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Action:	For Decision

SEC Panel Sub-Committee Report

1. Purpose and highlights

This paper provides the Panel with an update on recent activities from the Panel Sub-Committees, including key issues discussed, and details specific points the Sub-Committees would like to bring to the Panel's attention. The Panel is requested to note the updates and endorse the concerns raised by the Sub-Committees.

Highlights for the Panel's attention include:

- BEIS presented the TABASC with a Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) innovation update and conclusions from several schemes trialling how smart metering can be used to support Demand side response and Electric Vehicle charge point scenarios.
- The TAG reviewed and agreed several testing documents for the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) programme, including agreeing baseline versions of the Testing Approach Document (TAD), the Test Coverage Document, and the Migration Test Approach Document. The TAG is expecting to finish agreeing all ECoS test documentation during its September meeting.
- The DCC provided the OPSG with an overview of its proposal and guidelines to manage the Services before, during and after energy price cap updates. The proposed arrangements will be as implemented for the April 2022 price change event.

2. Technical Operations

2.1 TABASC Highlights

The TABASC met once in the last month. The meeting covered the following topics:

2022 Elections

SECAS presented the TABASC with an update on the upcoming 2022 Elections, which will commence in September. SECAS requested that the membership recommend any suitable candidates for the seats which are up for re-election this year: 3 Large Suppliers, 1 Small Supplier, 1 Other SEC Party and 1 Gas Network Operator.

Renewal of BAM hosting

SECAS presented the TABASC with a recap on previous activities and a draft activity plan for the alternative hosting of the Business Architecture Model (BAM) online. The TABASC provided its feedback on the desirability of user authentication when accessing the tool.

SMIP Innovation Update

BEIS provided the TABASC with a summary of their recent Delivering a Smart and Secure Electricity System (SSES) consultation and an update on Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) innovation projects and conclusions from the Smart Metering Load Control (SMLC) and Beyond Off Street (BOS) smart meter Electric Vehicle (EV) and Demand Side Response (DSR) trials.

The general findings were that these trials proved that smart metering could support each of the policy areas investigated, but that it is not always the most optimal solution. One of the main issues was that DCC adapters taking part were not set up to deal with multiple ESMEs per premises or even per CH. Workarounds were identified and used during the trials, but these tended to create their own issues.

DSP Smart Routing Gateway Options

The DCC have identified a preference for a hybrid and transitional running method for changing the current traffic in the DSP between the 'As-Is' to the 'To-Be' via a 'smart' way of routing with minimal impact to end users or systems and presented the different technical implementation approaches to each option and their respective benefits.

DSP API Gateway

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on the different options to disaggregate the future DCC Service Management System (DSMS) from the DSP. The TABASC note that the decision as to which option to use is significantly influenced by the future strategic design for the implementation of DSP services. The DCC were requested to return and provide details covering the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) estimated costs and associated risks for both options and will return to the TABASC to clarify whether more than one DSP is expected to be required in the future.

CSP N Scaling and Optimisation – Phase 2 Impact Assessment Options

The DCC provided an update, following the completion of Phase 1 and provided the TABASC with an introduction to the currently identified Potential Areas for Additional Technical Development options being considered to mitigate the expected future demand on the network as part of their plans for Phase 2 of the CSP North Scaling & Optimisation programme.

2.2 TAG Highlights

The TAG met once during the last month to discuss the following topics, in addition to the regular testing updates:

GBCS 4.1 Test Approach Document

The DCC presented the TAG with an update on the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) 4.1 Communications Hub (CH) firmware release Test Approach Document (TAD), intended to address an action the DCC took at the previous meeting. The TAG reviewed the TAD, particularly the testing against Pre-Payment Meter Interface Device (PPMID) manufacturers and approved the document.

ECoS Test Coverage Document

The DCC presented the TAG with the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) Test Coverage Document (TCD) for approval. The TAG reviewed the TCD and approved the document.

ECoS Test Approach Document with Migration Test Approach Document Annex A

The DCC presented the TAG with the ECoS TAD and Migration Test Approach Document (MTAD). The TAG reviewed the TAD and MTAD, and approved the updated TAD with the attached annexes.

