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DP235 'Enhanced Meter Data Access for Other Users'

Modification Report

Version 0.1

14 February 2023



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 Matt Roderick of n3rgy.

Across the energy market an increasing number of Third Parties are offering services which assist Suppliers and consumers to manage their energy consumption. Currently, Third Party Other Users are limited in the Service Requests (SR) which they can issue to Smart Metering Equipment. The Proposer would like Other Users to be allowed access to 15 additional SRs.

The Proposer believes this will enable Third Parties to offer an improved service to Suppliers and Energy Consumers. It will also assist Local Authorities as they will be able to easily identify those who are at risk of fuel poverty.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

Various SEC Parties retrieve data from Smart Metering Systems (SMS) from consumers. This is done by sending SRs to the SMS dependent on which type of information they would like to receive. Different SEC Parties are split into different User Roles, dependent on the relationship they have with the consumer.

The DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) states which SRs different User Roles can retrieve. Currently, Other Users are limited in the SRs which they can collect from Smart Metering Systems.

Below is a table of SRs which Other Users cannot access. The column on the right notes which other User Roles can currently retrieve this information. User Roles are defined as Import Suppliers (IS), Export Suppliers (ES), Gas Suppliers (GS), Registered Supplier Agents (RSA), Electricity Distributors (ED), Gas Transporters (GT) and Other Users (OU), with the Meter Data Retriever (MDR) role becoming effective in June 2024.

Service Requests		
Service Reference Variant	Service Request Name	Eligible User Roles
4.1.1	Read Instantaneous Import Registers	IS, ES, ED, GT
4.1.2	Read Instantaneous Import TOU Matrices	IS, ES, ED, GT
4.2	Read Instantaneous Export Registers	ES, ED
4.6.1	Retrieve Import Daily Read	IS, ES
4.6.2	Retrieve Export Daily Read	ES
4.12.1	Read Maximum Demand Import Registers	IS, ED
4.12.2	Read Maximum Demand Export Registers	ES, ED
4.13	Read Prepayment Configuration	IS, GS
4.14	Read Prepayment Daily Read Log	IS, GS

Service Requests		
Service Reference Variant	Service Request Name	Eligible User Roles
4.16	Read Active Power Import	IS, ED
4.18	Read Meter Balance	IS, GS
6.2.1	Read Device Configuration (Voltage)	IS, RSA, ED
6.2.5	Read Device Configuration (Instantaneous Power Thresholds)	IS, RSA
6.2.9	Read Device Configuration (Payment Mode)	IS, GS, RSA
7.4	Read Supply Status	IS, ES, GS, RSA, ED, GT

What is the issue?

Smart Energy Code (SEC) Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' (DUIS) details which SRs each User Role can retrieve. Other Users are limited in the Service Requests they can access. As Third Parties are developing products to assist Energy Consumers manage their usage, the limitations on the SRs they can access is preventing them from offering improved services.

What is the impact this is having?

The current arrangements mean that Third Parties are limited in their ability to offer innovative services to Energy Suppliers. If Third Parties can retrieve this information, this will also assist public bodies, such as Registered Social Landlords, Local Authorities and Consumer Advice organisations who have statutory obligations to support Energy Consumers who are at risk of fuel poverty.

Impact on consumers

Energy Consumers can now use independent services to manage and control energy costs through apps or online services. If Other Users have access to additional SRs this will enable consumers to have access to more granular data about their usage patterns, which in turn will assist them in making decisions about their energy usage.

In addition, a growing number of Energy Consumers are installing generation equipment in their homes to help reduce energy costs. If further information is available to Other Users this can be passed onto the Energy Consumer in order they can properly assess the management of their micro-generation infrastructure.

3. Assessment of the proposal

Areas for assessment

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) believes investigation is needed to fully understand why Other Users have been excluded from the selected Service Requests which the Proposer would like access to. SECAS will also investigate issues relating to SEC Section I 'Data Privacy' regarding the Appropriate Permission needed for Other Users to access this data.

Sub-Committee input

SECAS will engage with 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	Will this modification have any operational impacts?
SMKI PMA	No input sought.
SSC	What are the impacts of changing who can access SRs?
TABASC	No input sought.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This modification will be presented to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) on 21 February 2023 for initial comment. SECAS will then investigate the issue further before presenting this to the CSC on 21 March 2023 to become a Modification Proposal.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	14 Feb 2023
Presented to CSC for initial comment	21 Feb 2023
<i>Presented to CSC to become Modification Proposal</i>	<i>21 Mar 2023</i>

Italics denote planned events that could be subject to change

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
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specifications
ED	Electricity Distributors
ES	Export Supplier
GS	Gas Supplier
GT	Gas Transporters
IS	Import Supplier
OPSG	Operations Group
RSA	Registered Supplier Agents
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SRS	Service Requests
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TOU	Time Of Use