

SECCo Announces New Executive Team

The Smart Energy Code Company (SECCo) is pleased to announce the appointment of three new executive roles to the organisation. This follows a review by the SECCo Board in considering the challenges that the company faces in the coming years and the need to bolster the organisation to make it fit for the future. The new roles were introduced as part of the SEC strategy to increase the bandwidth and capacity of the organisation. The strategy is seeking to address the many developments and changes facing the Code now and, in the future, such as delivering SEC Parties evolving needs, Energy Code Reform, the transfer of governance from DESNZ, and the DCC's Licence Review.

These initial appointments are part of the introduction of a new Target Operating Model for the SEC and will be focused on improving services to SEC Parties, considering the enduring service model and engaging more fully with industry strategic initiatives:

- **Head of Service Management** – Alec Thompson joined us on 1 May and will be taking on the management of our outsourced and sub-contracted service providers; this role will look to ensure that we are getting the best value for money and that our service is structured in the right way for the future. Alec joins us with a wealth of experience in service/performance management and business transformation within the Energy/Utilities sector, spanning over 20 years.
- **Head of Code and Regulatory Strategy** – Alina Bakhareva joined on 3 June and will be managing the SEC Code at a strategic level, to ensure effective liaison and cooperation with other relevant codes and providing strategic input into market-wide changes and initiatives. Alina will also oversee and drive SEC's engagement with industry and stakeholders. Alina joins us from Elexon, where her former role was focused on market intelligence, strategy and strategic stakeholder engagement. Alina brings nearly 20 years of market and business analysis experience in the energy industry, having worked for leading management consultancies and in-house strategy functions in the UK and abroad.
- **Head of Industry Operations** – Jason Stevens joins us on 17 June and will be taking over the role of Chair of the SEC Operations Group, as well as working with SEC Parties, DCC and other stakeholders to address operational issues and drive improvements to working practices to ensure consumers can maximise the benefits of smart meters. Jason joins us from Engage Consulting, where for the past 18 months he undertook the role of Chair of the SEC Communications Transition Group. Jason also has over 30 years of industry experience having worked with EON, EDF and Centrica.

SECCo is confident that these new appointments will help to deliver a step change in the SEC arrangements and resolve many of the challenges faced by industry. The Executive team will be soliciting feedback from SEC Parties and immediately focus on prioritising areas of concern and, together with the SECCo Board, looking to develop the second stage Target Operating Model to set the SEC up for enduring governance.

In line with the SECCo budget, further roles will be advertised in the near future, as we look to extend our organisation's capabilities. The role of Head of Sub-Committee Management will also be recruited.

Commenting on the appointments, SECCo Chair, Angela Love said “I am delighted to welcome Alec, Alina and Jason to the SEC and am looking forward to working with them on the many and varied challenges in the smart metering and wider energy markets. Individually and collectively the team has a wealth of experience that will help us to focus on what really needs to change and evolve in the arrangements to make SECCo fit for the future and deliver for SEC Parties.”

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