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MP277 ‘Virtual Gateway Connection’

Annex A

Business requirements – version 1.0

About this document

This document contains the business requirements that support the solution for this Modification Proposal. It sets out the requirements along with any assumptions and considerations. The Data Communications Company (DCC) will use this information to provide an assessment of the requirements that help shape the complete solution.

1. Business requirements

This section contains the functional business requirements. Based on these requirements a full solution will be developed.

Business Requirements			
Ref.	Requirement	Responsible for delivery	MoSCoW
1	Virtual connection option available for new and existing DCC Users	DCC	M
2	DCC Users shall be able to select a virtual connection to the DSP from the DSP service catalogue	DCC	M
3	Virtual connection must be as secure as the current physical connection	DCC	M
4	Provision for onboarding and maintenance of virtual connections	DCC	M
5	Functionality and support are equivalent to a physical DCC Gateway Connection	DCC	M

Key

- M = Must have
- S = Should have
- C = Could have
- W = Won't have

2. Considerations and assumptions

This section contains the considerations and assumptions for each business requirement.

2.1 General

Excluding Registered Data Providers (RDPs) the Smart Energy Code (SEC) requires a physical DCC Gateway Connection at the SEC Parties' premises to allow secure Data transfer with the Data Communications Company (DCC). This requirement is preventing existing and cloud-based organisations wishing to become a DCC User being able to connect in a more cost effective method.

2.2 Requirement 1: Virtual connection option available for new and existing DCC Users

To modernise and streamline the connection process for all new and existing DCC Users, the DCC must provide a virtual gateway connectivity option. This allows all new and existing DCC Users a more flexible and potentially cost-effective method of communicating with the DCC.

2.3 Requirement 2: DCC Users shall be able to select a virtual connection to the DSP from the DSP service catalogue

This requirement allows DCC Users to choose a virtual connection to the Data Service Provider (DSP), making it easier for them to connect with DCC services in a flexible, cost-effective way. By providing this option in the DSP service catalogue, the DCC ensures that Users can access this alternative to physical connections, reducing setup costs and lead times, especially for those using cloud-based infrastructure.

2.4 Requirement 3: Virtual connection must be as secure as the current physical connection

To ensure that the proposed virtual DCC Gateway Connection can meet the security standards set by physical DCC Gateway Connection this modification should undergo a comprehensive assessment. DCC Users wishing to connect virtually must also take all reasonable steps to ensure that a virtual connection is secure as the physical connection from the DCC User side of the connection.

2.5 Requirement 4: Provision for onboarding and maintenance of virtual connections

The DCC must support the onboarding of virtual gateway Users, with defined maintenance and troubleshooting processes. Parties that wish to connect virtually should have support in maintaining their connection(s) through the DCC.

2.6 Requirement 5: Functionality and support are equivalent to a physical DCC Gateway Connection

This requirement will ensure that any virtual DCC Gateway Connections are robust alternatives, aligning with the DCC's goals of a flexible, accessible network.

3. Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSP	Data Service Provider
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
SEC	Smart Energy Code
RDP	Registered Data Provider