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SECMP0004 'Inclusion of Meter Serial Number data item in the Smart Metering Inventory'

1st April 2016

Meeting 1 Minutes

Attendees:

Working Group 2 Members	Organisation
Paul Saker (SECMP0004 Proposer)	EDF Energy
Graham Smith (SECMP0008 Proposer) (teleconference)	Scottish Power Energy
Jane Franklin	Lowribeck
Sam Charlton	EON
Andy Knowles (teleconference)	Utilita Energy
Emslie Law	SSE

Representing	Other attendees
DCC	Stuart Scott
	Adam Pearce
SECAS	Jill Ashby (Chair)
	Ian Swanson (Technical Support)
	David Barber (Modifications Lead)
	Sebastian Rattansen (Meeting Secretary)
	Sam Browne (Modifications Analyst)

Apologies:

Working Group 1 Members	Organisation
James Goldsack	DECC

SECMP0004 – Inclusion of Meter Serial Number (MSN) data item in the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI)

- **Overview**

The Proposer presented a brief overview of the Modification Proposal. This proposal recommends the MSN is added to the SMI to support the Change of Supply (CoS) process and ensure data integrity across the energy industry. The Proposer was of the view that this supported the efficiencies set out in BSC Modification P302 at a CoS event. The MSN should be accessible via the Self Service Interface (SSI) as well as through the DCC User Interface (DUIS) mechanisms.

- **Working Group consideration of Modification Proposal**

Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) mandates the use of a Globally Unique Identifier (GUID). This is a new data item that does not fit easily into existing industry processes. Many of industry's current processes utilise the MSN and it is endemic to information passed around a range of industry participants - including the consumer. Consequently, storing the MSN in the SMI will support effective transition between the DCC systems and Suppliers, by enabling a link to existing key industry data items via the SMI.

The industry preference for the MSN to be integrated within the SMI had been proposed some time ago, and been previously raised under DECC's transitional governance process via RFC33.

Before discussing the specifics for SECMP0004, the DCC asked for clarity on whether the WG would focus on developing a solution, or alternatively, focus on identifying the requirements that DCC's Service Providers would then use to develop an effective and efficient solution. The DCC preferred the latter approach as it would allow maximum flexibility for developing a solution.

The Chair pointed out that, as this is the first WG, it is important to understand the desired solution described in the Modification Proposal, in order to also draw out the emerging set of business requirements. The Chair reiterated that it is the function of this WG to refine the requirements set out in the Modification Proposal as submitted. This may entail deviating from the solution proposed in the Modification Proposal, where this is acceptable to the Proposer, however the key business requirements needed to be struck in order to achieve the aims of the issue identified for change. This WG could also consider and determine if any alternatives are possible, which might include an option identified by the DCC for an alternative mechanism to address the issue at hand. The key tenet for the Refinement process was that the Proposer maintains ownership of their Modification Proposal and that its progression should be informed by the best possible information available within the progression through Refinement up to decision-making by the Change Board and the relevant Authority

The outcomes of the discussion around business requirements would enable the Working Group to request, and then the DCC to provide a Preliminary Assessment (PA). The content of the PAs will then help the Working Group to consider how best to shape the Modification Proposal and any Alternatives as it progresses through the Refinement Process.

The members agreed that this WG should try to use as much of the existing work as possible but discuss any possible issues with these.

The main topics of WG discussions are set out below:

2.2.1 Duplicate MSNs

The first topic was about acknowledging duplicate MSNs. As MSNs have been issued by independent organisations this has occasionally led to duplicates and may be expected to continue. Therefore, no

assumptions should be made as to uniqueness of an MSN updated to the SMI. It is in the interest of the Supplier to ensure the data in the SMI is accurate.

2.2.2 Validation

The Proposer suggested that the DCC only provide a simple and pragmatic 'read and playback' solution, as opposed to a 'record, validate and playback' solution.

It was agreed that the onus of correctly populating this database should be on Suppliers. This would require the DCC to only provide a 'read and playback' solution.

