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Action:	For Discussion
Acronyms and Defined Terms SEC Glossary	

SEC Change Update Report – April 2023

1. Purpose

This document provides an update on the progress of Smart Energy Code (SEC) Modifications and Releases and the recent and upcoming decisions of the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) under delegated authority from the Panel.

The Data Communications Company's (DCC's) performance report on Preliminary Assessments and Impact Assessments is included as Appendix A to this report.

2. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **NOTE** the contents of this report; and
- **PROVIDE** any views and feedback on the modifications raised in section 2.

Rachel Black

SECAS Team

18 April 2023

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** DCC Assessments Performance Report (**WHITE**)

1. Overview

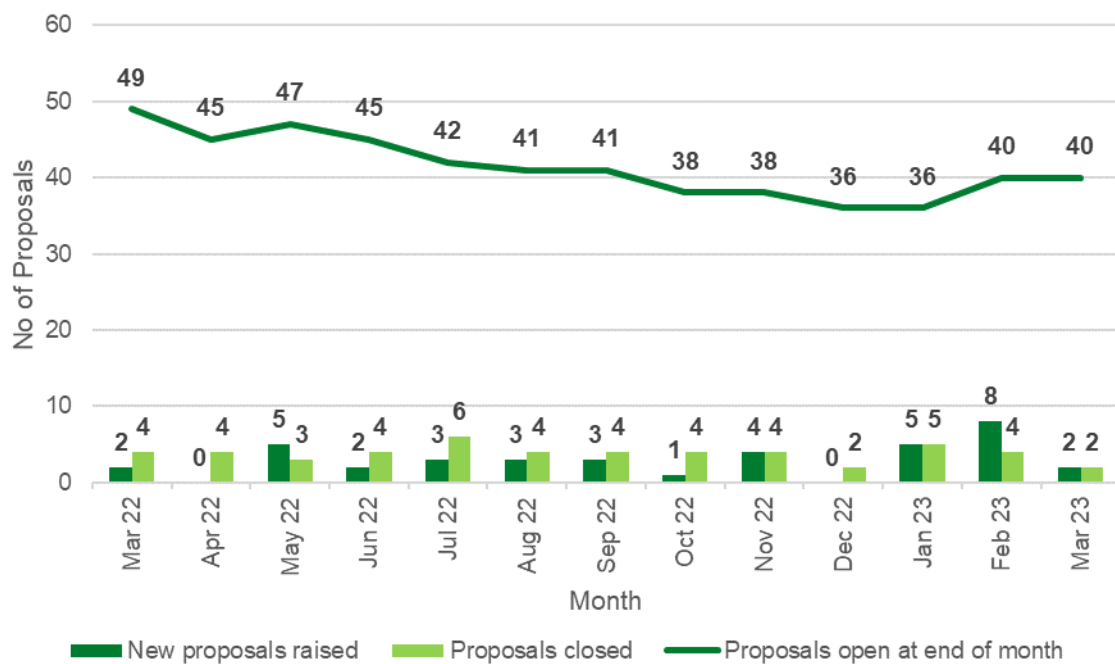
This information is correct as at the end of March 2023.

More detailed information can be found in the [Modification Register](#).

Number of proposals in each stage of the modification framework



Volume of proposals going through the modification framework



Modification progression timescales

Modification closure timescales					
Calendar year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Number of DCC System Impacting modifications	0	1	9	9	5
Average duration of DCC System Impacting modifications	n/a	407 WD	475 WD	447 WD	433 WD
Number of Non- DCC System Impacting modifications	13	23	26	22	15
Average duration of Non- DCC System Impacting modifications	91 WD	161 WD	150 WD	152 WD	106 WD

2. Modification updates

MP208

[MP208 'Northbound Prioritisation of N56 Alerts'](#) is seeking to resolve an issue where payments are being held for Prepayment top-ups but not credited to the meter. When a consumer requests a Prepayment top-up at a shop, the request is sent via the Responsible Supplier to the DCC. The DCC responds by sending an N56 Alert, which contains the Unique Transaction Reference Number (UTRN) required to process the consumer's payment. If the UTRN is not returned to the shop within 30 seconds of the initial request, the transaction will time out and the consumer's funds may be held by the Payment Service Provider (PSP) until a refund is processed. While the majority of Prepayment top-up requests are processed and N56 Alerts returned to the Supplier within the necessary timeframe of 16 seconds, there are instances where this part of the process is taking too long.

The DCC has advised that it can deliver Northbound prioritisation of N56 Alerts outside of the SEC modification process. Before withdrawing MP208, the Proposer is awaiting confirmation that the DCC is progressing a solution (not because a solution is no longer needed). The Proposer has also advised that if they withdraw the proposal they will re-raise the modification if the DCC does not deliver the solution. The DCC agreed to MP208 remaining open for the moment to give a focus to the work being carried out across several teams within the DCC. The Proposer has agreed to wait for confirmation of the optimal time to withdraw the modification. SECAS is liaising with the DCC for regular progress updates.

DP218

SEC Section K 'Charging Methodology' sets out how the DCC charges SEC Parties, including how the types of Fixed Charges are apportioned between DCC Users and how communications services (the sending of Service Requests) are charged. The Smart Energy Code Company (SECCo) Board previously queried how much work is generated by Other Users. The SEC Panel has also looked at Other Users' and Other SEC Parties' usage of SEC and DCC services. It was agreed that further

investigation into the current charging arrangements would be beneficial. To support this, the DCC raised [DP218 'Review of the SEC Charging Methodology'](#) with the agreement of the Panel to holistically review the DCC Charging methodology and determine whether any change should be taken forward. Two distinct issues have been identified under this Draft Proposal:

- Who uses the DCC Systems and how they are charged; and
- How the DCC Fixed Charges, which includes SEC administration costs, are apportioned between different Party types.

Following the request for information (RFI) which closed at the end of January 2023, an ad hoc Working Group meeting was held on 22 March 2023 to review the responses and agree the next steps. The discussions concluded that it was essential for the DCC to provide more detailed metrics on costs and future traffic volume forecasts before determining if the modification should be split into two parts. SECAS is liaising with the DCC to obtain this information.

DP224

The SEC does not explicitly define a Performance Assurance Framework (PAF), which is in contrast with some other Energy Codes. Instead, the SEC Panel, as the key decision-making authority under the SEC, is expected to deal with any performance-related matters as they arise. However, managing performance-related matters on a case-by-case basis is challenging and the scope of the Panel is broad.

[DP224 'SEC Performance Assurance Framework'](#) will provide implementation of a risk-based PAF under the SEC that would give confidence to Parties that the obligations set out in the SEC are being fulfilled and that performance risks and issues are dealt with in a standardised manner.

A Request for Information was issued to gather views of SEC Parties. There were 10 responses, all of which were supportive in principle. One respondent, AltHANCo, noted that the current obligations on Parties set out in SEC Section Z 'Alt HAN Arrangements' are currently not governed by the SEC Panel. Therefore, felt these should be excluded from the scope. This will now be progress through the modification process. We expect implementation to be in November 2023.

3. Change Sub-Committee decisions

Recent decisions

The CSC last met on 18 April 2023.

The CSC was asked to approve the below Modification Reports for progression to the Report Phase:

- [MP214 'Clarification of Acceptable DCC User IDs for Import and Export Suppliers'](#)
- [MP222 'CPL submission efficiency improvements'](#)
- [DP226 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 10'](#)
- [DP229 'Notification of material change to User Systems to include decommissioning'](#)

The CSC decided to defer the conversion of the following Draft Proposal to a Modification Proposal to allow further work to be carried out to understand the issue:

- [DP232 'ACB Certs on I&C'](#)

The CSC considered the following new Draft Proposals and agreed to leave them in the Development Stage for further work to understand the issue:

- [DP239 'Enduring Solution for Resolving SMETS2 Device Certificate Misalignment Issue'](#)
- [DP240 'Service Request Management'](#)

Upcoming decisions

The next CSC meeting will be on 16 May 2023.

We currently expect to ask the CSC to approve one Modification Report for progression to final decision:

- [MP178 'Removing DSP validation against the SMI join status for SR8.8.x'](#)
- [MP219 'Accessing Consumption Data on behalf of SEC Parties'](#)

We currently expect to ask the CSC to convert the following Draft Proposals to Modification Proposals for progression to the Refinement Process:

- [DP224 'SEC Performance Assurance Framework'](#)
- [DP237 'Management of Emergency Firmware Updates'](#)
- [DP238 'TSAT Expired Communication Hubs'](#)

Further Draft Proposals may be raised nearer the meeting that could be progressed directly to the Refinement Process or the Report Phase.

4. New Draft Proposals

DP239

[DP239 'Enduring Solution for Resolving SMETS2 Device Certificate Misalignment Issue'](#) was raised by E.ON on 3 April 2023.

As part of Post Commissioning Obligations, Suppliers and Wide Area Network (WAN) Providers are expected to update the Device certificate. This must be carried out within seven days following installation, via Service Request (SR) 6.17 'Issue Security Credentials' and SR 6.15.2 'Update Security Credentials (Device)'. In some instances, the success response is not processed or not received by the Data Service Provider (DSP), resulting in a certificate misalignment between the Device and the DSP. This renders the Device incommunicable.

The Smart Energy Code (SEC) currently requires the Data Communications Company (DCC) to manually correct errors in the Smart Meter Inventory (SMI) where there is no other available method. Suppliers have indicated they would like an enduring solution to resolve the Device certificate misalignment issue without involving a manual SMI update.

DP240

[DP240 'Service Request Management'](#) was raised by the DCC on 4 April 2023.

The DCC expects the volume of messages sent over the DCC Total System to grow exponentially within the next ten years as more Devices are enrolled on the DCC service, with a target of 55 million meters in 33 million premises. In response to the UK Government's Net Zero targets, industry parties are expected to attempt to capture significantly more data. Message payload sizes are also expected to increase as the digitalisation of Smart Energy Systems continues.

Where Service Request volumes exceed service capacity, and in turn generate an excessive volume of Service Responses and Alerts, periodic or temporary congestion events are likely to occur. This can lead to a deterioration in service performance and in extreme cases overload and failure of the DCC Total System.

There are known examples of high volumes of Service Requests sent due to DCC User system errors or industry events which have resulted in this issue occurring, causing business processes for all DCC Users to become compromised through a loss of or reduction in service.

DP240 proposes to introduce elements of Service Request management to the SEC to define how the DCC should manage its service during periods where inbound Service Request volumes exceed service capacity due to unexpected or erroneous activity.

5. DCC Assessments

DCC Impact Assessment requests

The Change Board has not been asked to consider any Impact Assessment requests since the last Panel meeting.

DCC Assessment timescales

This information is correct as at the end of March 2023.

More information is available in the DCC's update in Appendix A.

DCC Assessment timescales		
Assessment	Total	Average duration
Preliminary Assessments open	1	45 WD
Preliminary Assessments completed in the last 12 months	14	38 WD
Impact Assessments open	3	76 WD
Impact Assessments completed in the last 12 months	5	50 WD

DCC Preliminary Assessments

The DCC's Collaborative Design Review recommended the target duration for Preliminary Assessments be increased from 15 Working Days (WD) to 25WD. Durations marked in amber in the tables below missed the current 15WD target but would have met the proposed 25WD target.

DCC Preliminary Assessments in progress			
Modification	Accepted	Target duration	Current duration
MP217	30 Jan 23	15 WD	45 WD

DCC Preliminary Assessments completed in the last 12 months			
Modification	Returned	Target duration	Actual duration
MP137	27 May 22	15 WD	15 WD
MP172	13 Jun 22	15 WD	28 WD
MP155	15 Jun 22	15 WD	60 WD
MP134B	14 Jul 22	15 WD	12 WD
MP176	15 Jul 22	15 WD	25 WD
SECMP0028	23 Aug 22	15 WD	20 WD
MP211	21 Sep 22	15 WD	12 WD
MP178	21 Oct 22	15 WD	15 WD
MP202	21 Oct 22	15 WD	17 WD
MP216	31 Oct 22	15 WD	26 WD
MP207	30 Nov 22	15 WD	17 WD
MP208	19 Jan 23	15 WD	24 WD
MP169	10 Feb 23	15 WD	50 WD
MP168	10 Mar 23	15 WD	213 WD

DCC Impact Assessments

DCC Impact Assessments in progress			
Modification	Accepted	Target duration	Current duration
MP176	30 Sep 22	40 WD	131 WD
MP211	9 Jan 23	40 WD	60 WD
MP202	8 Feb 23	40 WD	38 WD

DCC Impact Assessments completed in the last 12 months			
Modification	Returned	Target duration	Actual duration
MP102B	21 May 22	40 WD	41 WD
MP170	25 May 22	40 WD	78 WD
MP176	1 Jun 22	40 WD	25 WD
MP122B	11 Jul 22	40 WD	70 WD
MP178	1 Mar 23	40 WD	38 WD

6. Modification outcomes

Change Board votes

The Change Board voted on the following modifications on 29 March 2023:

- [MP215 'Communications Hub Ordering and Forecasting'](#) – approved under Self-Governance on the basis it would better facilitate SEC Objectives (a)¹ and (b)².
- [MP227 'Pre-SMETS2 v4.2 Device IVP Extension'](#) – approved under Self-Governance on the basis it would better facilitate SEC Objective (a).

Authority decisions

The Authority has not issued a decision on any modification since the last Panel meeting.

There are no modifications currently with the Authority for decision.

Withdrawn proposals

One Modification Proposal has been withdrawn since the last Panel meeting:

- [DP236 'Commissioned Communication Hub SMI Status Remains as Pending'](#)

7. Releases and Designations

SEC versions issued

The following SEC versions have been released since the last update:

SEC versions issued		
Version	Date	Key changes
70.0	21 Mar 23	Updated to implement changes to SEC Appendix AL 'SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document' (SMETS1 TMAD) following a re-designation issued by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. This is in support of the Data Communications Company (DCC) Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 1 service.
71.0	22 Mar 23	Updates to implement MP198 'Further Changes from the Review of the SMKI and DCCKI Document Set'

¹ Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain.

² Enable the DCC to comply at all times with the General Objectives of the DCC (as defined in the DCC Licence), and to efficiently discharge the other obligations imposed upon it by the DCC Licence.

SEC versions issued		
Version	Date	Key changes
70.0	21 Mar 23	Updated to implement changes to SEC Appendix AL 'SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document' (SMETS1 TMAD) following a re-designation issued by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. This is in support of the Data Communications Company (DCC) Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 1 service.
72.0	17 Apr 23	Updated to implement MP227 'Pre-SMETS2 v4.2 Device IVP Extension'

Implemented SEC Releases

February 2023 SEC Release – 23 February 2023		
Modification	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP167A 'Review of SEC documents (Testing Approach Document criteria)'		Implemented
MP172 'Reduced CPA & CPL requirements for innovation and Device field trials'		Implemented
MP210 'RSA forecasts, orders and pay stock charges for Alt HAN Equipment'		Implemented

Upcoming SEC Release scopes

June 2023 SEC Release – 29 June 2023		
Modification	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP102B 'Power Outage Alerts triggered by an OTA firmware upgrade - enduring solution'	✓	Approved
MP125 'Correcting Device Information for the ESME Variant'	✓	Approved
MP128A 'Gas Network Operators SMKI Requirements'		Approved
MP183 'Post Commissioning Obligations Reporting'		Approved
MP215 'Communications Hub Ordering and Forecasting'		Approved
MP220 'MMC Changes resulting from GBCS v4.1 Device Testing'		Approved
MP222 'CPL submission efficiency improvements'		Targeted
DP229 'Notification of material change to User Systems to include decommissioning'		Targeted

- [MP222 'CPL submission efficiency improvements'](#) has now been added to the scope of this release.

