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Technical Architecture and Business Architecture

Sub-Committee (TABASC)

TABASC_81_0408, 1 September 2022

09:30 – 16:30, Teleconference

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	TABASC Members
TABASC Chair	Julian Hughes
Large Suppliers	Audrey Smith Keary (<i>Alternate for Emslie Law</i>)
	Rochelle Harrison
	Kevin Donnelly (<i>Alternate for Mark Morrison</i>)
	Jonathan Brennan (<i>Alternate for Martin Christie</i>)
	Stephen Lovell
Other SEC Parties	Alastair Cobb
	Matthew Hallchurch

Non-Voting Members:

Representing	Name
DCC	Alexander Mann
	Steve Thun
	Chalam Neelam (<i>Part items 9, 10 & 11</i>)
	Mannu Rawat (<i>Part item 11</i>)
	Mohammed Rehman (<i>Part item 10</i>)
	Alex Pridding (<i>Part item 11 & 12</i>)
	Stuart Scott (<i>Part item 11 & 12</i>)
	Sandeep Sehrawat (<i>Part items 9 & 10</i>)
	Mohamed Seddik Touhami (<i>Part 11</i>)
	Steve Bull (<i>Part item 9, 10 & 11</i>)
BEIS	Jackie Wright (<i>Part Item 10 & 11</i>)
	Peter Morgan (<i>Part item 9</i>)
	David Aknin (<i>Part item 11 & 12</i>)
	Simone Chiappi (<i>Part item 9</i>)

Managed by

SECAS	Anik Abdullah
	William Marshall
	Rebecca Sawyer (Secretariat)
	Robin Healey
	Elizabeth Woods (<i>Part item 3</i>)
	Khaleda Hussain (<i>part item 2</i>)
	Adrian Sweatman (<i>Part item 6</i>)
	Joey Manners (<i>part item 7</i>)

Apologies:

Representing	Name
Large Suppliers	Emslie Law
	Martin Christie
	Mark Morrison

1. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

The TABASC noted that no further comments were received on the minutes from the TABASC 80 meeting held on 4 August 2022. The TABASC **APPROVED** the Draft Minutes as final.

All outstanding actions were marked as complete or on target for completion, with several updates provided under separate meeting agenda items.

Action ID	Action	Owner
TABASC74/01	DCC to ascertain what CH behaviour would be under the circumstances and whether it can join the devices when the sub-GHz channel is full or not.	DCC
SECAS has received an update from the DCC, collated from Communications Hub (CH) vendors: "During CH replacement, all three dual band CHs will allow the Device to join in Sub-GHz as the Device Type could only then be established. Once the Device Type is established, if the number of allowed Sub-GHz Devices is exceeded, the CH removes the Device from its Sub-GHz ZigBee operating tables and sends an 8F2D (N54 with error code E59) notification to Users." 01/09/2022: This item was discussed at TABASC 81, where it was initially proposed for closure. The TABASC agreed that there were fundamental questions to deal with a trust centre swap out issue, including whether or not a Device would be able to join during CH replacement to join during a Trust Centre Swap Out (TCSO) and how long the switch would take. It is necessary to report the time taken to assist the engineer installing on site. The TABASC agreed that this impacts the Business Architecture Document (BAD), which needs to be updated with a note added in relation to timings. The TABASC also agreed it was important to understand TCSO timings.		

The DCC has agreed to explain the impact of TCSO and the impact of Sub-GHz Devices during a future TABASC meeting.

Status: Open.

TABASC74/07

DCC to investigate removal of failed energy suppliers' pre-notified Devices from the SMI as well as reducing pre-notification expiry period to 12 months.

DCC

Removing failed suppliers' pre-notified Devices from the SMI is not currently a SEC requirement and there is currently no standardised process for removing Devices. The TABASC requested further clarity from the DCC on the operational impacts on Users if no action is taken. An update will be provided at a future TABASC meeting.

This was discussed at the main June Operations Group (OPSG) meeting and captured in the Minutes:

16.1. Pending Devices in SMI: the DCC reported on a SEC requirement (SEC Appendix AC, 8.2) to remove Devices where they have a status of Pending for 36 months. The DCC had asked the TABASC whether this 36-month period should be changed to 12 months and whether Pending Devices should be removed from the inventory as part of the Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) process. The OSPG saw little benefit in this proposed change and was not aware of significant adverse implications of the current requirements.

This item was discussed at TABASC 81. The TABASC are aware that this item has been discussed at SMKI PMA and SSC.

The DCC has now started removing pending devices at 5 years old, 4 years soon, and 3 years in accordance with the SEC. Installers should be aware that old Devices may need re-notifying in order for them to install.

