of assertion or control, or a notification that a device is not ready to accept control, and an acknowledgement. At block **804**, coordination proceeds according to the negotiation.

[0033] While various exemplary embodiments have been described above it should be appreciated that the practice of the invention is not limited to the exemplary embodiments shown and discussed here. Various modifications and adaptations to the foregoing exemplary embodiments of this invention may become apparent to those skilled in the relevant arts in view of the foregoing description.

[0034] Further, some of the various features of the above non-limiting embodiments may be used to advantage without the corresponding use of other described features.

[0035] The foregoing description should therefore be considered as merely illustrative of the principles, teachings and exemplary embodiments of this invention, and not in limitation thereof.

We claim:

1. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

memory storing a program of instructions;

wherein the memory storing the program of instructions is configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to at least:

in response to a control assertion request to allow a controlling entity to control coordinated radio transmission by the apparatus, respond with an acceptance or denial of the request.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the apparatus is further caused to:

evaluate relative priorities between the apparatus and the controlling entity to

determine the response;

if the controlling entity has a higher priority, respond with an acceptance and perform coordinated transmission under control of the controlling entity;

if the controlling entity has a lower priority, respond with an acceptance and perform transmission autonomously.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein acceptance or denial is with respect to specified radio resources less than the full bandwidth available for use.

4. The apparatus of claim **3**, wherein coordination of transmission comprises muting of transmission or reduced power of transmission, wherein a muted transmission constitutes a zero power transmission.

5. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the apparatus is an eNodeB.

6. The apparatus of claim **2**, wherein the controlling entity is an eNodeB or an independent node.

7. The apparatus of claim **2**, wherein the priority of the controlling entity is configured by a network management function.

8. The apparatus of claim **2**, wherein the priority of the controlling entity is negotiated between the controlling entity and an eNodeB.

9. A method comprising:

in response to a control assertion request to allow a controlling entity to control coordinated radio transmission by a base station, responding with an acceptance or denial of the request.

10. The method of claim **9**, further comprising:

evaluating relative priorities between the base station and the controlling entity;

if the controlling entity has a higher priority, responding with an acceptance and perform coordinated transmission under control of the controlling entity; and

if the controlling entity has a lower priority, responding with a denial and performing transmission autonomously.

11. The method of claim **9**, wherein acceptance or denial is with respect to radio resources less than the full bandwidth available for use.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein coordinated transmission comprises total muting of transmission or reduced power transmission.

13. The method of claim **9**, wherein the base station is an eNodeB.

14. A non-transitory computer readable medium storing a program of instructions, execution of which by a processor configures an apparatus to at least:

in response to a control assertion request to allow a controlling entity to control coordinated radio transmission by the apparatus, respond with an acceptance or denial of the request.

15. The computer readable medium of claim **14**, wherein execution of the program of instructions further configures the apparatus to:

evaluate relative priorities between the apparatus and the controlling entity to determine the response;

if the controlling entity has a higher priority, respond with an acceptance and perform coordinated transmission under control of the controlling entity;

if the controlling entity has a lower priority, respond with an acceptance and perform transmission autonomously.

16. The computer readable medium of claim **15**, wherein acceptance or denial is with respect to specified radio resources less than the full bandwidth available for use.

17. The computer readable medium of claim **16**, wherein coordination of transmission comprises muting of transmission or reduced power of transmission, wherein muting represents a zero power transmission.

18. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

memory storing a program of instructions;

wherein the memory storing the program of instructions is configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to at least:

send a control assertion request to a base station, requesting control of coordinated radio transmission by the base station; and

in response to acceptance of the request by the base station, send one or more requests to the base station to mute transmission.

19. The apparatus of claim **18**, wherein the apparatus is further caused to, in response to denial of the request by the base station:

evaluate relative priority between the apparatus and the base station;

if the priority of the apparatus is lower than that of the base station, refrain from attempting to control coordination by the base station; and

if the priority of the apparatus is higher than that of the base station, send one or more requests to the base station to mute transmission.

20. The apparatus of claim **18**, wherein the request for control identifies specified resources for control or exempts specified resources from control.