ECoS System Capacity Test Approach Document Annex C

The DCC presented the TAG with the ECoS System Capacity Test Approach Document. The DCC provided an in-depth overview of the document, and the TAG reviewed the proposed approach to System Capacity Testing (SCT). The TAG was satisfied with the approach as presented, and did not raise any major concerns or objections.

ECoS Test Coverage Document Device Candidate Selection Engine Annex B

The DCC presented the TAG with the ECOS TCD Device Candidate Selection Engine (DCSE). The TAG reviewed the document and was satisfied with the proposed approach, raising no major concerns or objections.

TAG Processes Review and Forward Look

The TAG discussed pitfalls and potential improvements to existing processes for documentation review and approval, and reviewed anticipated upcoming activity for the Sub-Committee over the next quarter. The TAG also discussed Sub-Committee membership, noting the need on an industry-wide level to highlight the benefits of ensuring industry forums retained high levels of membership, particularly from supplier representatives.

2.3 Operations Group Highlights

The Operations Group met three times in the last month. The topics covered included the following:

October Price Change & Energy Bill Support Scheme (EBSS)

The OPSG reviewed how the DCC plans to manage services to support Energy Bill Support Scheme (EBSS) and October Price Change processes, along with highlighting any potential impacts on DCC Systems. Following discussion at the OPSG, maintenance planned for the beginning of October will now be deferred.

The DCC agreed to provide User communications and guidance for both the price change event and the EBSS activities as integrated documents. The OPSG is due to receive an update at the September meeting (OPSG 79).

FOC Remediation Plan – Update

The OPSG reviewed the DCC's update on the progress of the Final Operating Capability (FOC) Remediation Plan.

The DCC reported that there had been no Category 1 or 2 Incidents reported for FOC since May 2022. The OPSG noted that while some individual indicators have showed improvement, key PMR measures were still below minimum service levels 18 months after go-live. Moreover, the overall quality of the Service was still below expectations: demonstration of appropriate success rates for the Business Process indicators would be one way of showing overall improvement.

The DCC noted that it will continue to work with DXC and Trilliant on performance issues. The OPSG will be provided a further update at the October meeting (OPSG 81).

WNC Hubs and claims for losses

SECAS provided an overview of work undertaken on behalf of the Panel regarding liabilities under the SEC for service failures.

SECAS briefed the OPSG on the ability of Parties to recover losses under the SEC for two recent WNC Communication Hub (CH) Incidents (INC000000832699 and INC000000848418).

The OPSG noted that section F has provisions for recovery of certain costs with regards to CH Type Faults. Section F9.17 requires faults to exceed '0.5% of the total number of Communications Hubs

that are installed at premises within that Region as at the end of that calendar year' to trigger a compensation payment. The OPSG agreed that the position for 2022 in relation to such faults, and whether the SEC threshold had been exceeded, should be reviewed (using DCC-reported figures) at the OPSG in early 2023.

WAN Coverage Reporting

The OPSG noted that following discussions at the SWG, the Panel had asked the OPSG to recommence reporting of WAN coverage. The DCC and SECAS presented an update on the analysis for the monitoring of Wide Area Network (WAN) coverage. The OPSG considered the issues and current obligations with regards to reporting on coverage. The DCC provided a breakdown of WAN coverage by region, noting that data is not like-for-like due to different reporting methods used by the different Communications Service Providers (CSPs).

The OPSG noted the next steps, including plans to work with the CSPs to report on current performance, a review of its Technical Operations Centre (TOC) reporting, and further engagement with the Strategic Working Group (SWG) in relation to coverage beyond the current target levels. The DCC noted that any further reporting would entail additional costs on their part.

The OPSG agreed that before the DCC undertakes any more reporting, SECAS should first review the SEC requirements on WAN Coverage and reporting and confirm whether continued reporting of coverage is within the SEC in any form.

Once SECAS has confirmed the requirements for the WAN Coverage monitoring and reviewing, the DCC should then be asked to consider and present proposals on the frequency and the definition of this reporting, taking resources and cost into consideration.