The DCC to provide an update at TABASC 82.

Status: Open

TABASC75/02

SECAS to work with BEIS and engage with the DCC about the non-communicative Communications Hubs project, and this data to be fed back to the TABASC when the project has completed.

DCC

BEIS has responded and noted that the DCC project does not deal with looking at the coverage of either the 2.4 GHz and 868 MHz. BEIS has therefore requested that the TABASC close this action as it does not draw parallels with the work that BEIS undertook, and the TABASC are already tracking this under TABASC risk 3.2: HAN performance of the 868 MHz of the HAN solution fails to cover 25% of in scope premises.

Status: Closed.

TABASC75/04

DCC to return to the TABASC with an update on the Testing Automation Framework.

DCC

The DCC is currently reviewing this with the TAG and will bring this back to TABASC at a future meeting.

The DCC is currently awaiting BEIS's determination, which is not expected until mid-September.

The TABASC discussed this at TABASC 81 and the DCC agreed to provide an update at TABASC 83.

Status: Open.

TABASC76/03	SECAS to work with the proposer of the ALCS/HCALS label request to provide implementation diagrams of the Devices as part of the Smart Metering System and to share guidance on industry standard terminology to determine an appropriate level of detail for the labels.	SECAS
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The proposer no longer wishes to take this forward.

Status: Closed.

TABASC79/01	The TAG Chair to investigate how the ZigBee stack version used in Devices is accommodated in the Device Selection Methodology (DSM) for testing and report back to the TABASC at a future meeting.	SECAS
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An update was provided at TABASC 80.

Status: Closed

Action from OPSG July reporting meeting on 25 July 2022	TABASC and DCC to monitor the progress of the trial, following the consultation (to assess the potential impact of reducing Transactions Per Second (TPS) time out window on Users) and assess the appropriate actions.	DCC
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The OPSG noted the output of the TABASC discussions and associated actions on Incident INC000000806199 that occurred on 21 December 2021. The OPSG noted that the DCC will send out a consultation to assess the potential impact of reducing time out windows to keep open connections and have specific Transactions Per Second (TPS) configurations for individual User Systems.

The OPSG noted that investigatory work including variations to the operational service (timeouts) has been proposed by the DCC and asked that any potential impact on Service performance by this activity be assessed and monitored. The TABASC and the DCC will monitor the progress of the trial, following the consultation, and assess the appropriate actions.

The OPSG noted that once the design of the interface is settled, it should be formally documented as part of the SEC documentation set.

The OPSG noted that all Users in the same category (for example, all Energy Suppliers, or all DNOs) should be offered the same level of Service by DCC.

The TABASC already has an action open to monitor the Transactions Per Second (TABASC78/CONF04) so this action will be incorporated into that one and this action will be closed.

Status: Closed.

2. MP202 ‘Enduring Solution for SMETS1 and SMETS2+ PPMIDs’

SECAS presented the TABASC with an update on [MP202 ‘Enduring Solution for SMETS1 and SMETS2+ PPMIDs’](#).

The SEC differentiates between Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS1) and SMETS2 and is drafted so that a Device is either a SMETS1 or a SMETS2; but not both.

Some models of Pre Payment Meter Interface Device (PPMID) are considered to be ‘bilingual’ as they are able to be either SMETS1 or SMETS2. The SEC as it is written does not allow Devices to be recorded as both SMETS1 and SMETS2 in the Central Products List (CPL). An interim solution is currently available which records such Devices on the CPL as separate entries. The SMETS2 version will be recorded accurately and the SMETS1 version will include a fictitious firmware version.

Confusion can occur during installation of these ‘bilingual’ Devices, which has resulted in aborted installations and engineers have reported difficulties ensuring the correct PPMID is joined to an installation of the same SMETS version.

The TABASC enquired about the business processes at installation, and if it was possible to pre-notify the Devices at the point of installation so that the engineer could select the Device and then set up the PPMID to correspond with SMETS1 or SMETS2 as required for each installation. A TABASC member informed the group that for energy suppliers, Devices are prenotified in batches, rather than individually to make the process more efficient.

The TABASC enquired whether there is an alternative solution that does not require changes to the Data Service Provider (DSP), which may be a lengthy and costly process. Additionally, the Chair noted that it is unlikely that additional SMETS1 meters will be being installed at volume by the time this Modification Proposal may be delivered, and therefore questioned whether the incidence of the issue may decrease over time.

The Chair requested that the Working Group provide statistics on the number of ‘bilingual’ PPMIDs that are being installed under SMETS1 installations in order to better understand the scope and the extent of the logistical problems caused by this issue, along with an assessment of the impact of pursuing no action will have on energy suppliers.

