

This document is classified as **Clear** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Recipients can distribute this information to the world, there is no limit on disclosure. Information may be shared without restriction subject to copyright.

CTG Meeting 17

10:30 – 13:30, 08 July 2024

CTG_17_0807 – Meeting Headlines

Decision, Discussion and Information Items

1. DESNZ Update on Overall Comms/Media Handling Approach (For Information) (**GREEN**)

DESNZ presented an update on the Department's 4G Transition communications and media handling approach. The Communications Transition Group (CTG) sought clarification on the Department's and Smart Energy Great Britain's roles on media lines and future communications with consumers, and the timings for briefing the media regarding the 4G programme. The Department **AGREED** to return to CTG and provide further advice.

The CTG **NOTED** the update.

2. Previous Meeting's Minutes (For Decision) (**RED**)

The CTG reviewed the minutes from the CTG 16 and CTG 16X meetings and **APPROVED** them as final, including one minor change to the CTG 16 Non-Confidential minutes.

3. Actions Log Update (For Decision) (**RED**)

The CTG **NOTED** the actions log update and **AGREED** to close all actions marked as Propose to Close.

4. DCC Update: 4G CH&N Programme (For Information) (**AMBER**)

Programme Update

DCC presented an overview of the overall plan for CH&N Transition to 4G Communication Hubs (CHs) and provided updates on its programme risks and issues, noting an overall RAG status of Green. DCC highlighted that following a review of the CH firmware versions 8.07 and 8.08, a decision has been taken to move forward with version 8.07 and the revised Systems Integration Testing (SIT) Exit date is now 31 July 2024. DCC noted the delay in SIT Exit would not affect the upcoming JIP milestone for the commencement of User Integration Testing (UIT) and the Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) milestones later in the year. DCC will provide further information to CTG to outline the process followed to determine the CH firmware decision.

User Integration Testing (UIT) Update

DCC presented an update on UIT and advised that UIT-B testing will commence on 5 August 2024, and noted 90 percent of Pre-UTS testing had been completed with no tickets raised in relation to 4G CHs. DCC confirmed there is sufficient capacity for testing participants to utilise the Brabazon lab for UIT-A testing, with access to commence from 11 November 2024.

Initial Pallet Validation Approach Document (IPVAD) Update

DCC presented an update on the Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) Working Group and noted DCC hosted the first working group meeting on 26 June 2024, following CTG approval of the IPV Approach

Managed by

Page 1 of 3

Document and endorsement of the working group's Terms of Reference. DCC confirmed that the Working Group invite would be shared with CTG, for any CTG member to attend future working group meetings, with the next planned session to be held on 24 July 2024 and to focus on Mesh and installs planning.

Regulations Update – Phase 2 Consultation

DCC provided an update on regulations and noted that the [CH&N Consultation on further transitional provisions for the SEC](#) was issued on 26 June 2024 and closed on 5 July 2024, in response to delays in the designation of the Main Body Smart Energy Code (SEC) changes by DESNZ due to the General Election. DCC advised designation is targeted for 19 July 2024.

Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) Progress Update

DCC presented an update on the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) and noted DCC are waiting to receive results analysis from Vodafone on WAN coverage following the completion of ICHIS testing and these results would be shared with Industry upon the conclusion of the ICHIS work.

4G Comms Hub Financing Update

DCC presented an update on 4G Transitional Financing Arrangements and advised a further stakeholder engagement session on the 4G CH Financing Outline Business Case (OBC) is scheduled for 15 July 2024 with Suppliers and DNOs which will focus on mitigating costs of the 4G roll out. DCC noted that the OBC will be presented to the SEC Panel in August, prior to the OBC being submitted to DESNZ at the end of August for decision.

Supply Chain Update

DCC presented an update on the 2/3G to 4G Supply Chain transition and noted that the aggregated industry view of current orders, forecasts and stock supports the transition to 4G only installs by mid-November to mid-December 2025. DCC proposed to introduce a temporary change in committed forecasting rules from 12 months to 10 months to provide more flexibility and shorter lead times, should issues arise in IPV and suppliers require additional 2/3G CHs.

The CTG **NOTED** these updates.

5. DCC Update: SMETS 1 End of Life (For Information) (AMBER)

DCC presented an update on SMETS1 End of Life (EoL) and noted ongoing discussions between DCC and DESNZ regarding the spending objectives of the business case. DCC **AGREED** to share a revised engagement plan for the SMETS1 EoL project at the August CTG meeting and confirm the timings for the planned OBC submission to DESNZ.

The CTG **NOTED** the update.

6. Sub-Committee Chair Updates (For Information) (GREEN)

The OPSG and SSC/SMKI Chairs provided Sub-Committee updates relevant to the 4G programme: the OPSG Chair noted DCC was due to provide scheduled updates on the Live Services Criteria ahead of IPV, and the SSC/SMKI Chair advised the CPA Triage Security Characteristics had been drafted and submitted for National Cyber Security Centre review alongside updated SSC guidance concerning factory reset of CHs.

The CTG **NOTED** the updates.

7. CTG Overall Transition Plan (OTP) Update (For Information) (AMBER)

The Chair presented an overview from the CTG Energy Supplier Readiness Session held on 27 June 2024 and noted energy suppliers are undertaking planning and readiness activities, with some suppliers at a more advanced stage in the 4G transition. Next steps will include updates to the CTG Overall Transition Plan, as a result, and will include alignment with the latest Joint Industry Plan.

EDF presented a workstream overview of EDF's 2/3G Sunsetting and 4G delivery plan to provide a supplier perspective to CTG and the presentation was welcomed by CTG Members.

The CTG **NOTED** the updates.

8. CTG Risks and Issues Register – monthly update (For Decision) (**RED**)

The CTG **NOTED** changes made to the Risks and Issues Register and **AGREED** to the changes and baselining of the draft as v16.0.

9. AOB (**RED**)

VMO2 3G Sunsetting

The CTG Chair and DCC **AGREED** to review the Red classification of the 'Vodafone 3G Sunsetting – DCC Report' shared with the CTG and OPSG for information and consider downgrading to Amber.

Upcoming Member Availability

CTG members **AGREED** to confirm availability for the CTG 18 meeting on 12 August and DCC bilaterals, in respect of the potential impact of leave over the summer holiday period.

Next Meeting Date: 12 August 2024.