

APRIL 2023

SEC Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2023 SEC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the April 2023 SEC Newsletter.

In this edition, we provide an insight on the recent discussions at SEC Panel. We also have a call for action for our Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey and the DCC Operational Performance Regime consultation. We provide an update on the SEC Panel's approved Budget for 2023-2026 and the latest SEC Strategic Plan, the Smart Meter Device Assurance Scheme (SMDA), the latest edition of the SEC Modcast and our upcoming SECAS webinars.

You can also read our usual updates on modifications and key meeting dates for May 2023. The spotlight has been placed on the new Testing Advisory Group (TAG) Chair, where you can find out more about him.

We hope you enjoy this edition, please contact us at the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) if you have any topics you would like to see covered in an upcoming newsletter.

SEC PANEL AND SECCO BOARD UPDATE

The [SEC Panel](#) and [SECCo Board](#) have had a busy four months (January 2023 – April 2023) overseeing key industry events, progressing recommendations from the SEC Sub-Committees, and providing outputs to SEC Parties via post-meeting documentation and so much more.

In March 2023, the Panel bade farewell to its Chair for the past nine years, Peter Davies, and welcomed Angela Love, who brings extensive industry experience and insight to the role.

Below are some key updates from the last few months:

- The Panel considered the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) and Operations Group (OPSG) assessment of the Data Services Provider (DSP) solution options against business needs and provided a subsequent recommendation to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- The Panel approved a new Sub Committee Chair – Martin Hanley for the Testing Advisory Group (TAG).
- A new Sub Committee was established – the Communications Transition Group (CTG), which is going to be a key vehicle following the Ofgem announcement of the 2G/3G sunseting and subsequent DCC Network Transition to 4G over the next few years.
- A sub-set of Panel members were involved in a process to improve greater transparency and visibility over the commercial process followed by DCC ahead of DCC Service Management System (DSMS) contract award.
- The Panel agreed to proceed with the Design Phase of the new Website project which will bring benefits by increasing functionality and providing a better User experience to all SEC Parties.
- Code Reform: Ofgem will be issuing a Request for Information to all code bodies in May 2023 asking for information on contracts and personnel to feed into Code consolidation and in the future. The Panel will provide its view in June 2023.
- Monthly Panel reporting classification has been downgraded, to improve accessibility with a more detailed Panel Paper Overview and more concise papers provided.
- The SEC Change team provide a monthly summary to the Panel on how the modifications are progressing and comparative data on the difference between the system impacting and non-system impacting modifications, showing an overall improvement over the last few years.
- The Strategic Working Group (SWG), a sub-group of the Panel, has met twice in the last quarter and provided guidance on strategic topics, including an updated roadmap. The Board have held one strategy day and will be hosting an additional strategy day on 4 May 2023.



Governance

ANNUAL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY – CALL FOR ACTION

SEC Parties have been invited to opt-in to participate in the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, which is a great opportunity to provide feedback on the provision of services and enable us to use the results to further improve the service we provide. This year we are widening the scope of the survey to seek feedback on SEC Panel, SECAS, Sub-Committee management, and the User Competent Independent Organisation (CIO).

You can opt-in by filling in the online Consent Form [here](#) once [logged in](#) using Google Chrome, Firefox or Microsoft Edge by the **Close of Business on Friday 5 May 2023**.

Your “opt-in” would mean that a market research agency will be in touch via telephone, and your involvement would be very much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).



DCC OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE REGIME (OPR) CONSULTATION 2023 – CALL FOR ACTION

To help evaluate the DCC’s performance of Customer Engagement, the SEC Panel is required to submit an assessment of how the DCC performed each Regulatory Year.

The submission is formed of three core themes:

- The timing and frequency of engagement by the DCC;
- The quality of the information provided by the DCC; and
- How customer views have been considered in decision-making by the DCC.

Each core theme contains a subset of questions. The Panel must score each of these sub-questions on a scale of 0-3 and submit the views to Ofgem. Ofgem will then take these views into consideration when making their final decision. Your response is required to support the SEC Panel’s submission to Ofgem.

Please respond to the consultation via the form [here](#) once [logged into](#) our website, by the **Close of Business on Friday 12 May 2023**.

UPDATED SEC STRATEGIC PLAN

The SEC Strategic Plan which outlines the material events that are likely to impact the SEC and the provision of services under the SEC; and the SEC Panel’s approach in preparing for such events has been updated. This follows the six-monthly review and approval by the SEC Panel. This can be found [here](#) when you scroll down the SEC Panel page on the SEC website.



SEC PANEL APPROVED BUDGET 2023-26 PUBLISHED

The Budget for the Regulatory Years 2023-2026 was approved by the SEC Panel on 28 February 2023 and can be found on the SEC website [here](#).



SEC WEBSITE UPDATE

The SEC website download issues have now been resolved and the website is functioning as expected. Thanks for being patient while we upgraded the website, and we can reassure you that actions have been put in place to minimise the risk of a reoccurrence moving forward.



SMART METER DEVICE ASSURANCE SCHEME (SMDA) UPDATE

The [SMDA Sub-Committee](#) (SMDASC) met on 4 April 2023. At this meeting, Carmen Strickland, a Meter Asset Provider (MAP) representative, was recommended for the role of SMDASC Chair, which was approved by SEC Panel on 25 April.

The SMDASC also discussed expanding testing to provide SMDA testing and assurance to Alternative Home Area Network (Alt HAN) devices and the changes required to align SMDA testing with the June 2023 SEC Release.

The SMDASC were updated on the SMDA Review Project Brief which was approved by the SEC Panel on 28 March 2023. The SMDA Review will focus on industry testing needs and will propose options for what the scheme could look like in 12 to 18 months' time and how it could be funded.

To submit a device for testing please contact smdaso@gemserv.com or visit the [SMDA website](#) for further information.



LATEST SECAS MODCAST

The [April 2023 SEC Modcast](#) has been released! In this episode, we tried something a bit different by dedicating the session to a single modification. We had our usual roundup of the past month in SEC Change before having an in-depth discussion about [MP169 'Managing SEC Obligations and the Consumer's Right to refuse a Smart Meter'](#), which is seeking to introduce another option for Suppliers when dealing with consumers who are reluctant to accept Smart meter installations.

If you want to know more about MP169, provide feedback on this modcast, or suggest ideas for future modcasts, please email SEC.Change@gemserv.com or call us on 020 7090 7755.



Industry News

CONCLUSIONS ON 'DELIVERING A SMART AND SECURE ELECTRICITY SYSTEM: THE INTEROPERABILITY AND CYBER SECURITY OF ENERGY SMART APPLIANCES AND REMOTE LOAD CONTROL'

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has recently published its response to the responses it received on its [Consultation](#) 'Delivering a Smart and Secure Electricity System the interoperability and cybersecurity of energy smart appliances and remote load control'. The consultation response can be accessed [here](#). The SEC Panel was provided with a summary of the Department's conclusions at its April 2023 meeting.



INDUSTRY CODE DIAGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE CACOP WEBSITE

The Code Administration Code of Practice (CACoP) Forum has produced a set of Industry Code diagrams in response to customer feedback. These illustrate the relationships between the various Licences, Energy Codes and Market Participants in the GB electricity and gas arrangements. These will aid you in navigating which codes you need to be a party to depending on your role in the industry.

You can download a copy of these from the CACoP Website [here](#).



SECAS Events & Vacancies

ALTERNATIVE HOME AREA NETWORK (ALT HAN): WHY IT MATTERS TO YOU - 10AM TO 11AM ON 12 MAY 2023

This webinar will cover Alt HAN, what it does and how it works with Suppliers to provide more consumers with the benefits of Smart Metering. SEC Parties can register to attend [here](#). Please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) if you have any questions or if there are any topics you would like to see covered.



INTRODUCTION TO THE SEC WEBINAR - 11AM TO 1PM ON 25 MAY 2023

Are you new to your role in Smart Metering? Has your Party recently acceded to the SEC? This webinar offers you the opportunity to build your knowledge of the SEC and get to grips with the basics. SEC Parties can register to attend [here](#). If you have any questions or topics you would like to hear during the Introduction to the SEC webinar, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) by **5pm on 18 May 2023**.



TRIAGE FACILITIES WORKSHOP - 10AM TO 12PM ON 31 MAY 2023

SECAS and the User CIO are hosting a workshop for Triage Facilities interested in undertaking security assessments to Triage SMETS2 devices, in accordance with the guidelines detailed in the Triage Security Controls Framework. The workshop is open to all who are interested in attending.

This session will include a presentation and Q&A session covering:

- An introduction to the SECAS and User CIO teams
- How to book in your initial Triage Security Assessment
- What to expect from a typical Triage Security Assessment
- An overview of the Smart Energy Code Section G where it applies to Triage Facility Providers
- Additional questions from potential Triage Facility Providers

Please confirm attendance or enquire further by emailing ssc@gemserv.com.



SECAS VACANCY

If you would like to join the SECAS team, you may be interested in the following vacancy:

[Smart Energy Business Analyst](#)



Modifications

NEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

There have been two new Draft Proposals raised since the last newsletter. You are invited to provide feedback to the [Change Team](#) to help us understand whether these issues affect you.

[DP239 'Enduring Solution for Resolving SMETS2 Device Certificate Misalignment Issue'](#)

This Proposal looks to address the issue where some Devices have misaligned certificates between what is held within the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) and what is on the Device. The DCC is currently obligated to make manual SMI corrections, however Parties have requested that an automated correction is investigated.

[DP240 'Service Request Management'](#)

The DCC expects the volume of messages sent over the DCC Total System to grow exponentially within the next ten years as more Devices are enrolled on the DCC service, with a target of 55 million meters in 33 million premises. In response to the UK Government's Net Zero targets, industry Parties are expected to attempt to capture significantly more data. Message payload sizes are also expected to increase as the digitalisation of Smart Energy Systems continues. Alongside capacity expansion, the Proposer believes that management of Service Requests sent by Service Users to the Data Service Provider (DSP) is a key response to the growing demand on the DCC Total System. A modification has been raised to safeguard the DCC and User systems against anomalous events which result in unpredictable levels of Service Requests being sent.



REFINEMENT CONSULTATIONS

As a SEC Party, you can help influence the Proposed Solution, determine the business case for the change, and comment on how the proposal will affect your organisation. For more information and to respond to the consultation, download the consultation pack linked below and send your response to the [Change Team](#).

MP231 'Firmware upgrade pathways' Download here	Closing Date: Friday 12 May 2023	Impacted Parties: The DCC Other SEC Parties Suppliers
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Modifications

MODIFICATION REPORT CONSULTATIONS

There are currently four open Modification Report Consultations. You are invited to provide feedback to the [Change Team](#) to help us understand your views on whether the modification should be approved.

MP214 'Clarification of Acceptable DCC User IDs for Import and Export Suppliers' Download here	Closing Date: Friday 12 May 2023	Impacted Parties: Supplier Parties The DCC
MP222 'CPL submission efficiency improvements' Download here	Closing Date: Friday 12 May 2023	Impacted Parties: Supplier Parties The DCC Device Manufacturers
MP226 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 10' Download here	Closing Date: Friday 12 May 2023	Impacted Parties: Supplier Parties The DCC
MP229 'Notification of material change to User Systems to include decommissioning' Download here	Closing Date: Friday 12 May 2023	Impacted Parties: DCC Users



Publications

OPEN INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS WEBPAGE

Please visit our [Open Industry Consultations webpage](#) for details of consultations that may be of interest to SEC Parties. If you are aware of a consultation that should be added, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

SECAS HELPDESK

Please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) with any questions and a member of the team will be happy to help. Helpdesk hours are **Monday-Friday 9-5pm (excluding bank holidays)**.



Key Upcoming Governance Meeting Dates

You can view all upcoming and previous events / meetings in the [SEC Online Calendar](#).

- 3 May 2023 - [SEC Monthly Working Group Meeting - May 2023](#)
- 4 May 2023 - [Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee Meeting 89](#)
- 9 May 2023 - [Operations Group 94](#)
- 10 May 2023 - [Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority Meeting 105](#)
- 10 May 2023 - [Security Sub-Committee Meeting 169](#)
- 11 May 2023 - [Prepayment Metering Forum \(PPMF\) Meeting](#)
- 12 May 2023 - [Alt HAN Webinar](#)
- 16 May 2023 - [Change Sub-Committee Meeting 51](#)
- 18 May 2023 - [Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee Meeting 89X](#)
- 19 May 2023 - [Other SEC Party Quarterly Issues Call – May 2023](#)
- 19 May 2023 - [Communications Transition Group 4](#)
- 22 May 2023 - [Operations Group 95](#)
- 23 May 2023 - [SEC Panel Meeting 116](#)
- 24 May 2023 - [Security Sub-Committee Meeting 170](#)
- 24 May 2023 - [Change Board Meeting 78](#)
- 25 May 2023 - [Intro to the SEC Webinar](#)
- 31 May 2023 - [Testing Advisory Group Meeting 102](#)
- 31 May 2023 - Triage Facilities Workshop



Spotlight Interview with Martin Hanley, Testing Advisory Group (TAG) Chair



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THE TAG CHAIR?

I've only just taken over as TAG Chair, with my first meeting in the hot seat being at the end of April 2023. However, I have been a member of the group since its inception many years ago and was one of the "Awkward Squad" who were known for detailed scrutiny of the documents and reports being submitted for approval. There was a fair degree of light-hearted abuse from other members when my return was announced!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST AS THE NEW CHAIR OF TAG?

First and foremost, I want to see the TAG continue to provide the same effective governance it has over the last few years. The TAG is recognised as performing a valuable role for SEC Panel and indeed the rest of industry. Personally, the challenge of becoming the independent chair of a group I used to participate in so vocally fills me with both anticipation and a little trepidation. I'm also really looking forward to working with the other Sub-Committee Chairs to gain a more over-arching view of what's going on now, and hope to bring some of that knowledge into my role.

In addition, we have the challenge of the 4G Comms Hubs racing towards us, and this will be a fascinating piece of work: the governance has got to be right for this, and the TAG helps shape that.

WHAT'S ONE THING — EITHER INDUSTRY-RELATED OR NOT — YOU LEARNED IN THE LAST MONTH?

Covid is even worse the second time around and hangs around longer.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOU ARE EXPECTING TO OVERCOME WITHIN THE SEC THIS YEAR?

I have a second role for SECAS at the moment, which is to review SMDA (the Smart Meter Device Assurance scheme), to ensure it's still fit for purpose and relevant in today's more mature meter market. This will be a very difficult challenge as the various Parties (Suppliers, Manufacturers, MAPs etc.) have wildly differing views on the subject. This will not be easy to sort out, but I'm hopeful that through proper engagement we can find a way forward.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?

At one level, success in this role can be as simple as ensuring all governance follows SEC to the letter, but in reality, there's a higher measure too, which is that, for example, a new release of a system has no major defects once it reaches Production. For TAG, both of these criteria are of the highest priority.

Just as importantly, for success in any meeting I need to ensure that all voices are heard, and no one is excluded. This is harder to measure perhaps, but having everyone contributing and listening to others is a key factor to a successful outcome and true consensus.

YOU ARE THE HAPPIEST WHEN?

Dancing with swords or hanging around with my ridiculously tolerant family.

WHAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU (A FUN FACT) THAT NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW?

I'm currently being sent duck related items from dozens of people across the UK, and I have no idea who they are.