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Paper Reference:	SECP_128_2805_21
Action:	For Information

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.

2. Communications Transition Group (CTG)

The CTG has not yet met in May at the time of writing this report and is scheduled to hold its fifteenth meeting on 20 May 2024. Outcomes from the CTG May and June meetings will be reported in next month's Panel Sub-Committee report.

3. Technical Operations

3.1 TABASC 101 meeting

The TABASC 101 and 101X meetings were held on 2 May and 16 May respectively.

The following topics were discussed at the TABASC 101 meeting:

DSP Migration

The DCC returned to the TABASC with an update on Data Service Provider (DSP) Migration. The DCC presented its updated version of the DSP Migration Transition State diagrams aligned to a wider activity roadmap. The TABASC requested that the DCC return to a future TABASC meeting with further consideration of the number and use of datacentres that should be used to provide a cost-effective service.

DSP Core and SI LLRs

The DCC returned to the TABASC with an update on the DSP Core and SI low-level requirements (LLRs) noting that the requirements are not finalised and will be developed further. The DCC confirmed that a revised requirements spreadsheet will be issued indicating the requirements that are proposed to change from existing, for review two weeks prior to the next TABASC meeting.

Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) Testing Update

The DCC presented an update on Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) Testing and outcomes from their CH&N Consultation on Changes to the ICHIS.

Future Service Management (FSM) Service Management Working Group (SMWG) Playback

The DCC presented a progress update on the FSM Service Management Working Group (SMWG) which highlighted the groups' views and provided an insight into their memberships feedback in relation to the proposed customisations for the future Incident Management solution.

Northbound Prioritisation Review

The DCC presented an update on Northbound Prioritisation noting the improvement its implementation has had on all Service Responses and Alerts. The TABASC queried the apparent increase in processing time for the high priority Alerts and data that suggested lower priority Alerts were being processed faster and the TABASC requested that the DCC return to a future TABASC meeting with an explanation behind this.

VMO2 3G Sunsetting Traffic Management Gateway Solution

The DCC provided the TABASC with an overview of its 3G Sunsetting Traffic Management Gateway Solution. The TABASC queried whether the DCC would be consolidating Communication Hub (CH) Alerts in order to mitigate potential congestion issues and whether solutions to these issues would be implemented by the DCC. The TABASC requested that the DCC return to a future meeting with further clarification on this.

CSP.N LRR – Higher Modulation (4FSK) Consultation

The DCC presented an update on its CSP.N Long Range Radio (LRR) Higher Modulation (4FSK) Consultation and noted that it is due to close on 21st May 2024 after which a decision will be made upon whether the suggested changes should be implemented or not.

The following topics were discussed at the TABASC 101X meeting:

DSP Migration

The DCC returned to the TABASC with an update on Data Service Provider (DSP) Migration. The TABASC requested that the DCC return to a future TABASC meeting with sequence diagrams demonstrating the changes to message flows as a result of the implementation of the Smart Routing Gateway (SRG). The DCC agreed to return with these diagrams and also agreed to provide further information on the implications the SRG will have for its Users.

DSP Core and SI LLRs

The DCC returned to the TABASC for a discussion on the DSP Core and SI low-level requirements (LLRs). The TABASC provided some feedback on the requirements and noted that they will provide further feedback in writing to the DCC by 31 May.

3.2 TAG Highlights

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

Communications Hubs and Networks Live Service Criteria

The DCC presented its proposal for the Live Service Criteria (LSC) for the 4G Communications Hubs and Networks (CH&N) release. The TAG reviewed the proposed LSC and provided conditional approval, on the condition that a criterion on User testing assessment by the TAG be included.

June 2024 SEC Release Test Completion Report

The DCC provided the Test Completion Report (TCR) for the June 2024 SEC Release, and the TAG approved test completion.

November 2024 Testing Approach Document

The DCC provided the November 2024 SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) for approval. The TAG reviewed the TAD, and approved the document.

SMETS1 MHHS Functional Capacity Uplift Approach to Testing

The DCC presented the approach to testing for Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification 1 (SMETS1) Marketwide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) functional capacity testing. The TAG reviewed and approved the proposed approach to testing.

3G Sunsetting Traffic Management Gateway Overview

The DCC presented an introductory overview of the Traffic Management Gateway (TMG) for 3G sunsetting. The TAG reviewed the information provided and noted the update.

