, and low-rate coding options during safe and emergency modes. Such kind of coding profiles require that the transfer frame encapsulation is always adapted to the selected codes. On the other hand, the transfer frame formatting is often driven by the on-board computer implementation, that has less flexibility w.r.t. TM transmitters.

Thus, the objective of this activity is to provide an additional degree of freedom that allows to decouple the transfer frame length, allowing to better optimize the data rates for future missions.

Additionally, the slicing is an enable for variable length frames, that could be adopted in future lunar and Martian missions, for which link directionality is not a sharp concept.

**ANNEX 1 – Proposed Charter Modifications**

The charters of C&S do not require any update.

**ANNEX 2 – Proposed CWE Projects**

**Title: Transfer frame slicing for TM synchronization and coding**

**Document Number:** To be assigned.

**Document Type:** Pink Book

**Description of Document:** The new blue book is going to provide an optional slicer, that can be adopted by 131.0-B (TM coding and synch), 131.2-B (SCCC), 131.3-B (DVB-S2), and 142.0-B (optical coding & synch).

**Applicable Patents:** -

**Patents Comments:** -

**Book Editor (estimated resources + Agency Volunteering):** Total resources 1 mm in ESA and 1 mm in NASA. Book editor ESA and NASA

**Prototype 1 (estimated resources + Agency Volunteering):** Not foreseen

**Prototype 2 (estimated resources + Agency Volunteering):** Not foreseen

**Expected Contributing Agencies:** ESA, NASA

**Expected Monitoring Agencies:** CNES, DLR, JAXA

**Schedule**

**December 2022 – February 2024**

**Total time to complete: 14 months**

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| **Schedule Milestones** | **Forecast** | **Comments** |
| Project Approved | 15 December 2022 |  |
| First draft circulated to WG | April 2023 | Before Spring 23 Meeting |
| First draft comments due | May 2023 | At Spring 23 Meeting |
| Second draft circulated to WG | N/A | Not expected |
| Second draft comments due | N/A | Not expected |
| Final WB Submitted to AD for further processing | June 2023 | After Fall 23 Meeting |
| Secretariat Document Processing | September 2023 |  |
| First Prototype Development  | N/A |  |
| Second Prototype Development | N/A |  |
| First Agency review | October 2023 |  |
| RID Resolution | November 2023 |  |
| Second Agency Review | Not expected |  |
| CMC Approval | February 2024 | Approved by CMC Poll  |