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SECMP0030 ‘Demand Management of DCC Systems’

1st Working Group

28th February 2017 10:00 – 12:00

Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ

Meeting Headlines

Attendees:

Organisation	Working Group Member
DCC (Proposer)	Graeme Liggett
Utilita	Andy Knowles
Co-operative Energy	Duncan Carter
Landis and Gyr	Elias Hanna
SSE	Emslie Law (teleconference)
Npower	Mark Pitchford (teleconference)
E.on	Matt Irvine
SSEN	Paul Fitzgerald
EDF Energy	Paul Saker (teleconference)
British Gas	Rochelle Harrison

Representing	Other participants
SECAS	Brendan Murphy (Chair)
	Sasha Townsend (SECAS Modification Support)
	Urszula Thorpe (Technical Support)
	Selin Ergiden (Observer)
DCC	Nicola Roteglia

Modification Proposal overview

The Proposer (DCC) provided an overview of SECMP0030, highlighting that the modification seeks to implement an enduring demand management solution to manage peaks in demand on the DCC network, specifically the Data Service Provider (DSP).

Current arrangements

The current arrangements require the DCC to process a Service Request (SR) and send the User a Service Response within Target Response Times (TRTs), in accordance with SEC Section H3.14 and SEC Appendix E – DCC User Interface Service Schedule.

If the DCC cannot meet TRTs for the SRs within aggregate demand forecast, then they will breach their Code Performance Measures. It was noted that the DCC is not required to meet TRTs for those SRs that exceed 110% of the aggregate demand forecast.

Working Group consideration of the problem

A Working Group (WG) Member highlighted that the SEC requires the DCC to meet TRTs and therefore, queried the problem this modification is seeking to solve. The DCC noted Users forecast their monthly demand and in theory all Users may send all or parts of their monthly forecast at the same time. This may create peak periods (i.e. second or minute peaks) where the DCC Data Service Provider (DSP) capacity may not be able to satisfy that peak demand, even if that peak demand were within 110% of the aggregate demand forecast. If that peak demand were to exceed the DSP capacity, then TRTs would not be met for some SRs and the DCC Systems could fail.

DCC System capacity

The DCC informed the WG of the following:

- capacity is built to aggregate demand on a monthly level, based on User's forecasts;
- DCC will also be working with Users to analyse patterns in order to inform the required DSP systems capacity and availability;
- there is currently no mechanism to specifically control demand when aggregate demand cannot be satisfied and to quantify when peak periods will happen and with what frequency.

The WG noted the overall lack of transparency of DCC System capacity and agreed that a solution cannot be considered without data models of potential peak scenarios. The WG also questioned how much peak demand (in second or minutes) has the DCC allowed currently and how that capacity will need to be built as the roll out of smart meter progresses.

Cost and impacts

The DCC highlighted that expanding the DSP system capacity would be costly and inefficient and that this modification seeks a cost-effective solution to manage capacity availability. A WG Member commented that assurance is needed to ensure that SECMP0030, and therefore ultimately SEC Parties, will not be funding DCC capacity for other commercial activities.

Discussions followed on how DCC capacity will be built over time to support the smart metering rollout and concerns were highlighted in relation to this modification funding "business as usual" activities. It was therefore agreed that the DCC should provide their DSP capacity enhancement plans.

The WG also requested that the DCC produce a model that presents costs to enhance the capacity versus the costs to manage capacity as proposed by this modification. This would support the business case.

A WG Member noted that consideration will need to be made on how this modification could impact the BEIS Early Learning Project.

ACTION_MP30_2802_01 – DCC to provide further transparency on how DCC System capacity will be built to meet the smart metering rollout demand and data models showing how the DCC currently models and manages peak demand.

ACTION_MP30_2802_02 – DCC to provide a model presenting costs to expand capacity versus the costs to manage it.

Solution principles

The WG were presented with the solution principles proposed by the DCC to be developed into requirements with the WG's consideration.

Noting that there is currently no second-by-second demand analysis, the WG questioned how a guaranteed allocation of DCC System Capacity per User could be managed. The group agreed that the DCC should present examples of how guaranteed allocation could be calculated.

The WG also discussed the advantage of scheduling and it was noted that some Users may schedule certain SRs, whilst others may send the same SRs on demand. It was also noted that some SRs may be subject to certain fixed times, i.e. SRs relating to a CoS event occurring at 12am to 5am, and therefore this should be considered within the DCC's modelling.

ACTION_MP30_2802_03 – DCC to provide examples of how a User's guaranteed allocation could be calculated.

Next steps

The WG agreed that further information and modelling is required from the DCC prior to any further consideration of potential solutions¹. It was also noted that input from BEIS to clarify the policy intent for DCC capacity, peak second/minute demand, and demand management was required.

ACTION_MP30_2802_04– BEIS to clarify policy intent on the capacity requirements of the DCC System as defined in the SEC.

¹ In addition to the action for SECMP0028 (**ACTION_MP28_2802_01** – SECAS and the DCC to clarify current requirements and capacity for the DCC to queue messages.)