CADg Update

The DCC presented a high-level overview of the virtual Wide Area Network (WAN) Consumer Access Device (CADg) solution. The TAG reviewed the information provided and noted the update.

3.3 Operations Group Highlights

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

OPSG Issues

SECAS presented proposals for a new OPSG issue raising process and the introduction of the new candidate issue 'DCC SSI Certificate Allocation'. The OPSG provided feedback to SECAS on the issue prioritisation process and discussed the outcome of the meeting with Communication Service Provider North (CSPN) that took place on 9 May 2024.

Non- Communicating Devices

The DCC presented the history of non-communicating devices along with providing a high-level definition of non-communicating devices. The DCC highlighted its continued engagement with DESNZ and SECAS to create industry wide definitions, which would be presented at OPSG 119 in June 2024.

Communications Hubs and Networks (CH&N)

The DCC presented an update on the development of the CH&N Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) readiness and IPV Approach Document (IPVAD). The DCC confirmed that the process for ordering IPV CHs is the same process for all future CH orders, with the addition of CH forecasting requirements applicable from October 2024 onwards. The OPSG discussed the importance of an appropriate IPV exit criteria in the IPVAD and agreed with the proposed approach to establish an IPV working group reporting into the Communications Transition Group (CTG), whilst acknowledging the OPSG and CTG will need to work together as both forums have a vested interest.

Demand Forecasting

The DCC presented the quarterly demand forecast assumptions, highlighting variance from previous assumptions. The OPSG noted the assumptions but highlighted the requirement for appropriate levels of certainty to be provided for each assumption.

Trust Centre Swap Out (TCSO) – Operational Issues Project Brief

SECAS presented a project brief that proposed a new OPSG sub-group that will manage the current TCSO issues log created during the DESNZ led TCSO Surgery working group. The OPSG refrained from endorsement of the sub-group until the TCSO sub-group objectives are provided and agreed.

Annual Outage Plan

The DCC presented an updated version of the Annual Outage Plan, noting that two Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) tests were cancelled, and that it will provide the new planned dates at OPSG 119 in June 2024 for endorsement.

Future Service Management (FSM)

The DCC presented an update on the Service Management Working Group (SMWG) within FSM. The DCC confirmed that an open invitation to all interested SEC Parties to join SMWG had been distributed and that it is working with SECAS and the OPSG Chair to ensure that all outcomes of the working group and the context for the decisions are provided to the OPSG when endorsement is sought.

Future Connectivity Strategy

The DCC presented a summary of the two options being considered. The DCC noted the operational considerations and the intention to provide separate business cases for the two regions (North, and Central and South). The DCC confirmed that it will return to OPSG 119 in June 2024 with the Outline Business Case for the North. The OPSG highlighted the requirement for strategies in both regions which enable installation of the CH which has the highest possibility of achieving connection to the premise, and that this is needed as soon as possible. The DCC requested comments from members to be fed back by Friday 24 May 2024.

DSP

SECAS requested feedback from OPSG on the DSP requirements by 17 May 2024.

SEC Panel Reports – March 2024

SECAS reported that there were 10 new Registration Data Provider (RDP) Incidents opened in March 2024 and all 25 Incidents recorded during Q1 2024 were resolved through Registration Data corrections.

The Service Request (SR) Variance Reporting, Quarterly Problem Report and DCC Responsible Communications Hub Returns Report were not reported this month as they are provided quarterly.

PMR – February 2024

SECAS noted three Category 2 Major Incidents recorded during February and confirmed that all were resolved within SLA. SECAS reported that Communication Service Provider Central & South (CSP C&S) did not achieve Minimum Service Level for CPM3A (Power Outage Alerts) for the eleventh month in a row. SECAS also highlighted that Performance Measure (PM) 1.1 for CSP C&S achieved Target Service Level for the first time in January 2024 but noted a slight decrease to 98.995% in February 2024. The DCC noted that the root causes of PM2.1 and CPM3A have been under investigation and will be presented in the May OPSG reporting meeting.

Post-Commissioning Report

The DCC will present the latest Post-Commissioning Report for March 2024 to the SSC on 24 April.

