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SEC Change Sub-Committee Meeting 37_1503

15 March 2022, 10:00 – 11:15

Teleconference

SECCSC_37_1503 – Draft Minutes

Attendees:

Representing	CSC Member
Change Sub-Committee Chair	David Kemp (DK)
Large Suppliers	Emma Johnson (EJ)
	Emslie Law (EL)
Small Suppliers	Daniel Davies (DD)
Electricity Network Parties	Gemma Slaney (GS)
Other SEC Parties	Alastair Cobb (AC)
	Lynne Hargrave (LH)

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	David Walsh (DW)
	David Rollason (DR)
	Gary Williams (GW) <i>(part meeting)</i>
	Stacy Kirton (SK) <i>(part meeting)</i>
	Janine Hughes (JHu) <i>(part meeting)</i>
Ofgem	Grace Royall (GR)
SECAS	Rebecca Sawyer (RS) <i>(Meeting Secretary)</i>
	Kev Duddy (KD)
	Elizabeth Woods (EW)
	Khaleda Hussain (KH)
	Joe Hehir (JH)

Apologies:

Representing	CSC Member
SECAS	Holly Burton (HB)
	Ali Beard (AB)

1. Welcome and Introductions & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed members to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) meeting.

No comments were raised on the last meeting's minutes.

The CSC **APPROVED** the minutes.

2. Actions Outstanding

Action Reference	Action
34/01	SECAS to ensure the MP077 solution is referenced in the Business Architecture Document (BAD).
This action has been adopted by the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) and was presented at the 3 March TABASC meeting. The TABASC agreed to include additional wording in the BAD to reflect the change. Status: Closed .	
35/01	SECAS to liaise with the DCC in order to obtain locations of all DCC guidance documents in order for SECAS to circulate communications to the industry listing the stored locations.
The DCC has provided the locations of guidance documents which was included in the SEC newsletter on 25 February 2022. This also contains a request for an update to the operational guidance contacts in reference to MP121. Status: Closed .	

3. SEC Modification Progression

MP195 'Security Sub-Committee guidance on Device Assurance'

SECAS (KD) provided the CSC with a summary of Modification Proposal [MP195 'Security Sub-Committee guidance on Device Assurance'](#).

The Proposed Solution is to add an obligation on the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) into Smart Energy Code (SEC) Section G7 'Security' to develop and maintain a guidance document for Device security assurance. This will ensure that SEC Parties can refer to the guidance to develop processes and functionality that would help achieve and maintain CPA Certification.

To provide the most benefit to SEC Parties it is recommended that this document is futureproofed by ensuring it can be used to cover use cases in other areas of Device security assurance that the SSC could be requested to provide guidance on.

The guidance document, SSC Guidance for Device Refurbishment and Security Controls, is undergoing review based on Use Case 004 and once updated will be reissued. There are no directly impacted Parties but other SEC Parties will be indirectly affected by having confidence to develop functionality and processes on the basis of the guidance. The modification costs are limited to SECAS costs for implementation, and the targeted Release is the June 2022 SEC Release.

CSC members noted the importance of this guidance being updated as soon as possible. A CSC member (GS) acknowledged that the update to the guidance was separate to the modification but requested that guidance is updated in a timely manner to prevent future issues, citing previous examples. SECAS responded that the guidance is already in effect for the existing use cases, and is a live document that can be updated further in the future as the SSC feels necessary.

A CSC member (AC) asked for clarification on the sunseting of versions and how the transition between an older and a newer version will be facilitated. SECAS confirmed that the transition between versions could be different depending on the changes from the previous version. It might be appropriate for guidance to be immediately end dated, or it may be more appropriate to be phased out. SECAS agreed to share the feedback with the SSC but noted this would not affect the modification itself.

ACTION: CSC_37/01: SECAS to share the CSC's queries on the sunseting arrangements for changes to the SSC Guidance for Device Refurbishment and Security Controls with the SSC.

The CSC:

- **AGREED** that MP195 should be progressed to the Report Phase;
- **APPROVED** the Modification Report;
- **APPROVED** the implementation approach; and
- **AGREED** that MP195 should be progressed as a Self-Governance Modification

DP201 'CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 Applicability End Date'

SECAS (JH) presented the CSC with a summary of Draft Proposal [DP201 'CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 Applicability End Date'](#)

[MP191 'Extending CHTS v1.0 & v1.1 IVP and MVP end dates'](#) extended the Installation Validity Period (IVP) and Maintenance Validity Period (MVP) end dates for SEC Schedule 10 'Communications Hub Technical Specifications' (CHTS) v1.0 by 12 months. These dates changed to 31 January 2023 and 28 February 2023 respectively. For CHTS v1.1 the IVP and MVP end dates were extended by two years to 30 April 2024 and 31 May 2024 respectively. This change was implemented to avoid the risk that Suppliers would have stock that they could no longer install and would need to be scrapped.