- [DP229 'Notification of material change to User Systems to include decommissioning'](#) has now been added to the scope of this release.

November 2023 SEC Release – 2 November 2023		
Modification	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP122B 'Operational Metrics – Part 2'	✓	Approved
MP137 'Sharing information on Defects and Issues'		Targeted
MP216 'Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 9'		Approved
DP226 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 10'		Targeted

February 2024 SEC Release – 29 February 2024		
Modification	DCC System impacts?	Status
No modifications currently targeted		

June 2024 SEC Release – 27 June 2024		
Modification	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS'	✓	Approved
MP178 'Removing DSP validation against the SMI join status for SR8.8.x'	✓	Targeted
MP202 'Enduring Solution for SMETS1 and SMETS2+ PPMIDs'	✓	Targeted
MP211 'Aligning the SMI with the CPL'	✓	Targeted

November 2024 SEC Release – 7 November 2024		
Modification	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP085B 'Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods (meters currently installed)'		Targeted
MP165 'ESME Voltage Accuracy'		Targeted
MP217 'Obtaining Timestamps to allow Target Response Time Measurements'	✓	Targeted

- [MP085B 'Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods \(meters currently installed\)'](#) has now been added to the scope of this release.
- [MP165 'ESME Voltage Accuracy'](#) has now been added to the scope of this release.

- [MP217 'Obtaining Timestamps to allow Target Response Time Measurements'](#) has now been added to the scope of this release.

Ad-hoc SEC Releases			
Modification	Date	DCC System impacts?	Status
MP227 'Pre-SMETS2 v4.2 Device IVP Extension'	17 Apr 23		Approved

Upcoming designations

ESNZ Designations		
Programme	Document	Expected designation date
SMETS1	Migration DUST Closure for FOC	19 May 23
SMETS1	Changes to Data Retention 'Excluded Category – Duplicate MPANs and MPRNs'	May 23
ECoS	SEC Subsidiary Document Changes required for the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) Arrangements	29 Jun 23
ECoS	ECoS Transition and Migration Approach Document (ETMAD)	29 Jun 23
ECoS	ETMAD Required Documents (ECoS Migration Reporting Regime; ECoS Migration Error Handling and Retry Approach)	29 Jun 23

8. Cross-Code working

Code Administration Code of Practice (CACoP) Forum update

The CACoP Forum now meets bimonthly, and the last meeting was on 11 April 2023. At this meeting the Forum discussed the following:

- The Forum is developing an enhanced approach to communicating and engaging with the wider industry, making use of its website and its LinkedIn profile. We have led on developing this strategy for the Forum and will be presenting a developed plan to the group at the next meeting based on the input received this month. The Forum also discussed the expected windows when individual customer satisfaction surveys will be issued, to help stagger these, in light of Ofgem not performing a central Code Administrator survey this year.
- The Forum received an update from the Retail Energy Code Company (RECCo) on its Open Data and Consumer Consent project. RECCo will be organising a dedicated workshop on this towards the end of May and is seeking appropriate attendance from all of the Codes.

- The Forum received an update on the approach the Cross Code Steering Group (CCSG) is trialling for better aligning timelines and consolidating modification materials for cross-Code changes. The CCSG will be trialling this on a suitable cross-Code change later this year. It will update the Forum on the outcomes to help facilitate the Forum's discussions on aligning approaches across the Codes. The Forum also noted investigations we have carried out into whether the remaining CACoP Codes should become CCSG members, which concluded there was no strong business case for doing this right now.

The next Forum meeting will be on 13 June 2023.

Cross Code Steering Group (CCSG) update

The CCSG met 17 April 2023.

There were no new changes identified as impacting SEC from other Codes.