This report has a **RED** classification and distribution is limited to the SEC Panel only provided as Appendix B – Post Commissioning Information Report (March 2024) (**RED**).

4. Security Sub-Committee and SMKI PMA

4.1 SSC Highlights

User Security Assessments

The SSC considered the findings from User Security Assessments and set the assurance and compliance status. The SSC reported the outcomes of the User Security Assessments to the SEC Panel, noting the instances where non-compliances have been reported and where SSC has requested a Remediation Plan.

DCC CIO Assessments

The DCC provided the SSC with an update on ongoing DCC CIO Assessments and provided a 'lessons learned' review of completed DCC CIO Assessments.

DCC CIO Forward Look

The DCC provided the SSC with an update on upcoming DCC CIO Assessments.

CPA Monitoring

The SSC Chair presented the SSC with an update on the expiry of Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Certificates, as well as an update on Communication Hubs. In particular, a number of CPL entries were marked as 'removed' following the withdrawal of CPA Certificates in 2019 and 2020 and a prolonged period of remediation to upgrade the firmware as allowed by SEC Appendix Z, Section 6. SEC parties had been advised in December 2023 and March 2024 of the intention to mark the CPL entries as 'removed' from April 2024.

CPA-Related Issues

The SSC Chair presented the SSC with an update on CPA Risk Review monitoring, Triage Tool Authorisation, SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage, and the Future CPA Scheme. The SSC provided input to the Panel response to the DESNZ consultation on the Future CPA Scheme.

CPA Wi-Fi Capability

The SSC Chair presented an update on CPA implications of Wi-Fi Capability in Devices where NCSC have proposed an update to the CPA Security Characteristics. The NCSC requirement stems from the CPA evaluation of a SAPC Device with Wi Fi capability for deploying firmware upgrades.

Associated with the CPA issue, the SSC Chair and TABASC Chair presented the SSC with proposals for handling the activation of firmware updates for Devices with Wi Fi capability to meet security requirements and to close an outstanding SSC Confidential action.

DCC Security Architecture Framework

The DCC presented an update on the DCC Security Architecture Framework.

Central and South Emergency Firmware Update Metrics (CTG 09/Conf02)

The DCC presented an update on the impacts of 3G Sunsetting on Emergency firmware updates and the SSC requested additional information.

CAD-g

The DCC presented updates on CAD-g Firmware Distribution and on the NoWAN CAD-g Risk Assessment and the SSC provided feedback.

DSP Migration

The DCC presented an update on DSP Migration and the SSC provided feedback on security implications.

CH&N LSC Evidence Endorsement

The DCC presented a Live Service Criteria (LSC) evidence update and presented a proposal to the SSC. The SSC provided feedback and clarified what is necessary to satisfy security assurance.

DCO Business Needs RFP Update

The DCC presented an update on DCO Business Needs and re-procurement plans and the SSC provided advice.

PKI-E Update

The DCC presented an update on PKI-E and on independent assurance proposals.

DCC Updates

The SSC noted the following standing updates and reports provided by the DCC for security assurance monitoring:

- Post Commissioning Report
- Anomaly Detection Report

The SSC approved DCC proposals for changes to certain Anomaly Detection Attributes to address quarantine and warning levels identified in live operations.

4.2 SSC CPA Issue Resolution Sub-Group (SCIRS)

At the April 2024 SCIRS meeting the following issues were discussed.

MP168 (IKI File Signing for CPL entries)

The DCC advised SCIRS that it is satisfied that the IKI file signing process works with a volunteer Manufacturer. The DCC produced draft guidance / instructions for use of IKI file signing and worked with SECAS to arrange demos for EUA and Beama Members on 25 April 2024.

MP231 (Firmware upgrade pathways)

SCIRS members were notified that this SEC Modification was implemented on 8 April 2024 requiring Manufacturers to record firmware upgrade pathways on the Firmware Information Repository (FIR) linked to the number(s) of the record(s) on the Central Products List which identify the suitable baseline Device Model(s), and record a minimum of ZigBee chipset vendor, ZigBee stack version, and Central Product List entry ID on the Device Zigbee Information Repository (restricted to and held securely by the SSC).

CSR Criticality Flag

SCIRS members were advised that DCC analysis has identified CSRs submitted by Manufacturers containing a criticality flag set to 'False' where the SEC requires this flag to be set to 'True'.