Temporary CH Ordering and Delivery Rules (TCHODR) – Update

The OPSG noted the update on the Temporary Communication Hub Ordering and Delivery Rules (TCHODR) following the consultation that closed on 10 August 2022.

The OPSG noted that [DP215 'Communications Hub Ordering and Forecasting'](#) has been raised to consider longer term changes to the CH ordering rules. An OPSG member noted that lowering of SEC requirements should not be undertaken without due consideration through the modification process. The OPSG asked that evidence of the benefit of the temporary changes of the ordering rules (already implemented) be provided to support the proposal.

The DCC will seek final endorsement on the changes to the TCHODR from the SEC Panel on 16 September 2022 (SECP 108).

Annual Outage & BCDR 2022 – Revised Version

The OPSG reviewed an updated Annual Outage & BCDR 2022 plan, reflecting the outcomes of the OPSG Annual Outage Workshop held on 5 August 2022.

The DCC noted that following the OPSG request and a satisfactory risk assessment, it has rescheduled the High Maintenance Window from 4 October 2022 to 6 October 2022. The DCC confirmed that this was included in the outage plan endorsed by the Panel at the August meeting (SECP 107). The DCC noted that it will publish the updated Annual Outage & BCDR 2022 plan (with appropriate change control/versioning) to SEC Parties.

CSP N Scaling and Optimisation

The OPSG considered the outcomes of Phase 1 of the project and the plan for Phase 2, including proposals for User engagement.

The OPSG requested that the DCC continues to engage with the OPSG if any of the technical options being considered would result in changes to/impact on Services. The OPSG also requested that the DCC indicates when in the project forecast performance would be mapped against SEC requirements.

The DCC agreed, noting that it is also engaging with the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) and the SMDG and intends to report back to the OPSG in October 2022 (OPSG 81).

2G/3G Sunsetting – Register of Questions

The DCC informed the OPSG that it is maintaining a 'register of questions' related to 2G/3G Sunsetting and is seeking OPSG feedback into how it can be shaped into a valuable tool to inform planning and the design of the proposed governance framework.

The DCC will provide a further update at OPSG 80, after which the frequency of reporting to the OPSG can be agreed.

The OPSG Chair presented an overview of a potential governance framework, which would be established by and sit beneath the SEC Panel. The next step is to draft Terms of Reference for discussion.

November 2022 SEC Release – 3-month checkpoint

The OPSG reviewed the DCC's progress towards the November 2022 SEC Release, which is due to be implemented on 3 November 2022.

Overall, the DCC is confident everything is on schedule with no material risks or concerns identified so far. The OPSG will assess DCC's statement of readiness for the November 2022 SEC Release in September 2022 (OPSG 79).

DCC Service Management System (DSMS)

The DCC provided an overview of its approach to replacing the current DCC Service Management System (DSMS), which is provided using BMC Remedy. Continuing with Remedy is not an option because it is at end of product life and vendor support, and therefore the DCC has been investigating other solutions and providers.

The OPSG reiterated that the DCC should return with a description of any impacts of its proposed approach on the Services. This would include functional capability, and other matters such as, for example, impact on User processes.

