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MP181 'Meter Asset Provider access to asset related data held by the DCC'

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
Carmen Strickland	Horizon
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 Proposed Solution and the Refinement Consultation responses.

Issue

- Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) and meter Manufacturers wish to access smart asset-related data held by the DCC:

- Global Unique Identifier (GUID)
    - Device type, Manufacturer and model
    - Device firmware version
    - Device status
    - CSP region
    - Supplier ID
    - Communications Hub make, model and firmware version
- This DCC-held data was initially thought to be confidential, though that is not the case if DCC carries out ‘permitted business’
- MP181 aims to amend the SEC to enable DCC to provide this service as an Explicit Charge within SEC Section K (subsequent changes to Section A ‘Definitions and Interpretation’, H ‘DCC Services’ and Schedule 7 ‘Specimen Enabling Services Agreement’)

Proposed Solution

- DCC to provide a ‘paid for’ service for MAPs and Manufacturers to use
- Once implemented, the service will not impact Parties not using it
- MAPs will be requested to provide proof that they are the owner of the asset(s) via SharePoint (GUID list)
- DCC are to retrieve the dataset requested by the relevant MAP or Manufacturer from the Technical Operations Centre (now the Data Science and Analytics Team) (TOC)
- DCC are to provide the dataset to the relevant MAP or Manufacturer with notification

Refinement Consultation responses

- 14 respondents: 4 Large Suppliers, 2 Network Parties and 8 Other SEC Parties
- 13 Respondents approve of the modification and Proposed Solution
- Proposed amendments to legal text and confidentiality:
    - Clearer definition of ‘report’
    - Clause to firm up confidentiality / state that MAPs/Manufacturers cannot sell data to Third Parties.
- Minor impact to implement modification and minor associated costs
- Respondents requested details on the costs of the DCC reports.
- Three-month lead time
- Better facilitates SEC Objectives (a) and (c)
- 10 respondents anticipate positive (though minor) consumer benefits.

Working Group Discussion

SEC Modification title

A Large Supplier representative (EJ) requested that the modification's title is changed to incorporate Device Manufacturers into the title. The Working Group agreed, and the title of the modification will be changed to MP181 'Meter Asset Provider and Device Manufacturer access to asset related data held by the DCC'.

Amendments to the legal text

SECAS (BB) informed the Working Group that a Refinement Consultation respondent requested that a clause is included within the legal text that prevents MAPs and Manufacturers from selling the data to third party organisations. A further request to add definition to the reports was also received. The Working Group agreed that these changes should be made.

DCC report pricing

SECAS informed the Working Group that following recent conversations with the DCC, the reporting mechanism build cost is costed at £45,000 to £65,000, as stated in the DCC Preliminary Assessment. The DCC informed the Working Group that after initial assessment of potential uptake of the service, the monthly reports will cost £1,000 per report. DCC advised that it will further investigate the cost of ad-hoc report requests. Device Manufacturers have informed the Working Group that this will likely apply to them. The DCC also advised that the costs will be reviewed annually, and potentially amended depending on how frequently the service is used.

Gaining access to the reports

MB queried how they will gain access to the reports. CS stated that in the case of a MAP, they will upload a GUID list to the DCC SharePoint, and then the DCC shall upload the report to the same location and notify the MAP that the report has been uploaded.

Recoup of Smart Metering Inventory set up costs

A Large Supplier representative (RB) commented that the DCC's charging process doesn't take into consideration the costs associated with the set up costs of the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI). As a result, RB feels that the DCC is undercharging with a proposed cost of £1,000 per report. The Working Group Chair (AB) commented that it would be difficult to quantify the costs associated with uploading current and historic data within the SMI / DCC Systems. The Proposer (CS) stated that the MP181 costing strategy that the DCC proposes is in line with the general DCC charging mechanism available to them under the DCC licence.

RB commented further that Parties have and continue to make a material contribution by uploading data to the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI), and then third parties (such as MAPs) can access the data for marginal costs. They stated that this approach will hinder the possibility of the DCC eventually becoming a free service. SECAS took an action to investigate the costs associated with historic uploads to the SMI.

The Working Group generally agreed that the issues surrounding the current methodology to DCC charging needs to be reviewed, but is outside of this modification. The Proposer stated that after two years of discussing the reporting mechanism with the DCC, they would like to see the modification progress into the Report Phase and through to the Change Board decision. They also added that it is the DCC's intention to review the costs annually and so if there are broader changes to the DCC charging methodology, they can be factored into updated report costs. MB commented that if the price of the reports is increased as a result of the historic SMI uploads, there could be a scenario where no Party uses the service due to the price.

Retail Energy Code modification 0046

A Large Supplier representative (EJ) advised SECAS to investigate Retail Energy Code (REC) modification 0046, as this is looking at potential commercial advantages from disclosing data. SECAS will investigate this with the Proposer and the REC manager.

Use of the modification

SECAS provided an overview of the Refinement Consultation responses, including one respondent's comments which did not support the modification. They stated that it is possible that MAPs / Manufacturers may not utilise the solution delivered by MP181. As a result, there is no guarantee that costs could be fully recovered via Explicit Charging if the solution was never used. They commented that it should not be the case that paying Parties fund a modification which delivers very limited benefit to those Parties, whilst simultaneously exposing them to the possibility of unrecovered costs. SECAS commented that the modification had received thirteen positive responses to the consultation which would indicate that there is a demand for the service, and it will be utilised by numerous Parties.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will investigate costs associated with uploading data to the SMI.
- SECAS will investigate REC modification 0046.
- SECAS will inform SEC Lawyers of the proposed legal text amendments.