SSC Guidance on Device Security Assurance and Triage

SCIRS noted that the DCC is currently unable to recognise certain Device credentials if the Device Private Key or DCC ACB Certificates have been changed during Use Case 004 Triage. This will either prevent or lengthen the installation process for UC004 Triaged Devices. To ensure an immediate workaround, Manufacturers were asked to follow updated Guidance in the SSC Guidance for Device Security Assurance and Triage for Use Case 004 Triage until further notice.

Risk Review Update

SCIRS members were advised that it is not intended that an AMAP is automatically required specifically to address risks identified during the Risk Review gap analysis. The first step is for the

Manufacturer to inform the SSC how they intend to address the risks identified, and for the SSC to then decide whether it needs to be addressed by a Test Lab.

Future CPA Scheme

SCIRS Members were given an update on the SSC and Panel response to the DESNZ consultation. DESNZ noted that several points were raised in the responses, including a Manufacturer seat on the SSC, providing details on funding and disputes, and how the process for notifying Material Security Vulnerabilities would work. DESNZ agreed to arrange meetings with interested parties to discuss comments further ahead of the Government Response being published.

4.3 SMKI PMA

SoLR Update

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

Test Exercise to Correct Incorrect Network Operator Certificates Lessons Learned

The SMKI PMA noted a DCC update on lessons learned from the test exercise to correct incorrect Network Operator Certificates and noted that further updates would be brought to each SMKI PMA meeting. In particular, payment of expenses to Key Custodians is being addressed by the DCC.

SMKI UIT Apex Recovery

The DCC presented the SMKI PMA with an update on the Apex Recovery exercise noting that Users have been invited by the DCC and separately by the SMKI PMA to volunteer to participate in the planning and execution of the Test Exercise currently being planned for October 2024.

CSR Criticality Flag

The DCC presented an update on a CSR criticality flag. DCC analysis has identified CSRs containing a criticality flag set to 'False' where the SEC requires this flag to be set to 'True'.

TCoS Decommissioning

The DCC presented the SMKI PMA with an update on Transitional Change of Supplier (TCoS) Decommissioning where a Sev 2 defect identified in the Private Key Transfer (PKT) has caused a delay from the proposed May 2024 completion date. The DCC will bring proposals for resolution to the SMKI PMA meeting in May 2024.

DSP Migration

The DCC presented the SMKI PMA with an update on DSP Migration options and SMKI PMA provided feedback.

MP268 Certificate Report

The DCC presented the SMKI PMA with an update on [MP268 'Certificate rotation and expired Certificates'](#).

PKI-E Update

The DCC presented the SMKI PMA with a verbal update on the Public Key Infrastructure – Enduring (PKI-E) Programme.

4.4 Privacy Sub Committee

The second Privacy Sub Committee (PSC) was held on 18 April 2024. PSC Members agreed to hold quarterly meetings in London, beginning in June 2024, to further develop Sub-Committee relationships in person.

Statement of Objectives

The PSC noted an update on the PSC Statement of Objectives and provided feedback.

Conflict of Interest

The PSC noted an update on Conflicts of Interests and agreed that the additional scenarios detailed could be dealt with using the same approach for handling detailed in the PSC Terms of Reference.

Modifications

The PSC noted an overview of the modifications process and noted updates on modifications that have been recommended for PSC consideration.

Assessment of AI Risks and Opportunities

The PSC noted an update on the scope of the AI Risks and Opportunities Project Brief and provided feedback for the next meeting.

5. SMDA Sub Committee

The next SMDA Sub-Committee (SMDASC) meeting will be held on 11 June 2024.

At the meeting, members will be asked to:

- Review and approve the SMDA Testing Services Procurement tender document and Testing Services Contract.
- Approve the Double Band Device Testing Impact Assessment
- Approve the June 2024 SEC Release Impact Assessment
- Agree to introduce GBCS 4.1 Communication Hubs into SMDA testing baselines
- Agree an approach to test the latest versions of Comms Hubs
- Agree an approach to testing 4G Communications Hubs

6. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to **NOTE** the contents of this paper.

Rebecca Sawyer
SECAS Team
20 May 2024

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** User Security Assessments – Identified Non-Compliances (**RED**)
- **Appendix B:** Post Commissioning Report (**RED**)