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DP228 'Other User Demand Forecasting'

Modification Report

Version 0.2

14 February 2023

Corporate member of
Plain English Campaign
Committed to clearer
communication

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About this document

This document is a draft Modification Report. It currently sets out the background, issue, and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions. This document will be updated as this modification progresses.

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1. Summary

This proposal has been raised by David Rollason from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

Demand forecasting allows the DCC to understand, consider, and plan for future System demand. Currently, SEC Parties are not obligated to submit forecasts of their expected demand.

In recent months, the DCC has seen a large increase in System demand from the 'Other User' role, with some Other Users expected to increase their demand significantly as the popularity of consumer-based energy apps increases. The DCC considers Other User demand more difficult to predict, especially where their customer numbers increase significantly over a short period of time.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

Demand forecasting allows the DCC to understand, consider, and plan for expected System demand in the future. Before February 2022 DCC Users were required to provide monthly demand forecasts. The volume of traffic generated by Other Users was minimal. Due to a relatively stable and consistent System usage, SEC modification [MP116 'Service Request Forecasting'](#) was raised to remove the requirement for Users to forecast their demand and placed the obligation on the DCC. This was implemented as part of the February 2022 SEC Release. Part of this change allowed Users to provide details if they wished. Given the relatively stable System usage, the removal of the requirement to provide forecasts was to remove an unnecessary burden on DCC Users to complete their forecasts and the accuracy of those forecasts. At the time, it was deemed more efficient for the DCC to forecast demand and agree that forecast with the SEC Panel.

What is the issue?

In recent months, there has been an unforeseen large increase in System demand from Other Users, with some Other Users increasing their demand significantly as the popularity of consumer-based energy apps increases. The DCC also considers Other User demand more difficult to predict, especially where their customer numbers increase significantly over a short period of time.

The volume of traffic has resulted in incidents, which affect all DCC Users and consumers.

What is the impact this is having?

The volume of traffic has resulted in incidents and impacted the service provision to Users and consumers. If left unresolved, there is a high risk that incidents will continue to arise, potentially more frequently, resulting in more time and effort for the DCC to review and resolve them, as well as possible adverse impacts on the service for Users and consumers.

Impact on consumers

If the DCC has greater visibility of expected demand, it will be able to better manage that demand which can reduce the likelihood of incidents. The consumer would therefore benefit from a more reliable and stable DCC system.

3. Assessment of the proposal

Areas for assessment

Sub-Committee input

SECAS will engage the Chairs from the Operations Group (OPSG), the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) and the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) to confirm what input is required from these forums. SECAS believes the following Sub-Committees will need to provide the following input to this modification:

Sub-Committee input	
Sub-Committee	Input sought
OPSG	What operational impact is the increased Other User demand having on the smart metering infrastructure?
SMKI PMA	No anticipated SMKI impacts.
SSC	No anticipated security impacts.
TABASC	Will any Proposed Solution impact the smart metering technical and or business architecture?

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This Draft Proposal was raised on 31 January 2023. SECAS will present the proposal to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment on 21 February 2023.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	31 Jan 2023
Chair triage meeting	15 Feb 2023
Presented to CSC for initial comment	23 Feb 2023
<i>Develop modification scope with the Proposer</i>	Mar 2023
<i>Presented to Sub-Committees for initial comment</i>	Mar – Apr 2023
<i>CSC converts Draft Proposal to Modification Proposal</i>	18 Apr 2023

Appendix 2: Glossary

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

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
OPSG	Operations Group
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee