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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.

- The DCC presented a number of technical items to the TABASC, including a strategic update on the delivery of its Future Connectivity Strategy, and an introduction to its Application, Network, Security and Operations (ANSO) Programme.
- At TAG, the DCC provided the Test Completion Report (TCR) for the CH&N Systems Integration Testing (SIT) Test Phase. The TAG reviewed the TCR, and approved test completion for this important milestone in the CH&N Programme. The DCC also presented a brief update on the Test Automation Framework (TAF) programme, and the System Capacity Testing Approach Document (SCTAD) for the Traffic Management Gateway (TMG) for 3G sunsetting, which the TAG reviewed.
- At OPSG, The DCC presented three Major Incidents comprising two Category 1 Incidents and one Category 2 Incident that occurred in July. The DCC reported that Category 1 Incidents INC000001188999 and INC000001191420 were attributed to a DSP change activity. The DCC noted that it was starting to build a plan with the DSP to reduce the number of Incidents caused by these changes.
- The DCC also presented a request for 10.5 hours of Additional Planned Maintenance to enable changes related to the CSPN Scaling & Optimisation activity to be implemented, and an updated Annual Outage plan. The OPSG endorsed the request, subject to successful testing by the DCC and CSPN this week, and also tentatively approved the update of the Annual Outage plan under the condition that the new timings are appropriately published by DCC.

2. Communications Transition Group (CTG)

The CTG has met once on 12 August since the previous SEC Sub-Committee Report was written.

DCC Update: 4G CH&N Programme

Programme Update

DCC presented an overview of the overall plan for CH&N Transition to 4G Communication Hubs (CHs) and provided updates on its programme risks and issues, noting an overall RAG status of Green. DCC highlighted it has achieved Systems Integration Testing (SIT) Exit on 31 July 2024 and the commencement of User Integration Testing (UIT) on 5 August 2024.

User Integration Testing (UIT) Update

DCC presented an update on UIT and advised that UIT-B testing commenced on 5 August 2024 and noted that no defects had been raised by Test Participants (TPs) so far relating to CH firmware for completed customer journey runs. DCC highlighted that bi-weekly calls were occurring with testing participants during UIT-B.

Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) Working Group playback

DCC presented an update from the Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) Working Group and noted the second IPV Working Group meeting occurred on 24 July 2024 and discussed UIT, mesh requirements and firmware upgrades. DCC noted the next IPV Working Group will be held on 21 August and will discuss UIT, Installer Training and IPV rollout plans.

Regulations Update

DCC provided an update on regulations and noted that changes to the Network Evolution Transition and Migration Approach Document (NETMAD) were designated on 19 July 2024. DCC advised that 'Phase 4' of the regulatory consultations will be issued on 16 September and will focus on enduring reporting on Mesh CHs, enrolment and communication services for 4G CHs, and mass manufacturing of 4G CHs.

4G Comms Hub Outline Business Case Update

DCC presented an update on 4G Transitional Financing Arrangements and advised that the 4G CH Outline Business Case (OBC) would be presented to the August SEC Panel meeting to seek support for the proposed funding/financing option decision. DCC noted that separate to the OBC, DCC are undertaking a review of DCC's charging methodology ahead of mass rollout of 4G CHs and the CTG requested DCC return to CTG with an implementation and engagement plan, which includes impact on charging.

Supply Chain Update

DCC presented an update on the 2/3G to 4G Supply Chain transition and noted that the aggregated industry view of current orders, forecasts and stock supports the transition to 4G only installs by early January to early February 2026. DCC advised a consultation on amending the Temporary CH Order Delivery Rules will be released in August 2024.

Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) Progress Update

DCC presented an update on the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification and advised that the outcome of testing analysis confirmed no meters will be removed from the wall, and DCC will confirm the approach to mitigate any remaining RF Noise issues in line with the Joint Industry Plan Milestone of 9 September 2024.

DCC Update: VMO2 3G Sunsetting

DCC presented an update on VMO2 3G sunsetting trial activity and presented a draft delivery plan for the Traffic Management Gateway solution and noted DCC will return to CTG in September and provide a more detailed update on VMO2 3G sunsetting activities, including a customer engagement approach on reporting and service measures.

DCC Update: SMETS 1 End of Life

DCC presented an update on SMETS1 End of Life (EoL) and noted ongoing discussions between DCC and DESNZ regarding the spending objectives of the business case. DCC acknowledged the outstanding action to share a revised engagement plan for the SMETS1 EoL project, with the aim to share this with CTG in September.

ENA Update on DCUSA DCP 419 and next steps

ENA presented an update on DCUSA DCP 419 and noted DCP 419 is due to progress to a Change Report for Party voting, before being issued to Ofgem for decision. ENA noted that should DCP 419 be approved, it will lead to the creation of a new market message that should be used by Suppliers. CTG members raised concerns that DCP 419 would create additional requirements for Suppliers when completing CH exchanges and ENA agreed to consider further any options not previously considered by working with Engage and SECAS that could have less impacts than the current DCP 419 proposed solution.

Sub-Committee Chair Updates

The SSC/SMKI and TAG Chairs provided Sub-Committee updates relevant to the 4G programme: the SSC/SMKI Chair noted delays in penetration testing and the TAG Chair noted UIT was progressing, however acknowledged it was early in the testing process.

CTG Overall Transition Plan (OTP) Update

The Chair advised an updated draft Overall Transition Plan (OTP) would be presented to CTG in September for baselining and noted the OTP was unlikely to result in changes to the CTG Plan-on-a-Page currently.

E.ON presented a workstream overview of E.ON's 2/3G Sunsetting and 4G delivery plan to provide a supplier perspective to CTG and the presentation was welcomed by CTG Members.

CTG Risks and Issues Register – monthly update

The CTG **noted** changes made to the CTG Risks and Issues Register but agreed not to a proposed lowering of the Severity Score for one Risk. The CTG agreed to the baselining of the Risk and Issues Register draft as v17.0, conditional on the draft reflecting the discussion at CTG that the Risk rating remains unchanged.

CTG Factsheets

SECAS presented the draft version 2.3 of the Green Factsheets and draft version 4.3 of the Amber Factsheets, with changes reflecting the latest updates on VMO2 2/3G Sunsetting and Mesh requirements. The CTG noted the DCC VMO2 3G sunsetting update provided by DCC earlier during the meeting which is an addition to the already proposed changes to the Amber Factsheet and SECAS agreed to make additional changes prior to circulating the Factsheets to CTG ex-committee for baselining.

3. Technical Operations

3.1 TABASC 104 meeting

The TABASC 104 meeting was held on 1 August.

The following topics were discussed:

Future Connectivity Strategy Update

The DCC returned with an update on its Future Connectivity Strategy for CSP North and presented its technological analysis of 4G LTE and Long-Range Radio High Level Requirements (HLRs). The TABASC requested that the DCC return to the TABASC with revised requirements which highlight new versus existing HLRs.

Northbound Prioritisation Quarterly Review

The DCC returned with its Northbound Prioritisation Quarterly Review and reported on the number of high priority Alerts entering the Northbound retry queues. The TABASC requested that the DCC return with further information on the reasoning behind the delay in delivery of the N24 Alerts and the comparison of the impact of AD1s on N24 delivery.

DCC Cloud BCDR Technical Approach

The DCC presented their Cloud BCDR Technical Approach and the TABASC requested that the DCC return with detailed scenarios to illustrate the proposed changes.

DCC Technology Risk Management

The DCC reported on their proposed approach to Technology Risk Management and the TABASC noted the update.

Scope Setting for Risk 3.4 (HAN Performance) and 014 (No WAN)

SECAS and the DCC presented an update on Scope Setting for Risk 3.4 (HAN Performance) and 14 (No WAN). The TABASC requested that SECAS and the DCC return with data concerning Risk 3.4.

ANSO Programme Introduction

The DCC presented an introduction to its ANSO Programme and its HLRs.

CSP.N Radio Network Interface (RNI) Software version CB7 Deployment

The DCC returned to the TABASC with an update on its CSP.N Radio Network Interface (RNI) Software version CB7 Deployment and presented the deployment options considered and their impact on the outage window.

3.2 TAG Highlights

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

CH&N R8.0.7 Exit

The DCC presented an update on release firmware for the Communications Hubs and Networks (CH&N) programme, providing details of the decision to proceed with the 8.0.7 firmware over the 8.0.8 firmware for 4G CHs, which the TAG noted.

CH&N SIT Test Completion

The DCC provided the Test Completion Report (TCR) for the CH&N Systems Integration Testing (SIT) Test Phase. The TAG reviewed the TCR, and approved test completion for CH&N SIT.

CH&N DSM GBCS 1.1 Residual Risk

The DCC provided its quarterly report on the number of Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) 1.1 Devices in the production estate, and what percentage of the total production estate those Devices constituted, which the TAG noted.

TAF Update

The DCC presented a brief update on the Testing Automation Framework (TAF) programme. The TAG noted the update, and the Chair informed the DCC a more robust update was expected at TAG 117.

Traffic Management Gateway for 3G Sunsetting System Capacity Testing Approach Document

The DCC presented the System Capacity Testing Approach Document (SCTAD) for the Traffic Management Gateway (TMG) for 3G sunsetting, which the TAG reviewed.

3.3 Operations Group Highlights

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

OPSG Issues Prioritisation (DCC/SECAS): The DCC presented a CSPN Update and noted a full update would be presented to the OPSG on 23 August, it agreed to share its critical success factors with OPSG members so that their input can be provided. SECAS presented the OPSG issues prioritisation overview and highlighted the incorrect Distribution Network Operator (DNO) certificates as they are approaching the 1% threshold. The DCC agreed to provide more reporting insights to support Suppliers with their work to reduce the volume of incorrect DNO certificates. SECAS committed to investigating alternative processes that would help to reduce/improve this issue.

DCC Operational Update (DCC): The DCC presented three Major Incidents comprising two Category 1 Incidents and one Category 2 Incident that occurred in July. The DCC reported that Category 1 Incidents INC000001188999 and INC000001191420 were attributed to a DSP change activity. The DCC noted that it was starting to put together a plan with the DSP to reduce the number of Incidents caused by changes. The DCC noted concern that this had been done in 2022 and improvements were seen but that this had not been sustained. The OPSG also highlighted that the operational impact in terms of the number of smart meter installations prevented as a result of Incident INC000001191420 appeared to be lower than expected.

Future Service Management (FSM) (DCC): The DCC presented an update on the case for inclusion of new Order Management System (OMS) functionality to be delivered as a part of FSM and sought support for this. The OPSG endorsed the DCC approach.

Future Connectivity Strategy (FCS) (DCC): The DCC presented operational High-Level Requirements (HLRs) for FCS, the OPSG agreed that the HLRs met the business needs and endorsed them and provided feedback on what should be included in the Low-Level Requirements (LLRs).

Annual Outage Plan (DCC): The DCC presented a request for 10.5 hours of Additional Planned Maintenance to enable changes related to the CSPN Scaling & Optimisation activity to be implemented, and an updated Annual Outage plan. The OPSG endorsed the request, subject to successful testing by the DCC and CSPN this week, and also tentatively approved the update of the Annual Outage plan under the condition that the new timings are appropriately published by DCC.

AOB: Temporary Communications Hub Ordering Rules: The DCC set out that it would be consulting on the proposal to reduce the committed forecasting rules for 2/3G Coms Hubs from 12 to 10 months to reduce lead times in the event of any delays to the CH&N 4G programme as a result of issues identified during Initial Pallet Validation (IPV) phase.

OPSG Elections 2024: SECAS reported that various OPSG seats were to become available 08 October 2024 and noted that the call for nominations would begin 21 August 2024. SECAS presented the following vacancies: 8 Large Supplier Parties, 3 Small Supplier Parties, 1 Electricity Network Party, 1 Gas Network Party, and 2 Other SEC Parties.

SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages': The DCC presented that the Southbound Prioritisation consultation will be open from 14 August to 5 September 2024.

4. Security Sub-Committee and SMKI PMA

4.1 SSC Highlights

User Security Assessments

The SSC considered the findings from two 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 Forward Look and Remediations

The DCC provided the SSC with an update on upcoming DCC CIO Assessments and the status of outstanding remediations.

DCC Security Controls Framework

The DCC CIO presented the SSC with an update on progress to DCC SCF v1.3, outlining key changes to Part 2

Future CPA Scheme

The SSC reviewed an update on the Future CPA Scheme, including an ITT progress update and progress on the CPA Policies and Procedures document.

CPA Matters

The SSC considered current CPA Matters including clarification proposals for Device Triage, an update on [MP168 - CPL Security Improvements](#) and NCSC advice on SAPC / CAD Devices.

CPA Risk Review

The SSC reviewed the risks identified by NCSC in specific Risk Reviews of Devices where the CPA Certificate has expired and also reviewed the outcome of the Risk Review pilot proposals from NCSC along with CPA Expiry Date monitoring.

Comms Hub & Network Programme

The DCC presented an update on 4G Comms Hub & Network Programme including a readiness review of LSC 1. The SSC also noted the interim report from the DCC Competent Independent Organisation (CIO) on the current status of Penetration Testing and provided feedback.

FSM Security Customisations

The DCC presented FSM Security Customisations and the likely SEC Modifications required and provided feedback.

PKI-E - Transition Approach Customer Feedback Engagement

The DCC presented the SSC with Transition Approach Customer Feedback Engagement for

PKI-E and undertook to seek a 'no objection' from SSC on security grounds in August 2024.

PKI-E - Updating Key SEC Committees on JIP Milestones

The DCC presented an update on PKI-E JIP Milestone Adjustments, noting that the milestone moving one month to the right does not impact the overall transition timescale.

Future Connectivity Strategy (FCS) - Preferred option for the Outline Business Case

The DCC presented the SSC with the preferred option for the Outline Business Case for FCS, and presented an update on FCS progress and the SSC provided feedback.

TSP Tactical Platform Remediation Action Plan Updates

The DCC presented the SSC with an update on the TSP Tactical Platform Remediation Action Plan and progress made on remediations since the re-platforming in 2022 and the SSC provided feedback.

DSP Core and System Integration (SI) LLRs

The DCC presented the SSC with an update on DSP Core and SI LLRs and the SSC provided feedback on the proposed low level requirements.

SCC Risk Assessment RA10

The SSC Consultant presented the SSC with an update on the SSC Risk Assessment explaining the consolidation of risks arising from duplicated foci of interest and the addition of new risks that have been identified and the SSC provided feedback.

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 proposed changes to Anomaly detection Attributes.

4.2 SSC CPA Issue Resolution Sub-Group (SCIRS)

There was no SCIRS meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on 19 August.

4.3 SMKI PMA

PR7175 – DSP DCCKI Tokens

The DCC presented an update on PR7175 – a DCC proposal to change the existing Data Service Provider (DSP) DCCKI Tokens. The SMKI PMA approved the proposed changes and agreed to raise a Draft Proposal for a SEC Modification as part of the SMKI PMA Review of the Effectiveness of the SMKI Document set.

FSM

The DCC presented the SMKI PMA with an update on the Future Service Management (FSM) Security Architecture and the SMKI PMA provided feedback on the cryptography aspects.

PKI-E Transition Approach

The SMKI PMA noted a DCC update on the Public Key Infrastructure Enduring (PKI-E) high level transition approach and undertook to seek a 'no objection' from SMKI PMA on cryptography grounds in August 2024.

PKI JIP Milestones

The DCC presented the SMKI PMA with an update on the PKI-E Joint Industry Plan (JIP) Milestones. The SMKI PMA noted that the overall delivery date has not been affected by the proposed changes to the JIP Milestones.

Certificate Revocation

The SMKI PMA discussed and approved a SMKI Organisation Certificate Revocation for a SEC Party who no longer wishes to be a DCC User and directed the DCC to revoke the SMKI Certificates under SEC Appendix B Section 4.9.1. B.

SMKI PMA Risk Register

SECAS presented an update on the SMKI PMA Risk Register and the SMKI PMA discussed changes.

4.4 Privacy Sub Committee

The fifth Privacy Sub Committee (PSC) was held on 18 July 2024.

King's Speech

The PSC noted the Digital Information and Smart Data announced in the King's Speech, and the absence of the AI Bill.

Other User Privacy Assessments

The PSC considered the findings from one Other User Privacy Self-Assessment and agreed the compliance status. The PSC considered an Other User Change Request and agreed with the proposed approach. The outcomes of the Other User Privacy Assessments will be reported quarterly to SEC Panel, noting the instances where non-compliances have been reported and where PSC has requested a Remediation Plan (see Appendix B).

Statement of Objectives

The PSC agreed to adopt the Statement of Objectives in support of SEC General Objectives which are set out in Condition 22 of the Smart Meter Communications Licence.

AI Project Update

The PSC noted a progress update on the AI Project including highlights from the SEC Engagement Day AI Breakout session held the day before the meeting.

Modifications Update

The PSC noted an update on the Privacy impact SEC Modifications and provided feedback.

DCC Fuel Poverty

The PSC was presented with an update from DCC on the Fuel Poverty Initiatives for DCC and provided feedback noting areas requiring further clarification by DCC.

DCC Communications Hubs

The PSC noted an update on Communications Hubs Repurposing for Educational purposes and agreed on next steps with the DCC.

Risk Workshop Next Steps

The PSC agreed on the proposed next steps for the Risk Workshop.

5. SMDA Sub Committee

The SMDA Sub-Committee (SMDASC) meeting was held on 13 August 2024.

As this meeting was not quorate, the SMDASC could only make recommendations. The Party representatives who were not in attendance will be asked to review and agree with the recommendations.

During this meeting, members were presented with a proposal to update several SMDA documents including the Statement of Assurance, the Device Assurance Register and SMDA Baselines. The changes related to adding information about the Communications Hub Firmware Version and Parse & Correlate version used during testing. The SMDASC recommended the changes pending further Manufacturer input.

Members were updated on SMDA early testing of 4G Communications Hubs which has been delayed due to the DCC not having a UIT-B via UIT-A Gateway solution in place until late September 2024 at the earliest.

The Scheme Operator informed members that the modifications included within the November 2024 SEC Release do not appear to require changes to the Scheme. The Scheme Operator will continue to monitor the changes and provide an Impact Assessment at the October meeting for approval.

Members discussed the reason why Manufacturers are choosing not to submit devices on latest versions of the SMDA Baselines. A recent forecast from Manufacturers showed that out of 16 devices expected to be submitted over the next 17 months, two would be tested against either the November 2020 or 2021 SEC Release Baseline which in essence covers GBCS 4.0 and GBCS 4.1 specifications respectively. The SMDASC noted that there is no requirement for Manufacturers to submit devices onto the latest versions of GBCS beyond GBCS 3.2 which are aligned to SMDA Baseline Releases and it is therefore not mandated by the Scheme for Manufacturers to use a later Baseline as it is a voluntary Scheme.

This is having an impact on Network Operator Parties as the Scheme introduced specific Network Operator testing in November 2020 SEC Release Baseline which is not being used by Manufacturers. The SMDASC discussed ways of implementing these testing requirements into the November 2019 SEC Release without impacting Devices already assured on this baseline and the SO will present options at the next meeting in October 2024.

The SO then discussed the SMDA Testing Service Procurement and the number of bidders who have expressed an intent to submit a tender response. The SO outlined the effort required for SMDASC members who will be part of the Evaluation Panel.

A SECAS representative then joined the meeting to discuss MP270 which is a modification proposed by the DCC to allow the DCC, if successful, to be formally awarded the SMDA Testing Service contract. The SMDASC discussed the timescale for the modification as the legal text could not be included until the November 2024 SEC Release which does not align with the current Procurement timescales.

SECAS confirmed that the modification would be raised in September to the SEC Change Board, therefore the changes would be approved by the time the contract was awarded.

Members were concerned with the reference documents that the DCC are proposing to update to support these changes and the impacts of updating documents like the ETAD (Enduring Testing Approach Document) may have on the Scheme and obligations on SMDA users. SECAS noted these concerns, and the next steps will be to invite the SMDASC Chair to meet with the DCC to discuss these concerns.

Finally, the SMDASC discussed the potential to widen the scope of testing and in particular the nuances around Emergency Credit as either a one-off service to individual Manufacturers or to include a new release following the request received from a Large Supplier. Members supported SMDA involvement from a commercial standpoint though further information on the set up of testing and the testing solution would be required before progressing.

6. Recommendations

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

Rebecca Sawyer
SECAS Team
16 August 2024

Attachments:

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