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SECMP0028 ‘Prioritising System Messages’

Annex A

Business requirements – version 0.8

About this document

This document contains the business requirements that support the solutions for this Modification Proposal. It sets out the requirements along with any assumptions and considerations. The Data Communications Company (DCC) will use this information to provide an assessment of the requirements that help shape the complete solution.

1. Business requirements

This section contains the functional business requirements. Based on these requirements a full solution will be developed.

Business Requirements	
Ref.	Requirement
1	To assign a priority level to all system messages allowing them to be processed in a specific order in the Data Service Provider (DSP) Systems.
2	To make all priority assignments fully configurable.

2. Considerations and assumptions

This section contains the considerations and assumptions for each business requirement.

2.1 General

This solution will be applied to Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS)1 and SMETS2 Devices.

2.2 Requirement 1: To assign a priority level to all system messages allowing them to be processed in a specific order in the DSP Systems.

The Proposed Solution would establish multiple tiers of priority in the DSP aspect of the DCC Systems that can categorise messages depending on the relative importance of processing them quickly. Messages with a 'Priority Level 1' would be fast-tracked in any queues so that they are processed ahead of any messages with lower priority levels (subsequently higher numbers denoting lower priority). Messages with lower priority levels would still be processed in the order consistent with their assigned levels. The categories that determine the priority levels will be defined and agreed during the Modification Proposal's Refinement Stage. The below is an example and final version could contain more priority levels.

The Proposed Solution would establish the following criteria against each priority level:

Proposed Solution	
Priority Level	Criteria
1	Messages relating to the continuity of a consumer's energy supply.
2	Messages which are required for an engineer to complete on-site activities.
3	Messages with an indirect impact on a consumer's energy supply, and/or messages required to comply with a consumer request.
4	None of the above criteria apply.

2.3 Requirement 2: To make all priority level assignments fully configurable.

It must be relatively simple to change a message's assigned priority level. In the event that a new process is introduced or there is a change to an existing process, certain messages with a lower priority may become part of a critical pathway for an urgent process. Equally, changes to processes may result in certain messages no longer being crucial to the success of those processes. It is therefore necessary to introduce a method by which priority levels can be reconfigured as and when appropriate.

As part of its Preliminary Assessment, SECAS requested that the DCC investigate the technical solution for changing priorities. SECAS and the Proposer will engage with industry to determine which bodies or committees should have oversight for changes. This could also apply in the hypothetical instance that powers are introduced for Sub-Committees to override priority levels in an infrastructure-critical event.

3. Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSP	Data Service Provider
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications