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SEC Change Board Meeting 74x_0102

1 February 2023, 16:00– 16:40

Teleconference

SECCB_74x_0102 – Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	Change Board Members
Change Board Chair	David Kemp (DK)
Large Suppliers	David Rodger (DR)
	Emma Johnson (EJ)
	Emslie Law (EL)
	Sharon Armitage (SA)
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)
Small Suppliers	Andrew Green (AG) *(alternate for Gareth Evans)*
	Daniel Davies (DD) *(alternate for Carolyn Burns)*
Network Parties	Matthew Alexander (MA) *(alternate for Gemma Slaney)*
	Stephen Charlton (SC)
Other SEC Parties	Nick Winfield (NW)
	Mike Woodhall (MW) *(alternate for Ian Lovatt)*
	Patrick Caiger-Smith (PCS)
Consumers	Euan Graham (EG)

Representing	Other Participants
Security Sub-Committee (SSC)	Gordon Hextall (GH)
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	Daryl Flack (DF)
	Peter Morgan (PM)

Representing	Other Participants
Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)	Julian Hughes (JH)
Landis+Gyr	Alastair Cobb (AC)
SECAS	Rachel Black (RB) *(Meeting Secretariat)*
	Ali Beard (AB)
	Mike Fenn (MF)

Apologies:

Representing	Participant
Small Suppliers	Caroline Burns
	Gareth Evans
Network Parties	Gemma Slaney
	Andy Clasper
Other SEC Parties	Ian Lovatt

1. Introduction

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the ad-hoc meeting at such short notice. The Chair welcomed the members, and introduced the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) Chair, Gordon Hextall, who was attending to address the outstanding queries members had from SECCB_74_2501.

2. Change Board Votes

MP172 'Reduced CPA & CPL requirements for innovation and Device field trials'

The Change Board was invited to perform the final vote on MP172 'Reduced CPA & CPL requirements for innovation and Device field trials'.

The SSC Chair (GH) advised the Change Board that the SSC will be closely monitoring the trials this modification will enable. The Data Communications Company (DCC) will also be providing extracts of the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI), which will be used alongside the Central Products List (CPL).

A Change Board member (EL) advised that they were not aware that the SSC would be notifying gaining Suppliers if they were to gain a trail Device through a Change of Supplier (CoS). The SSC Chair advised that they would contact whoever the Smart Energy Code (SEC) contact is for that Supplier. They highlighted that at the Change Board meeting in December 2022, a Large Supplier representative had raised concerns around consumers churning. To deal with that, the SSC is managing the risk, and will be able to track from the DCC reporting if any churn of a trail Device occurs. They noted that this is considered a security risk, as it involves a non-CPL-certified Device churning to another Supplier in the middle of a trial. The member (EL) acknowledged this, but advised that their concern was that they did not have a clear understanding of what the gaining Supplier should do once they have been notified by the SSC.

A BEIS representative (DF) reassured the members that they are expecting the numbers for these kinds of trials to consist of less than one hundred consumers, which is quite a small number. The consumers will be informed as part of the terms and conditions of the trial that they should not change Supplier during the trial. If they do, they will need to engage with their Supplier. They noted that if there is a churn, it will only be by a small number of these consumers. However, they agreed that a process needs to be in place. They explained that if the Device is a meter, it will be swapped to something that is on the CPL. This should be the responsibility of the Supplier who is running the trial, but it will need to be made aware that there is a Device that needs to be replaced. The BEIS representative advised that the new Supplier may need to pay for this, but this is something that will be managed. A Change Board member (EL) observed that it would be difficult to communicate what needs to be done. A BEIS representative (PM) advised that BEIS has carried out similar trials in the past with a small number of consumers. They advised that at the end of the trial everything was removed with no issues, and no churn occurred during the trial.

A Change Board member (EL) raised concerns about the potential length of the trials. A BEIS representative (DF) advised that past trials usually took less than 12 months. They added that a business case can be put forward to extend this timescale, but this will be assessed by the SSC. They noted that the timescale should not be much longer than this, as it is only for a trial. The member noted that the Modification Report mentions a trial limit of 18 months. This mention is in reference to a Working Group discussion which was concluded with the SSC agreeing that trial durations should be limited but that the specific limitations would not be defined in the SEC and instead decided by the SSC on a case-by-case basis. This information is included in the final version of the Modification Report (v1.0). The SSC Chair (GH) highlighted that there is nothing written in the SEC that prevents trials or churn. They reminded the members that this modification focuses on conducting a trial without CPA certification, which will save costs on having to get CPA certification for trials.

A Change Board member (AH) agreed that there is an opportunity for innovation in this modification. However, the member suggested that more reassurances were needed in the legal text to clarify whose responsibility it is to deal with any problems that occur during the trial. A BEIS representative (DF) explained that the legal text has been drafted in a way that gives the SSC full autonomy in that decision. They added that if a serious problem does occur during the trial, they can halt the ongoing trials and any future trials. The Chair acknowledged this, but observed that the key concern from Change Board members is not the trial itself, but what is included in the legal text to deal with the scenario of a CoS event taking place mid-trial. A Change Board member (EL) agreed with this, and highlighted that Suppliers being notified every two weeks if churning occurs is not a sufficient timeframe given the prospect of next-day switching, and they would like to be notified sooner.

Another Change Board member (AH) sought reassurance that it is better to conduct the trials in a real environment with consumers, rather than through the DCC test systems. A BEIS representative (PM) advised that there are some trials that need to be conducted in a real environment, to see how consumers will interact with these Devices. SECAS (AB) agreed with this, and noted that the Proposer's original reason for raising this modification was that you cannot predict what consumers will do with Devices, which cannot be simulated through the DCC testing systems. A trial in a live environment offers better results. A BEIS representative (DF) stated that when they were drafting the processes around this, they made it part of the business case that the Proposer provides a rationale as to why it cannot go through the DCC testing system, to ensure that people are not going straight to the live environment without trying the DCC testing system first.

In relation to the two-week notification period, the SSC Chair (GH) advised that two weeks was the soonest they could notify the Suppliers. SECAS (MF) agreed to work with the SSC Chair and BEIS to improve the Supplier guidance for how to manage consumers that have churned into their supply with trial Devices.

ACTION 74x/01: SECAS, the SSC Chair and BEIS to produce guidance for Suppliers on how to manage a Change of Supplier event involving a trial Device without CPA certification.

The Change Board agreed to proceed to vote. The voting outcome is shown below:

Party Category	Approve	Reject	Abstain	Conclusion
Large Suppliers	5	0	0	**Approve**
Small Suppliers	2	0	0	**Approve**
Network Parties	2	0	0	**Approve**
Other SEC Parties	3	0	0	**Approve**
Consumers	1	0	0	**Approve**
			Overall conclusion:	**Approve**

The view of the Change Board is that MP172 will better facilitate SEC Objectives (a)[1] and (e)[2] for the reasons given by the Proposer in the Modification Report.

The Change Board:

- **AGREED** that this Modification Proposal should proceed to vote
- **APPROVED** the Modification Proposal under Self-Governance
- **PROVIDED** rationale for this decision against the General SEC Objectives

There will now be 10 Working Days for any SEC Party who wishes to refer the Change Board's decision to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC). This referral period will close at **5pm on Thursday 16 February 2023.** If no referrals are notified, the decision will be final.

3. Any other business

There was no further business, and the Chair closed the meeting.

Next scheduled meeting date: 22 February 2023

[1] Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain.
[2] Facilitate such innovation in the design and operation of Energy Networks (as defined in the DCC Licence) as will best contribute to the delivery of a secure and sustainable Supply of Energy.