The TABASC suggested changes to the associated business processes may be more cost efficient than changes to the DSP. An example of this could be recommending that the back-office function of an energy supplier sends Service Request Variants (SRVs) to re-prenotify a Device at the point of installation to indicate it will be installed as a SMETS 1 PPMID,

A TABASC member suggested a manual process of using an immediate prenotification at installation can be carried out, noting that it is possible to re-prenotify a Device more than once. The Chair suggested that re-prenotifying the affected Devices may be a more economical solution, as Devices can be re-prenotified by installing engineers on the day of installation.

SECAS agreed to return to the proposer and present the TABASC with an estimate of take-up of the use case and indicate to what extent the issue can be mitigated by the use of immediate re-prenotification at installation.

TABASC81/01 SECAS to raise with the proposer (DCC) the extent this can be mitigated by the use of immediate re-prenotification at installation.

3. MP178 Removing DSP validation against the SMI join status for SR8.8x

SECAS presented the TABASC with [MP178 Removing DSP validation against the SMI join status for SR8.8x](#).

Instances have been observed where the response to the SRV 8.7.x 'Join Service' is not received by the DSP despite the join working within the Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME). Users are receiving Error responses and are unable to unjoin Devices using SRV 8.8.x as they are failing the DSP validation that requires Devices to be recorded as joined in the Smart Metering Inventory (SMI).

This Modification Proposal sets out a solution where the DSP validation of the join status in the SMI is removed when sending an unjoin service request. This will allow the sending of unjoin commands irrespective of the join status recorded in the SMI. Removing the DSP validation of join status should also suppress the Response Code E080801 from being created in association with an unjoin command.

The TABASC considered whether removal of this validation would have an impact on the Business Architecture and noted that there have been instances where events and Alerts do not get to the DSP and suggested that the solution appeared to not deal with the root cause of the issue.

The Chair suggested that the DCC conducts a general review of why the DSP is not providing Alerts to Users. The DCC confirmed that it is currently working on this.

The TABASC discussed the possibility of service responses from Devices being discarded as a result of falling outside of the DSP timeout windows. It was noted that if the E080801 alert was suppressed, as suggested in the modification, this would have a similar result of a response falling outside the timeout window. The TABASC concluded that in these scenarios, it would not be known if a join had been successful or not.

The Chair recommended that the Modification Proposal documentation is amended to clarify whether the proposed solution will have an impact on other items, as it should be possible to send a critical command without constraint. Working Group agreed to perform a deep dive on the business process and articulate a diagram showing the current process and how the removal of the validation step and Alert would impact business process architecture.

TABASC81/02: As part of the modification work, SECAS to articulate the revised end-to-end process through a diagram to better explain how the proposed changes will affect the business process.

As an added AOB, not related to MP178, a member noted that they would like the TABASC to consider a recent change to the CPL implemented as part of MP209 'Lifetime CPA Certificates' which the TABASC did not have sight of. SECAS noted that work updating the CPL processes is the remit of the TABASC and agreed to modify the Work Instruction Manual (WIM) on CPL processing to ensure any amendments to the CPL processes are presented to the TABASC prior to implementation.

TABASC81/03: SECAS to modify the WIM (On current processes) to ensure that any amendments to the CPL processes are presented to TABASC to prevent any changes being made without TABASC consideration.

The TABASC requested that SECAS work with the proposer to assess the existing business case and return to the TABASC when this has been established.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

4. Q3 Submission report (**AMBER**)

SECAS presented the TABASC with a review of the resource and cost of activities to be carried out in the next quarter.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the confidential minutes.

The TABASC;

- **NOTED** the update and;
- **RECOMMENDED** the Work Package to the SEC Panel for approval

5. TABASC members Elections update

SECAS notified the TABASC that the annual election process for the TABASC will commence in September. Each term lasts 24 months and the process requires that each year half of the members are re-elected. This year the seats up for election are:

- Three Large Supplier Party representatives
- One Small Supplier Party representative
- One Other SEC Party representative
- One Gas Network Operator seat (currently vacant)

SECAS encouraged members to renominate themselves wherever possible to retain experience, expertise and knowledge. SECAS requested that the TABASC make recommendations for individuals with technical knowledge and expertise in smart metering; particularly individuals who are willing to engage with the technical discussions and who have the availability to regularly attend the monthly meetings.

SECAS noted it will proactively publicise the elections and calls for nominations using several channels over the coming weeks.

Members were requested to contact SECAS with names and contact details of any recommendations. The deadline for nominations is the 12 October 2022.

The TABASC;

- **DISCUSSED** their initial recommendations for nominations, and
- **NOTED** the update.

