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CTG Meeting 12

10:30 – 13:30, 12 February 2024

CTG_12_1202 – Meeting Headlines

Decision, Discussion and Information Items

1. Previous Meeting's Minutes (For Decision)

The Communications Transition Group (CTG) reviewed the minutes from the CTG 11 meeting and **APPROVED** them as final including a minor change.

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

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 that all areas have a RAG status of Green. DCC advised that Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) Exit was formally approved by the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) on 31 January 2024 and the Systems Integration Testing (SIT) test phase commenced on 1 February 2024. DCC noted that the 'shift left' of PIT and SIT had been successful and advised that the DCC would look to adopt this approach for future programmes. DCC highlighted the Joint Industry Plan (JIP) milestone to finalise Comms Hubs Test Orders for User Integration Testing (UIT) by 1 April 2024.

DCC presented an update on 2/3G to 4G VMO2 Transition Readiness and noted that the current supply chain and manufacturing position of CHs align with the VM02 contractual obligations. DCC advised customer committed orders, forecasts and current industry stock level supports the transition to 4G by June 2025, however highlighted this assumes industry stock would be exhausted by June 2025 and this presents a risk to Users who may require additional volumes to maintain viable working stock positions. DCC presented four key risks, comprising two Supply Chain risks and two Demand risks and advised that DCC was undertaking Customer Transition Readiness bi-laterals with Users as part of DCC's risk mitigation strategy. DCC noted oversight of User order forecasts in the Ordering Management System (OMS) over the next 12 months, however highlighted a gap beyond this period and **REQUESTED** Users provide non-committed order forecasts beyond June 2025 to allow DCC to have a better understanding of User transition plans and ensure there are sufficient 2/3G CH volumes to meet User requirements.

DCC presented an update on the closed *Changes to the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) Consultation* and advised the ICHIS noise levels for new meters were published on 31 January 2024. DCC advised that engagement with meter manufacturers was ongoing regarding testing of existing meters, and expected to provide CTG with an update on testing and initial analysis at the March CTG, prior to concluding all work in September 2024 ahead of Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) testing. CTG **REQUESTED** that DCC engage with TAG to verify the testing approach, prior to providing any recommendations to CTG on future pathways.

DCC presented an overview of the final Second Phase 2 Mesh Workshop delivered on 24 January 2024 and advised that Users had agreed to a proposed approach. DCC noted no further workshops

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are required for Phase 2 and advised the Mesh Consultation is on track to be published in late March 2024.

DCC presented an update on CH&N training and advised that DCC had developed a training strategy for 4G CH installation in consultation with DCC Service Providers, Manufacturers and Users. DCC advised there are only small variances between 2G/3G installation and 4G installation, with the main variance reflecting the LED swap from Mesh to Power.

DCC presented an update on financing arrangements on proposed 4G IPV CH funding and charges. DCC advised that there would be no User charges for UIT test hubs, with the costs being absorbed by the DCC Design Build & Test stage of the Programme, however will confirm the cost of test CHs post UIT.. DCC further advised that Users will not be charged for CHs delivered in readiness for IPV until RY25/26. DCC presented an update on the next phase of engagement for SMETS1 End of Life activities and **REQUESTED** CTG support a workshop to agree an approach to capturing a relative cost position to feed in to a Strategic Outline Case for the programme. CTG discussed the provision of Industry costs to DCC and noted concerns around sharing commercially sensitive information with competitors. CTG **AGREED** to attend a DCC workshop to discuss how Industry could appropriately provide cost data to DCC without commercial compromise.

DCC presented an update on VMO2 3G Sunsetting and advised that Traffic and Capacity modelling had been completed by VMO2 to understand any variations from moving to 2G. DCC highlighted that VMO2 initial modelling forecasts a need to implement a traffic management solution and reduce the performance criteria of two performance measures, in order to provide service continuity. DCC highlighted the two affected measures are GBCS Alerts from Meters & Devices, whereby alert delivery time would increase from 55 seconds to 100 seconds, and Meter OTA, whereby the maximum daily meter requests would reduce from 500 thousand to 150 thousand. The CTG Chair highlighted the need to meet with the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) and Operations Group (OPSG) Sub-Committee Chairs to discuss where risks relating to these measures should be managed.

The CTG **NOTED** these updates.

3. Actions Log Update (For Information) (GREEN)

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

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

The TAG and OPSG Chairs provided updates relevant to the 4G programme. The TAG Chair reaffirmed DCC's PIT exit date and SIT commencement date, and the OPSG Chair noted marginal improvements to business process indicator levels as a result of Vodafone's 3G shut-down activity and requested a further review of performance to validate these indicators, and also confirmed that DCC were not proposing to remove 'roaming' from the CH&N Candidate list.

5. DESNZ Update on RFI Outputs (For Information) (AMBER)

DESNZ presented an update on the Request for Information (RFI) issued to Suppliers in September 2023, regarding SMETS1 End of Commercial Life and SMETS2 Comms Hub replacements. DESNZ advised Suppliers are forecasting replacement of 11.7 million of SMETS1 meters, with meters coming to an end of commercial life between 2026 and 2028, however noting replacements are likely to be in advance of this due to contractual end dates. DESNZ advised Suppliers are forecasting the replacement of 12.5 million SMETS2 meters, which is an increase since the previous RFI in 2022, and likely due to Suppliers who are forecasting commercial efficiencies from early replacements to avoid second visits for subsequent replacements. DESNZ advised the next RFI will occur in Autumn 2024.

The CTG **NOTED** the update.

6. CTG Terms of Reference (**GREEN**)

The CTG Chair advised only minor changes are thought to be required to the CTG's Terms of Reference (ToR) to incorporate SMETS1 End of Life. The CTG Chair noted that an updated ToR would be circulated to CTG for decision Ex-Committee, prior to being presented at SEC Panel for approval.

The CTG **NOTED** the update.

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

The CTG **AGREED** for Engage to arrange a second Energy Suppliers focussed Readiness Session, with outcomes to be reflected at the CTG in March and the Overall Transition Plan to be updated in time for April CTG.

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 V10.1.

9. Asset Life Update (For Decision) (**RED**)

SECAS presented an update on the Asset Life Project and **REQUESTED** CTG validate proposed modelling assumptions, prior to SECAS undertaking this work. CTG **AGREED** to review the asset life modelling assumptions ex-committee and raise any concerns with the Chair and SECAS.

The CTG **NOTED** the update.

Next Meeting Date: 11 March 2024