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MP304 ‘Scheduling Services for SMETS1 Devices (SRV 4.3)’

October 2025 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

SEC Party Category	Working Group Members	Representing
Large Suppliers	Julie Brown (JB)	British Gas
	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Sharon Armitage (SA)	E.ON
	Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus Energy
	Mahfuzar Rahman (MR)	Scottish Power
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Daniel Davies (DD)	ESG Global
Other SEC Parties	Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
	Beth Tatton (BT)	Calisen Metering
	Martin Bell (MB)	EUA
Network Parties	Jamie Lowe (JL)	Northern Powergrid
	Kirsty Maddock (KM)	National Grid Electricity Distribution
Ofgem	Ian Chalfon (IC)	Ofgem

Other Participants		
DCC		
Bradley Baker (BB)	Robbie McMillan (RMc)	Tim Troy (TT)
SECAS		
Simon Grimwood (SG) <i>WG Chair</i>	Abi Obadan (AO) <i>Meeting Secretary</i>	Georgiana Severin (GSe) <i>Lead Analyst</i>
Ali Beard (AB)	Marc Rhodes (MRh)	
DESNZ		
Rachel Allen (RAI)		
SECCO		
Ashton Briggs (ABr)		

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue and impact of the implementation of [MP304 'Scheduling Services for SMETS1 Devices \(SRV 4.3\)'](#).

Issue

Currently, Service Reference Variant (SRV) 4.3 which reads instantaneous prepayment values can only be requested On-Demand or via Future-Dated service.

Impact

On Demand and Future Dated require the use of Short Message Service (SMS) messages to wake up meters, incurring significant costs to the Data Communications Company (DCC) which are passed onto DCC Customers.

Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is to reduce these costs by allowing SRV 4.3 to be scheduled using SRV 5.1, thereby improving operational efficiency and which will allow for cost avoidance.

Working Group Discussion

Manufacturer costs and Firmware updates

SECAS (AB) provided an overview of the issue and impact of the implementation of MP304 Scheduling Services for Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS)1 Devices (specifically SRV 4.3).

Purpose and Cost Avoidance

AB (SECAS) provided details of the modification and explained that the current use of SRV 4.3 results in approximately £1.375 million per month in SMS costs. The DCC estimates that scheduling SRV 4.3 could result in cost avoidance of up to £35 million between November 2026 and March 2029.

A Working Group member (JB) confirmed that SRV 4.3 is used daily to extract prepayment balances and is often sent after SRV 2.2 (top-up confirmation). They noted that this proposal effectively substitutes for SRV 4.14, which is unavailable on SMETS1 Devices.

The DCC (GM) confirmed that SRV 4.3 is used daily and that scheduled reads could replace the current On-Demand usage, reducing SMS traffic. They clarified that SRV 4.3 messages sent after SRV 2.2 would remain On-Demand, while the daily scheduled reads could be replaced. This would mean that approximately £1m per month of SMS costs could be avoided, totalling approximately £35m between November 2026 (the targeted implementation date) and March 2029. There would be further cost avoidance beyond March 2029 up to 2033 (SMETS1 End of life) but this would be dependent on SMETS1 replacement rates which are currently unknown.

DSP and S1SP Considerations

A Working Group member (MB) queried whether all SMETS1 Service Providers (S1SPs) would need to update their DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) schema versions. The DCC (GM) confirmed that all SMETS1 Service Providers (S1SPs) would be affected and that the change would be implemented in a single release in November 2026, the final release for Data Service Provider (DSP)¹.

The DCC (RM) added that after November 2026, the DCC will transition to DSP2, with no major releases until 2029. If the modification is not implemented by November 2026, the cost avoidance opportunity will be lost.

The DCC (GM) confirmed that DSP2 would automatically include this change.

Supplier Uptake and Optionality

A Working Group member (EJ) expressed concern that the cost avoidance would depend on Suppliers choosing to schedule SRV 4.3 reads. They noted that optional changes requiring development effort may face slow uptake.

The Chair (AB) responded that the DCC expects 80% uptake, based on initial conversations. The member (EJ) suggested that the 80% estimate may be optimistic and that uptake should be validated through customer engagement, they further requested confirmation of engagement with Centrica, and the DCC (GM) confirmed that discussions were ongoing.

Alternative Approaches and Duplication

A Working Group member (SB) asked whether SRV 4.14 could be scheduled instead. The DCC (GM) explained that SMETS1 meters do not log Data in the same way and cannot support SRV 4.14.

A Working Group member (ABr) asked whether this modification overlaps with work on SRV batching for SMETS1. The DCC (RM) confirmed that the batching work is separate and does not duplicate MP304.

Governance Route

SECAS (AB) asked the Working Group whether it believed that the modification should be Authority-Determined or Self-Governance, noting the timescales required for decision.

A Working Group member (DD) noted that MP162 was Authority Determined due to its wider impact, but after consideration believed MP304 should remain Self-Governance to meet the November 2026 deadline.

Another Working Group member (EJ) agreed, stating that the modification is operational and cost-saving, not requiring Ofgem intervention.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS (AB) to issue a Refinement Consultation requesting estimated costs and benefits from SEC Parties.

- SECAS (AB) to request a Full Impact Assessment from Change Board following consultation.
- SECAS (AB) to present the modification to TABASC and OPSG for feedback.