Another validation possibility would be for Suppliers to correct the SMI, where necessary, on a six monthly or yearly basis. To achieve this, the SMI reporting would need to be enhanced. The Proposer suggested that obligations for the MSN could be kept within legal language such as "all reasonable steps are taken to assure the validity and accuracy of the data".

WG members agreed that a single element of validation should be used, which is in line with existing DCC validation, i.e. the input is between 1 and 14 (alpha/numeric) characters long. It is expected that this will account for all meters as Electrical Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) hold 14 characters and for Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) have 10 characters.

To conclude, different members pointed out that the MSN is commonly used industry data that will bring efficiencies into supplementary business processes built around it, rather than a GUID.

2.2.3 Extending this Modification Proposal to all device serial numbers

WG members discussed the potential for extending this Mod to all device serial numbers (not just the ESME and GSME MSN). The Proposer advised that this is not included in the scope of this Mod. Extending the scope could result in implementation delays. Other members of the WG agreed but acknowledged it might be a candidate for an alternative Mod, subject to further discussion.

Accordingly, the WG requested that the business requirements include two options for the DCC's PA:

- 1) ESME/GSME (MSN) only
- 2) all devices serial numbers

Conducting this assessment at this stage could be the most cost efficient as it would avoid raising a future Mod, and if required rule out the 'all device serial number' option at an early point in the Refinement Process for SECMP0004.

2.2.4 DCC concerns about the Service Request (SR) spike that populating this SMI will have

The DCC raised a concern about the initial implementation of this Mod. This is driven by the fact that ESME and GSME MSNs would need to be added to the SMI for meter equipment already enrolled into the DCC. The updates would be achieved via SR8.4 (Update Inventory), but could lead to a spike in the number of these SRs

The issue would not apply to meters that had not yet been installed because the additional functionality to include MSN in SR12.2 (Device Pre-notification) would be available and would be picked up as part of the normal process of meter installation and enrolment.

In relation to the updating of the SMI with MSNs for metering equipment already enrolled in the DCC, the Chair suggested that this would be a unique event, with a finite timeframe. However, it could be staggered and managed as part of the implementation/release management of the Modification Proposal.

Either way, a question was raised about whether the SMI would need to be populated/updated by a given date. In the case of a unique event, Suppliers could provide estimated timeframes of when they will be populating the SMI so that the DCC can prepare itself. WG members agreed to discuss this issue in further detail at future WGs, noting that there would be an incentive for the Supplier to make sure the SMI was updated and an incentive for the DCC to manage bulk updates under demand control. In both instances, impacts on an anomaly detection threshold should be considered.

2.2.5 Should Registered Supply Agents (RSAs) be able to modify already populated SMI or should this functionality be limited to Suppliers?

SECMP0004 proposes that RSAs and Suppliers are able to populate SMI items with 'pending' statuses via SR 12.2 (Device Pre-notification). However, only Suppliers should be able to update SMI items once they have been populated via SR 8.4 (Update Inventory).

A WG member proposed to use this opportunity to allow RSAs to update items already set to 'pending' status. However, the majority of the WG members suggested that this should be a question for a future meeting and may require a separate Modification Proposal to enable RSAs to be eligible DCC Users for more SRs than those currently defined under the SEC.

2.2.6 What will be the governance mechanism?

DCC queried which document will govern the implementation of this function. SECAS noted that the SEC is not granular enough to mandate this. The change should be reflected as a SR update in the DUIS.

The Chair suggested that firstly the business requirements should be clarified. This would then lead to the DCC PA being initiated and produced, while at the same time the necessary changes to DUIS and the SSI could be prepared.

2.2.7 Deprecating the current version of the Service Requests

The DCC questioned whether the updated SRs should be mandated or if DCC should support the previous versions of the SRs. The WG agreed that this change would be mandated from its implementation. All users would need to update to the latest version before a deadline, the implementation date. However, this would be confirmed as the Mod was further developed in the Refinement Process.

2.2.8 Mandatory population of the MSN via SR12.2

The final issue that was raised regarded the mandatory populating of the MSN in the SMI. The WG agreed that populating the SMI should be mandatory for the ESME and GSME. This process should occur when populating the SMI with the device details when first installed/enrolled (notwithstanding that a back-filling exercise will be applicable should SECMP0004 be implemented).

