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

1st April 2016

Meeting 2 Minutes

Attendees:

Working Group 2 Members	Organisation
Paul Saker (SECMP0004 Proposer)	EDF Energy
Graham Smith (SECMP0008 Proposer) (teleconference)	Scottish Power Energy
Hugh Mullens (SECMP0011 Proposer)	Utility Funding
Jane Franklin	Lowribeck
Sam Charlton	EON
Andy Knowles	Utilita Energy
Emslie Law	SSE
Richard Pomroy	WW Utilities
Mark Pitchford	nPower
Stuart Haughton	Calvin Capital

Representing	Other attendees
Ofgem	Nigel Nash
DCC	Stuart Scott
	Pankaj Jain
SECAS	Jill Ashby (Chair)
	Urszula Thorpe (Technical Support)
	David Barber (Modifications Lead)
	Adam Lattimore (Technical Support)
	Samuel Browne (Modifications Analyst)

Apologies:

Working Group 2 Members	Organisation
James Goldsack	DECC
Graham Wood	British Gas
Oorlagh Chapman	British Gas
Steve Thomas	British Gas

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

○ Overview

The WG noted that there are many similarities between SECMP0004 and SECMP0011. The main differences between MSN and Meter Asset Provider (MAP) ID are:

- Number of characters
- MAP ID is a little more likely (but unlikely) to change compared to the MSN, which should be fixed
- MSNs may not be unique
- Count of MAP IDs is lower than count of MSNs.

○ Utility of this data item

The WG reiterated the utility of this data item to track assets. The SMI will contain the MSNs before the meter goes on the wall. Having a digital version of the MSN on the SMI avoids a lot of manual work arounds. Having access to the MSN will provide early visibility of errors. Access to the MSN does not seek to supersede any current processes.

Ofgem queried why Globally Unique Identifiers (GUIDs) cannot be used instead of MSNs. The Suppliers stated that, after MPxNs, the MSNs are the most used data item in the industry. Mapping them would offer a pragmatic solution to the transition from legacy. A WG member agreed that using the GUID would be an ideal solution if it were not for the unviable cost to industry of updating all their systems to integrate the new identifier.

○ Comments received on WG2-1 Minutes and Business Requirements

A WG member commented on clarifying the distinction between having one or two new fields for Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME)/ Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) (in the case of two fields, one would blank at all times). The WG agreed that a single new field would be required. It would either contain an ESME MSN or a GSME MSN.

○ Accessing MSN through the Self Service Interface (SSI)

It will be possible to search this data item by referencing the MSN through the SSI. However, in the unlikely event that an MSN is not unique, this query may return two different assets. This may also occur in the event where human error has led to erroneous SMI population. DCC will need to account for this possibility.

- **Back Populating**

The DCC queried whether a retrospective clean up would be needed. The WG agreed that for the time being there will be no time bound obligations to back populate the MSN.

- **Where MSN would be displayed**

The DCC noted that the PA had been submitted requesting the MSN to be displayed on all 9 reports where the GUID was displayed. The WG suggested that for some reports it may not be useful to include the MSN (example of transaction reports). The DCC suggested postponing this refinement debate until receiving the PA with its associated costs. Although the PA will not reflect the varying cost of including the MSN into each report, it will offer an overall price. If this overall price is found to be too costly, the WG may then choose to ask for only certain reports.

- **Duplicate MSNs**

The WG noted that there may be issues with duplicated MSNs when querying an asset through the SSI. The DCC should take this into consideration.

- **Validation**

The WG noted that further refinement to the validation process will be needed. Although it will be in the Suppliers' interest to populate the SMI correctly, this does not cover issue of human error.

- **Extending this Mod to all device serial numbers**

Further discussion occurred in regards to adding a serial number to all associated type 2 devices (possibly an Asset Serial Number or ASN). The DCC pointed out that this would add considerable cost.

The WG agreed that the main focus is that the MSN be included into the SMI. While adding the ASN of all type 2 devices would be useful, it may add potential delays and additional cost to the Modification Proposal. The WG agreed to put aside the option of adding ASN to type 2 devices for the time being.

- **Mandatory population of the MSN via SR12.2**

The WG agreed that to make this item mandatory. If SR12.2 is sent without this item, it should be unsuccessful.

There will need to be a process for the backfill of data with SR8.2 (updateinventory). This would be an activity that could have a timescale on Suppliers applied as part of how the change is implemented. Part of this, as there would likely be the need for large back population events, would be for Suppliers to notify the DCC of when they plan to send the SRs so as not to overload the DCC systems.

For devices added after the Modification implementation, the DCC noted that keeping the population mechanism optional allows more flexibility and reduces the price of implementation. If populating MSN data items in the SMI is mandatory, ensuring backwards compatibility could be complex and therefore costly. The Data Service Provider (DSP) have expressed a strong recommendation to keep this optional.

For devices added to the SMI prior to the implementation, WG agreed not to impose any time bound obligations for populating MSN.

DCC noted that they had requested the updates to be mandatory when requesting PA from their DSP. A WG member also pointed out that the mandatory population of SMI would help systems move away from manual input.

- **Fit bit format**

A WG member suggested that MSN should be 16 characters long to help with compatibility for bit data. The DCC suggested that this would add cost. The WG agreed to keep the current format of between 1-14 characters.

All Actions:

ACTION WG2_02_01: SECAS to create and distribute Working Group Declaration to all members

ACTION WG2_02_02: upon reception of DCC's Preliminary Assessment responses, SECAS to distribute the WG members

ACTION WG2_02_03: SECAS to obtain and circulate available reports to MAPs

ACTION WG2_02_04: WG to confirm which reports would need to contain MAP ID

ACTION WG2_02_05: MAPs to consider the format of content of a new SSI MAP ID base report.

ACTION WG2_02_06: SECAS to seek input from Technical Sub-Committee (TSC)

ACTION WG2_02_07: SECAS to arrange the next Working Group meeting for June 2016.