6. Renewal of BAM hosting (**AMBER**)

SECAS presented an update on the upcoming renewal of the Business Architecture Model (BAM) document including a recap of work previously undertaken by SECAS, along with the proposed scope of activities until December 2022. SECAS also sought feedback on some specific questions regarding potential new hosting solutions.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the confidential TABASC minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update and **PROVIDED** its feedback.

7. Sub-Committee and Transitional Update

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The TABASC Chair advised that the traffic light protocol has been changed first and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) will be sending out communications of the change to be expected in the coming months. No further updates from the SSC were presented to the TABASC this month.

Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)

The TABASC Chair advised that there are no SMKI PMA updates to be presented to the TABASC this month.

Testing Advisory Group (TAG)

The TAG chair provided the TABASC with an update from the previous TAG meeting, including an overview of the testing documentation the TAG is in the process of agreeing with the DCC. This included a summary of the Testing Approach Document and annexes relating to test coverage for the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) solution and the Device Candidate Selection Engine (DCSE) for migrating Devices from Transitional Change of Supplier (TCoS) to ECoS credentials.

A TABASC member enquired about how the testing approach the TAG is working on takes the Migration Approach Document into consideration, because it has yet to be published. The TAG Chair clarified that the TAG will only consider the tools used for migration supported by assumptions around migration batch sizes until these have been confirmed following consultation by DCC. If any assumptions change as a result of the consultation, the TAG will reconsider any elements of the approach to testing that may be affected.

The TABASC requested sight of the ECoS Migration Approach Document at the next opportunity.

TABASC81/04: The DCC to confirm what forum the ECoS testing approach document (ETAD) is being introduced at, and its publication date.

Operations Group (OPSG)

SECAS provided an update on the OPSG summary metrics since the last meeting and outlined the subjects expected to be discussed by the OPSG during its next meeting.

The DCC is no longer obliged to provide Packet Data Protocol (PDP) drop reporting under the SEC but it has agreed to provide reporting at intervals (6-12months).

SECAS informed the TABASC that DCC have produced a live register of questions surrounding 2G/3G Sunsetting as it has been discussed at OPSG and agreed to provide the list of questions in the document to the TABASC for better visibility of the issue.

TABASC81/05: SECAS to provide the list of questions regarding 2G/3G sunsetting to the TABASC.

A TABASC member queried the OPSG slide on firmware activations/downloads, specifically around 8F72 and 8F1C alerts across the estate, between 30-50% returned 8F72 and up to 10% 8F1Cs. A TABASC member noted that the update provided by the OPSG and a separate update provided at the Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-group (TSIRS) showed significant variance in Alert numbers: 8F72 100% and 8F1Cs 85%. The Chair encouraged the TABASC member to query this at the next TSIRS meeting and report back to OPSG and TABASC where the changes occurred and why the data recorded and presented between committees is so different.

TSIRS

There was no TSIRS update this month.

The TABASC **NOTED** the updates.

8. BEIS Update (**AMBER**)

BEIS provided the TABASC with a summary of their recent [Delivering a Smart and Secure Electricity System \(SSES\)](#) consultation, 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.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

9. DSP Smart Routing Gateway Update (**AMBER**)

DCC provided the TABASC with an overview of the options for Smart Routing Gateways for migration activities to a new DSP.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

10. DSMS API Gateway Update (**AMBER**)

The DCC provided the TABASC with an overview of two options for an Application Programming Interface (API) gateway between DSP and the re-procured DCC Service Management System (DSMS). The TABASC requested that the DCC return to the TABASC with a more detailed options analysis of the options presented.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

11. CSP.N Scaling and Optimisation – Phase 2 Impact Assessment Options (**AMBER**)

The DCC 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 and requested that the TABASC provides feedback and discussion on the proposed options.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

12. DCC update

The DCC presented a verbal update on its recent activity to the TABASC and highlighted that it has carried out its first test event in some time due to restrictions during the pandemic. Sub-GHz scenarios were tested, and the DCC is expected to give an update to TSIRS regarding multiple GSME and ESME all connected via the HAN. The DCC also noted that ECoS certificates are being released for Systems Integration Testing (SIT).

The DCC Device teams have produced business scenarios, which were done on install and commission, Alt-HAN, TSIRS, and twin element. The Chair requested that more information on these items be brought to the next TABASC.

The TABASC and DCC suggested that someone from SECAS should attend the Design Release Forum, to check that releases at the forum aligns with the TABASC artefacts, such as the Business Architecture Document (BAD).

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

13. AOB

There was no further business and the TABASC Chair closed the meeting.

Next Meeting: TABASC 82 – 6 October 2022