Business Processes Indicator Performance Reporting Summary & Plan – June 2022

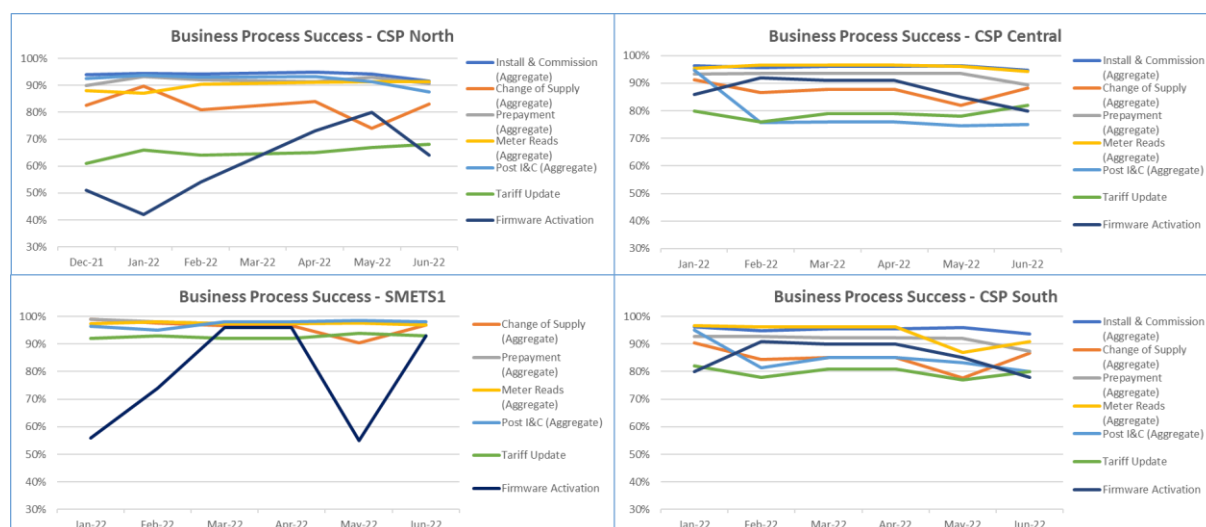


Figure 1 Performance Indicator Summary – Regional Business Process success

SECAS provided an overview of key observations from the Performance Indicator Report (PIR) for June 2022.

The OPSG again noted that in general Business Process Indicator success rates were lower than would be hoped. The OPSG reiterated that the investigations into the Business Processes Indicator success rates should be linked to other work underway to provide more up to date and integrated information and analysis.

Service Performance – June 2022

The OPSG noted that there were two Code Performance Measures (CPMs) below Target Service Level: CPM1 and CPM3. CPM1 was below Target Service level at 96.38%. CPM3 was below Target Service Level at 98.58%. DXC and Trilliant have confirmed that the intended fixes will meet the required targets for the July 2022 reporting period.

The OPSG noted PM1.1 'Percentage of Communications Hub delivered on time' in relation to the global supply chain issues and the alignment with the SEC. The DCC have implemented new reporting and this makes clear the impact that the supply chain issues are having on deliveries. The DCC reported that, in June, only 3% of CHs ordered in the CSP N Region were delivered on time; the corresponding figures in CSP C & S were 51% and 74% respectively.

Further details and commentary can be found in the SEC Panel DCC Reporting Panel paper [SECP_108_1609_21 – DCC Reporting].

3. Security Sub-Committee and SMKI PMA

3.1 Assurance and Compliance Status Decisions

The SSC set the compliance status for one Verification User Assessment (VUSA) in August 2022. Details can be found in the confidential Appendix A.

3.2 Director's Letters

The SSC reviewed one Director's Letters following a Full User Assessment (FUSA) in August 2022.

3.3 SSC Highlights

Assurance of Triage Facilities

The SSC was presented with an update on the progress on assurance of Triage Tools, Triage Interfaces and Triage Facilities and the SSC approved the scope of the work.

MP203 – Legal Drafting

The SSC was presented with an update on the legal drafting of [MP203 'Security Assurance of Device Triage Facilities'](#), and the SSC provided feedback.

CPA Monitoring

The SSC was presented with an update on withdrawn Certificates and the expiry of Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Certificates. The SSC were also presented with the latest Pre-Payment (PPM) Report and Pending Report.

CPA-Related Issues

The SSC Chair presented an update on ongoing discussions with NCSC regarding CPA-related issues.

- CPA Risk Review: Responses to comments received from SCIRS members on the Risk Review Process and Security Analysis Template were agreed with NCSC, BEIS and the SSC Chair and issued to SCIRS and SSC Members on 11 August 2022. SSC Consultants completed an update of the Risk Review Process documentation on 16 August 2022. NCSC has undertaken to complete its review in the week commencing 5 September to enable updated documentation to be issued to the SSC meeting on 14 September and SCIRS on 19 September 2022.
- Central Product List (CPL): SECAS has issued CPL guidance to SEC Parties to cover all aspects of the Re-Certification (Risk Review) process.