The Applicability Period End Date for CHTS v1.1 and SEC Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification' (GBCS) v2.0 compliant stock ended on 28 February 2022. This Applicability Period End Date should also have been extended but was omitted from MP191. Also, the definition of Applicability Period within SEC Section A 'Definitions and Interpretation' has an incorrect cross reference.

The Proposed Solution is to extend the Applicability Period End Date for CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 by 18 months to 28 August 2023. In addition, an incorrect cross reference in the SEC Section A definition of Applicability Period has been updated.

A CSC member (DD) suggested that processes be improved so that discrepancies such as these could be identified sooner. The DCC noted that it is likely the GBCS v2.1 dates may need to be extended again. Members raised concern with the dates being extended too near to the rollout of 4G Communications Hubs, leaving excess stock of older versions of Communications Hubs not installed. The DCC advised it continues to monitor the rollout of Communications Hubs as well as any impacts on the future rollout of 4G Communications Hubs.

The CSC:

- **AGREED** the issue and impact it is having is clearly defined and understood;
- **AGREED** that the DP201 should be converted to a Modification Proposal;
- **AGREED** that MP201 should be progressed to the Report Phase and undergo an expedited five Working Day Modification Report Consultation;
- **APPROVED** the Modification Report;
- **APPROVED** the implementation approach; and
- **AGREED** that the MP201 should be progressed as a Self-Governance Modification

DP165 'ESME Voltage Accuracy'

SECAS (KD) presented CSC with a summary of Draft Proposal [DP165 'ESME Voltage Accuracy'](#).

Electricity Network Parties have a statutory obligation to ensure that the voltage supplied to consumers' premises supplied from low voltage electricity networks is always between defined limits. They currently do this by making planning assumptions when low voltage networks are designed.

Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) record the voltage at a premise but there is no mandated level of accuracy. Such a requirement is not currently codified in the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) or the GBCS.

The uncertainty associated with the lack of a mandated level of accuracy means that Electricity Network Parties must take conservative planning assumptions when designing and analysing performance of low voltage networks of, thereby preventing them from realising the full benefits from the smart meter rollout. The Draft Proposal has previously been presented to the TABASC who agreed that the issue is clear, but the business case will need further investigation.

SECAS (KD) noted that there is potential for the modification to be split, to address Devices already in the field separately from new Device specifications. This would be determined during the Refinement Process.

The CSC had no comments on this modification.

The CSC:

- **AGREED** the issue and the impact it is having is clearly defined and understood;
- **AGREED** that DP165 should be converted to a Modification Proposal;
- **AGREED** that MP165 should be progressed to the Refinement Process; and
- **AGREED** the first package of work and the timetable for MP165.

DP202 'Enduring Solution for SMETS1 and SMETS2+ PPMIDs'

SECAS (KH) presented CSC with a summary of Draft Proposal [DP202 'Enduring Solution for SMETS1 and SMETS2+ PPMIDs'](#)

The SEC differentiates between SMETS1 and SMETS2+ Devices, which can currently be either, but not both. Therefore, the DCC Systems are designed on the premise that the Devices are exclusively either SMETS1 or SMETS2+ Devices. The DCC has several Users who have indicated they would like to use the same Pre-Payment Meter Interface Device (PPMID) for both SMETS1 and SMETS2+ purposes.

The DCC consulted on a potential solution to the issue in July 2021 and following stakeholder feedback, the DCC implemented a tactical solution and raised this SEC modification to enable industry to assess the need for an enduring solution. There are currently two Suppliers which are impacted and a reported six million Devices which are impacted. This figure is anticipated to increase in the future.

The proposal will benefit consumers as it will allow energy Suppliers to install the same model of PPMID on any installation, which will improve efficiency in energy Suppliers metering operations, which they can pass onto the consumer.

A CSC member (EL) noted that it was encouraging to see the modification being progressed as it will be beneficial to have Devices that can work in both spaces. They considered there are limitations on the current solution which are not fully understood and were supportive of this proposal.

The CSC:

- **AGREED** further development is required to define and understand the issue.

4. SEC Modification Timetables

SECAS (DK) provided an update on the timetables for Modification Proposals currently in the Refinement Process and the next main programme of work for each open modification.

