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Operations Group Meeting 167X

20 July 2026, 13:00 – 14:30

Meeting Headlines

At every meeting, the OPSG will focus on cross-industry matters that affect, or have the potential to affect, multiple Smart Energy Code (SEC) Parties.

Decision, Discussion, and Information Items

1. 4G & Beyond – Outline Business Case: (For Decision) (AMBER)

The DCC presented the 4G & Beyond Project Definition Document to OPSG, TABASC and CTG Members. The DCC shared the updated problem statement, business needs and solution options, which had been amended in line with previous feedback from OPSG and TABASC.

The DCC noted its preferred solution option as the 'minimum approach' option. This would modify the existing Communications Hub (CH) design with a module that ensures 4G/5G capability and supports post-quantum cryptography.

The DCC explained the Outline Business Case (OBC) will be presented to the SEC Panel on 28 July 2026 and then issued to DESNZ on 29 July 2026.

Members requested that the DCC and SEC Industry Operations undertake a lessons learned activity focusing on repeated CH replacement cycles and previous future-proofing and remote upgrade capability commitments. Members also emphasised that any lessons learned activity must demonstrate how implementation within future programmes will be achieved.

The OPSG **ENDORSED** the 4G & Beyond:

- Problem statement;
- Business needs, subject to the agreed revisions;
- Solution options; and
- DCC preferred solution option – 'Minimum Approach'.

The OPSG **DID NOT ENDORSE** the 4G & Beyond high-level requirements as members had not yet been provided with or reviewed the updated version.

The OPSG **DID NOT ENDORSE** the creation of subsequent programme(s) by the end of 2026 to progress the strategic concerns raised as part of the initiation of this programme. Members agreed that longer-term strategic issues should be considered separately from the immediate 2029 risk

The TABASC **ENDORSED** the 4G & Beyond:

- Problem statement;
- Business needs, subject to the agreed revisions;

- Solution options; and
- DCC preferred solution option – ‘Minimum Approach’.

The TABASC **DID NOT ENDORSE** the 4G & Beyond high-level requirements as members had not yet been provided with or reviewed the updated version.

The TABASC **DID NOT ENDORSE** the creation of subsequent programme(s) by the end of 2026 to progress the strategic concerns raised as part of the initiation of this programme. Members agreed that longer-term strategic issues should be considered separately from the immediate 2029 risk.

Next Meeting: 11 August 2026