BEIS Consultation 'Delivering a smart and secure electricity system'

The SSC was presented with an update regarding the BEIS Consultation '[Delivering a smart and secure electricity system](#)'. The SSC discussed a response to the consultation and provided feedback on the security questions posed.

Risk Assessment Recommendations

The SSC was provided with an update on the recommendations from the 9th Iteration Risk Assessment.

TSP CIO Report

The SSC was presented with the updated final Trusted Service Provider (TSP) Competent Independent Organisation (CIO) Assurance Report for the re-platforming of the current TSP SMKI solution, and the SSC approved the report subject to monitoring a Remediation Action Plan.

MP134B 'Use of SMKI Certificates relating to a SoLR event - Part 2'

SECAS provided an update on the progress of for [MP134B 'Use of SMKI Certificates relating to a SoLR event - Part 2'](#), and the SSC noted the update and provided feedback.

DCO Migration

The DCC presented an update on SMETS1 Dual Control Organisation (DCO) Migration, and the SSC noted the update.

NEP DSP Principles and Options

The SSC was presented with an update on Network Evolution Programme (NEP) Data Service Provider (DSP) Access Control Broker (ACB) Migration, and the SSC provided feedback on the principles and options presented.

NEP – CH&N Risk Assessment/Actica Assessment

The SSC was presented with an update on the NEP Wide-Area Network (WAN) Risk Assessment and the SSC noted the update.

3.3 SMKI PMA

SoLR Process

The SMKI PMA Chair confirmed that there were no Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) events since the previous SMKI PMA meeting.

SMKI Key Recovery Exercise Update

The SMKI PMA noted a DCC update on improvements to be made following the SMKI Key Recovery Test Event and provided feedback on improvement areas and the delivery plan.

SEC Appendix L Proposed Amendments

The DCC provided an update on changes made in the draft proposed amendments to SEC Appendix L as part of [MP198 'Further Changes from the Review of the SMKI and DCCKI Document Set'](#). The SMKI PMA noted comments and changes made by a SMKI PMA sub-group and approved the draft amendments which will be included as part of the modification.

NEP: TSP-E

The SMKI PMA noted a DCC update on the Network Evolution Programme (NEP) for the re-procurement of a Trusted Service Provider (TSP) and provided feedback on the proposed options for the DCC PKI strategy.

ECoS HSM Architecture and Key Generation

The DCC and DCC Consultants presented proposals for the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) Hardware Security Module (HSM) Architecture and Key generation. The SMKI PMA provided feedback and agreed to hold a bilateral between interested Members and the DCC Consultants to consider the proposals in further detail.

MP134B 'Use of SMKI Certificates relating to a SoLR event - Part 2'

SECAS presented proposed solutions for [MP134B 'Use of SMKI Certificates relating to a SoLR event - Part 2'](#) and the SMKI PMA noted no objections to the solutions raised from a SMKI governance perspective.

4. SMDA Sub Committee

The Scheme Operator (SO), SMDA Test House and DNO representatives met on 8 August 2022 to discuss additional test scenarios that could be included within the Scheme's testing scope, to further increase the value of the Scheme to DNOs. An impact assessment will be developed by the SO in late September and will follow the process outlined in the updated SMDA Change Procedure which was published on 25 August 2022.

The SMDA Technical Sub-Group (TSG) met on 6 September 2022 via teleconference. The TSG were advised of the SEC Panel's decision to issue the SMDA review out for consultation in mid-September and the change to the SMDA governance structure.

As the meeting was not quorate, the TSG recommended that four of the common tolerable issues (issues outside of the manufacturers remit to resolve) are removed as they had been resolved by BEIS or were no longer found during testing. The SO will issue this recommendation to the rest of the TSG electronically to request any objections.

5. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **NOTE** the contents of this paper; and
- **ENDORSE** the concerns raised by the Sub-Committees.

Cecily Bain
SECAS Team
9 September 2022

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** User Security Assessments – Identified Non-Compliances (**RED**)