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MP085B ‘Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods (meters currently installed)’

June 2022 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Joey Manners	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Rainer Lischetzki	SECAS
David Walsh	DCC
Emma Johnson	British Gas
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Julie Geary	E.ON
Martin Bell	EUA
Kevin McIntyre	Geo
Alastair Cobb	Landis+Gyr
Nick Winfield	Landis+Gyr
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Jamie Flaherty	Ofgem
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
Audrey Smith-Keary	SSE - OVO
Karen Jacks	Vantage Meters
Luke Brady	Vantage Meters
Matthew Alexander	SSEN
Kelly Kinsman	WPD

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, the initial strawman solutions and a summary of the request for information (RFI) responses.

Issue

- Technical Specifications are silent on when an average Root Mean Square (RMS) voltage reading take place
- Some Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) commence readings on the hour as per consumption data however most do not
- As a result Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) have to download the data in high granularity and re-calculate to align to the hour or half past the hour
- The issue will be addressed for Devices built to the November 2022 Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) specification (6.x) as a result of [MP085A 'Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods'](#) however the issue will remain for Devices currently installed

Request for information initial proposed solutions

- Populating the Applicability Period End Dates of SMETS within SEC Schedule 11 'TS Applicability Tables'
- Retrospective uplifts to SMETS versions 2.X, 3.X, 4.X and 5.X.
- Device Manufacturers voluntarily implementing the desired functionality (as captured in MP085A) into future firmware updates, potentially as part of firmware updates to deliver other changes in functionality.

Request for information responses

- Four responses.
- Though populating end dates within SEC Schedule 11 would enforce the functionality, it would result in Devices that are unable to be updated being non-compliant.
- Third option is the most straightforward to implement, however how can it be mandated?
- A Device Manufacturer intends to implement the desired functionality via firmware in 2023.

Working Group Discussion

Preferences on the proposed solutions

SECAS (BB) sought the views of the Working Group on the three initial proposed solutions. A Device Manufacturer representative (NW) commented that retrospective updates to SMETS versions would be difficult to implement, and the Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA) Chair (MB) advised that implementing this solution would set a new precedent for modifications, and was unsupportive. Another Device Manufacturer representative (AC) commented that this solution would allow Manufacturers and Suppliers to incorporate the functionality by choice, and advised SECAS to engage with Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) as the solution could result in hardware changes.

Voluntary updates

SECAS informed the Working Group that an RFI respondent stated that they have targeted to include the functionality in a 2023 release. L+G has previously advised that they will deliver the MP085A Proposed Solution via firmware. A DNO representative (MA) commented that forcing the functionality through end-dating current versions of SMETS is unfeasible as it would have high associated costs. They added that it would be advantageous if 100% of Devices align as it will help DNOs to better analyse voltage peaks and troughs from consumers. SECAS took an action to engage with Device Manufacturers to see if this voluntary approach can be adopted.

SMETS1 Devices

A Large Supplier representative (MR) commented that the impact of the issue on SMETS1 Devices, as many Manufacturers have disbanded their SMETS1 teams. SECAS confirmed that this is a valid point and will be investigated.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS are to engage with Manufacturers to understand if the functionality can be implemented voluntarily.
- SECAS are to investigate the impact the issue has on SMETS1 Devices.