



Scheduling Services for SMETS1 Devices Business Case (4.3)

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Problem Statement

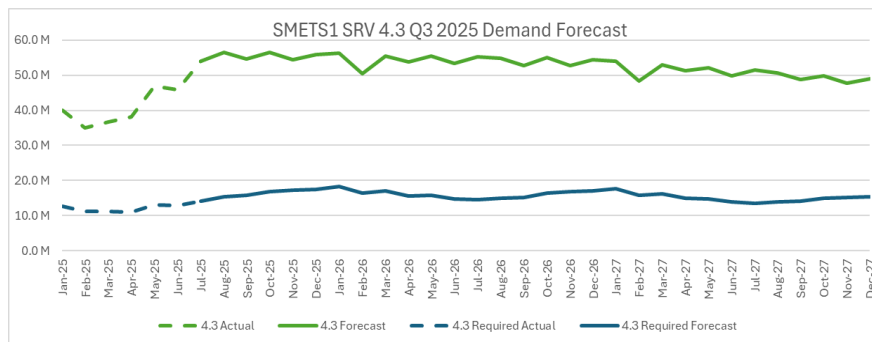
For Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications 1 (SMETS1), SRV 4.3 'Read Instantaneous Prepay Values' can currently only be requested on an 'On-Demand' or 'Future Dated' service basis. As such, Eligible Users must send one of these SRVs to the DCC each time the associated data is required. This can only be sent, currently via a SMS message.

The volume of these requests generates significant costs (per SMS average ~£0.0250) which DCC wishes to address especially as the forecast use of the request has increased in 2025 and is anticipated to grow in the coming years.

Impact of not intervening

DCC anticipates that the volume of SRV 4.3 for SMETS1 based on the latest DCC 'Q3 2025 Demand Forecast' (September 2025) shows the volumes of requests increasing from ~40m in January 2025 to well over ~50m messages per month (in most instances) from mid-2025 out to end of 2027. The assumptions DCC is making in forecasting this increase are:

- 1) Any SRV 4.3 not sent immediately following an SRV 2.2 (TopUpDevice) is eligible to be moved to Scheduled Mode of Operation
- 2) Service Users migrate 80% of all eligible SRV 4.3s to Scheduled mode of operation.
- 3) A gradual decline in the number of SMETS1 prepayment meters with migration now complete.



Solution – move to scheduled reads

DCC wants to make SRV 4.3 eligible for Scheduled Services for SMETS1 services, Service Users could then utilise SRV 5.1 'Create Schedule' to schedule SRV 4.3 on a repeating basis negating the need to send costly SMS messages. This is to be delivered through SEC Modification MP304.

Cost to Deliver

Through working with Service Providers the anticipated cost to design, build and carry out Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) is being scoped but currently costs are ~£1 million with a view that this can be reduced by challenging the Service Providers.

Cost Avoidance

With customers moving away from SMS messages, DCC makes the assumptions that around **74%** of all 'On-demand' and 'Future Dated' SRV 4.3s can be moved to Scheduled Mode of Operation.

DCC's Commercial and Forecasting team are currently modelling the commercial impact of this change but is expected to result in cost avoidance of ~£35m between the Modification expected delivery in November 2026 and the end of our current forecast model of March 2029.

Future benefits will be realised beyond this date out to SMETS1 End of Life. These will be further forecasted as required as there is heavy dependence on industry swap-out forecasts which is not yet known.

The costs of delivering the change and expected benefit are in the forecasts for DCC as part of the ex-ante planning.