ACTION WG2_01_02: SECAS to distil these discussions into a set of outline business requirements for inclusion with the Minutes

• Business Requirements

Below are the outline business requirements for Refinement that have been agreed for this Modification Proposal as discussed at WG2 meeting 1:

Business Requirement	WG Refinement
SECMP0004 'Inclusion of the MSN on the Smart Metering Inventory'	
In addition to the GUID, include a field for the MSN in the SMI for ESME and GSME	DCC to create a MSN field in the SMI data model
Permit DCC Users to notify the MSN for updating to the SMI for new ESME and GSME	- Update DUIS (SR 3.8.114 Device Pre-notification) and uplift Schema - SR 12.2 (Device Pre-notification) to be updated to new format
Enable DCC Users to maintain MSN for (i) changed MSNs following a change of ESME or GSME; and (ii) previously installed ESME and GSME	- Update DUIS SR definition (3.8.93 UpdateInventory) and uplift Schema - SR 8.4 (Update Inventory) to be updated (ii) may need a managed process for populating all existing MSNs when this Mod is implemented (Rollout forecasts for first year can inform any control on volumes required)
Set format for MSN data item	New MSN data item, format of 1-14 alpha numeric characters
Apply validation to the MSN in the SMI	- minimum validation (e.g. within format specification, not invalid character, permitted User; 'receive and replay') - Update DUIS, request Definitions: 3.8.91.2; 3.8.91.1; 3.8.91.4 and uplift Schema
Facilitate the MSN to be a searchable item in the SMI?	- Make the MSN a searchable item on the SSI - Associated SEC Section H8.16(a) amendments (to be determined)
Accessing the MSN via the SMI	- Make the MSN searchable/viewable/readable on the SMI accessed via the SSI - Change required to the SSI Design Specification
Accessing the MSN as held on the SMI via SRs	- Enable MSN to be returned when requesting read inventory - Update DUIS Service Request Definition (3.8.91 ReadInventory) and uplift Schema - SR 8.2 (ReadInventory) to be updated
DCC Users authorised to send the SRs populating the SMI with the MSN?	- The WG decided on the following: - SR 8.4 for Suppliers only - SR 12.2 for Suppliers and RSAs - SR 8.2 for Suppliers and RSAs
Should this implementation be mandatory or should DCC and DCC Users support existing SRs?	- The WG decided that this update should be mandatory and supersede the existing SRs - Authorised Users shall provide the MSN when it is installed (or under a [to be determined] managed bulk retro-update at the time of implementation of this Mod)
Governance	The WG decided that the overall governing document should be the DUIS under the SEC. However, its level of detail will not always contain the minutia of an issue. These details will be contained in the annex documents that DUIS refers to.

Table 1: Outline Business Requirements for SECMP0004

Potential Alternative Requirements	WG Refinement
SECMP0004 'Inclusion of the MSN on the Smart Metering Inventory'	
(Option) in addition to ESME and GSME MSN, include ability to add the serial number of all devices types in the SMI (including Type 2 devices)	As above with reference to Type 2 Devices
(Option) Make other Devices searchable items in the Device Inventory accessible in via the SSI	- Change required to the SSI Design Specification - Consider permitted DCC Users who can view device serial numbers via the SSI

Table 2: Potential Alternative Outline Business Requirements for SECMP0004

Regarding the impacted documents, it should be noted that this list is not exhaustive as further document updates may be required.

• Decisions and next steps

The Chair proposed that SECAS would draft business requirements for SECMP0004 and that DCC could use them to develop the DCC's Preliminary Assessment (PA). These business requirements are described in section 2.3. DCC's PA for SECMP0004 will include:

- a. Costs for displaying
 - i. MSN on the SSI, and
 - ii. Additional costs for being able to search MSN on the SSI.
- b. Two options covering:
 - i. ESME/GSME (MSN) only, and
 - ii. Serial number for other devices including type 2 devices.

The WG agreed to reconvene in a months' time.

ACTION WG2_01_03: SECAS to arrange the next Working Group meeting for May 2016.