There are three Modifications remaining on the waiting list to be progressed again at the end of the month.

SECAS (KD) summarised [MP143 'Incorporating IRPs into GBCS v3 series'](#), noting that the Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) in scope for implementation into GBCS v3.x series have either already been implemented or are due to be implemented into the GBCS v4.x series.

The Impact Assessment has now been returned but was not available in time to discuss at the Working Group or TABASC meetings in March. Additionally, there is no availability to present the Impact Assessment to the TABASC at its April meeting. The DCC requires a decision no later than 4 May 2022 for implementation in the November 2022 SEC Release. SECAS (KD) commented that the modification needs to be implemented in November 2022 to realise the full benefits.

SECAS (KD) proposed that feedback would be sought from the TABASC outside of the meeting cycle and be collated into the Modification Report. The CSC would then be asked to approve the Modification Report ex-committee by correspondence, before SECAS issues a five Working Day Modification Report Consultation to enable a decision at the April Change Board meeting.

The CSC agreed this was a pragmatic approach for MP143.

The CSC **APPROVED** the packages of work and the progression timetables outlined in the paper.

5. SEC Releases Update

SECAS (JH) presented an update on progress with the 2022 SEC Releases.

The CSC agreed that [MP167 'Review of SEC documents'](#) and [MP186 'Section D Review \(2020\): further enhancements'](#) should be moved from the June 2022 SEC Release to the November 2022 SEC Release. It also agreed to add [MP195 'Security Sub-Committee guidance on Device Assurance'](#) to the scope of the June 2022 SEC Release.

The scope of the November 2022 SEC Releases was discussed. As well as MP167 and MP186, [MP129 'Allowing the use of CNSA variant for ECDSA'](#) and [MP193 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 6'](#) have been added to the scope of this release. Neither modification impacts the DCC Systems.

A CSC member (AC) noted the Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS) is seeking a Proposer to raise a Draft Proposal for further Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) targeted for November 2022. The TSIRS is also reviewing the IRPs previously contained in [MP078 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Part 2'](#) which has recently been rejected. SECAS noted that if the IRPs proposed for November 2022 were category 1 or 2, they would need a DCC Preliminary Assessment and Impact Assessment, and it was very unlikely there would be enough time to include them in the November 2022 SEC Release.

SECAS updated the CSC on the provisional scopes for the June 2023 and November 2023 SEC Releases. [MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS'](#) will be the only DCC System impacting modification targeted for the November 2023 SEC Release due to its magnitude. The remaining DCC System impacting modifications targeted for 2023 will therefore be targeted for the June 2023 SEC Release. This would result in two DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) uplifts in 2023. SECAS advised it would seek views from the TABASC and the Operations Group (OPSG) before asking the CSC to baseline the scope of both releases on the DCC Systems.

A CSC member (GS) questioned if further end dating of older DUIS versions would be considered. They noted benefits of end-dating DUIS versions to minimise the cost and complexity of managing multiple versions of DUIS at any one time. Another member (EL) queried if doing so could require Users to uplift to newer versions, noting there has not yet been any mandatory DUIS uplifts imposed on Users. The DCC advised that the Data Service Provider (DSP) now has automated regression testing and the expedited end-dating of an early DUIS version may not be as beneficial. SECAS confirmed it would seek the TABASC's views on potentially end dating older versions of the DUIS in 2023.

The CSC:

- **APPROVED** the update to the scope of the June 2022 SEC Release;
- **NOTED** the update to the proposed scope of the November 2022 SEC Release; and
- **NOTED** the update on the 2023 SEC Releases.

6. Update on DCC's Proposed Standardised IA Costs approach

The DCC (JHu) updated the CSC on the DCC's work on standardising DCC Impact Assessment costs initially presented in January 2023, noting further information has been gathered from the participants. The diversity of each SEC modification is making them difficult to categorise, and discussions are

ongoing between the DCC and its Service Providers. The DCC is expecting to bring its updated proposal to the CSC next month for agreement to pilot.

The CSC **NOTED** the update.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

SECAS reminded the CSC that last year a staggered election approach was implemented to align with the other Sub-Committees and support preservation of knowledge in the Sub-Committee. Half of the members appointed last year agreed to a one-off one-year term to implement the stagger. Elections are now underway for these seats, and nominations will close on Friday 18 March. In the case that there is more than one candidate nominated in any category, a vote will be initiated.

The Chair (DK) noted that LH and GS will be stepping down at this election and thanked both for their contributions to the CSC during their time as members.

There was no further business, and the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Meeting: 12 April 2022