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SEC Panel Sub-Committee Report

1. Purpose

This paper provides the Panel with an update on recent activities from the Panel Sub-Committees. It highlights the key issues discussed and details specific points the Sub-Committees would like to bring to the Panel's attention. The Panel are requested to note the updates.

2. Operations Group

2.1 Ops Group Meeting Highlights

Release 1.2 Comms Hub

Previous Ops Group meetings have included discussions of this topic, with differences of opinion between Supplier members and the DCC being voiced. It has not been possible to reconcile these different positions. The DCC has now set out how the costs associated with these Comms Hubs will be recovered.

There has been disagreement between the DCC and Supplier Parties at the Ops Group as to whether the R1.2 Communication Hubs met the correct Communication Hub Technical Specification at the point these were delivered to Parties. Suppliers do not believe the R1.2 Hubs were fit for purpose at the time of delivery and despite some attempts to install, c.140k Hubs were returned to the DCC. Supplier members of the Ops Group have challenged where the resultant costs should be borne. The DCC view is that the Communications Hubs were built according to specification, and that the specification was correct.

The DCC has now agreed with its service providers how the costs of these will be handled over the remaining life of the CSP agreements. The DCC reported that, as a result of the negotiations, the final cost impact on Users (at circa £5m) would be considerably less than the list price of the Communications Hubs under the original terms agreed for R1.2. The DCC has also said that the costs will be recovered from Users by an increase in the unit cost of all Comms Hubs and that the DCC will confirm how the Charging Statement will reflect these charges in the future.

The Ops Group agreed to report the outcomes to the Panel. It was noted that individual Parties had the option to raise a dispute, if, in their opinion this was justified.

Planned Maintenance

The DCC provided the Ops Group with a proposal for an enduring arrangement for Planned Maintenance. The DCC proposes to manage Planned Maintenance differently by looking at the risks to the operational service posed by the individual changes. The DCC proposes to classify these into Low and High-risk changes, and to make changes to notification timescales. With the agreement of the

Panel the new arrangements would be trialled and the experience from the trial would be taken account of in a modification proposal. The Ops Group made several observations which the DCC will incorporate into a paper for the Panel to further consider. In particular, the Ops Group noted that the success of the proposed arrangements would be dependent on improved communications to Users, and, especially, that the provision of an adequately populated and up to date Forward Schedule of Change should be a condition of approving the proposal.

In principle, however, the Ops Group were generally supportive of the proposal.

The DCC also briefed the Ops Group on the certificate update process which had been executed in January. The DCC acknowledged that the planning, categorisation, communication, and execution of this had been very unsatisfactory; the DCC noted the lessons that had been learnt and the improvements that had been put in place.

Data Quality Sub Group

The Data Quality Sub Group is now fully resourced and has commenced working on the priority issues agreed with the Ops Group. The Sub Group lead recommended that two of the initial five issues be closed as agreement had been reached between the DCC, Parties and the Sub Group that no further action was required, and the problems are resolved. These were for SMKI Update frequency and RDP Data overwrite issues. The Ops Group agreed and approved further work to commence on the next set of issues; Network Operator Certificates and Incorrect Labelling of meters in industry Data (S1, S2 etc). In addition, it was noted that a number of the data quality issues cut across issues that BEIS had reported to them for Change of Supplier. The Ops Group agreed that the Data Quality Sub Group would liaise with BEIS and co-ordinate activities where appropriate.

SSI Proposals and Analytics

The DCC presented its latest set of changes to improve the Self-Service Interface (SSI). The Ops Group approved these and noted that it was seeking a view from the DCC as to how the current arrangements would transition from the Ops Group to an enduring process following implementation of the modification (once approved). The DCC also appraised the Ops Group of work it is commencing, to analyse the uptake of the SSI services.

The DCC also described its approach to measuring customer satisfaction with the SSI. The Ops Group noted that the DCC proposals to manage customer satisfaction via “pop up” surveys when Users were making use of the SSI were not optimal, and the Ops Group were not in favour of the proposed approach.

3. Security Sub-Committee and SMKI PMA

3.1 Assurance Status Decisions

The Security Sub-Committee (SSC) set one assurance status in January 2019. Details can be found in confidential Appendix A.

3.2 Verification Assessments

As part of their wider obligations, the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) review the outcomes of Verification Assessments. If the SSC believe that a User is non-compliant, or potentially non-compliant, with obligations contained in SEC Sections G3-G6, then they will notify the Panel.

During January 2019, the SSC reviewed four Verification Assessments in which Compliance Status’ were set. Details of the Verification Assessments can be found in confidential Appendix A.

3.3 Director Letters

The SSC reviewed four Director's Letters in January 2019 which were approved and can be found in confidential Appendix A.

3.4 SSC Highlights

Second and Subsequent User System

The SSC considered SECMP0057 'Notification of a second or subsequent User System' which was approved by the Change Board on 19 December 2019 and is pending implementation into the SEC.

SECMP0060 'Amend requirements to remove 'Pending' devices from SMI'

The SSC discussed a request from the DCC in order to remove the term 'Pending' where the status of a device has not changed within a 12-month period. It was advised that there were roughly 20,000 Devices as at November 2018 with a 'Pending' status, therefore agreed the term 'Pending' should remain configurable whilst increasing the time period of a time a device can remain 'Pending' to 36 months but returning to 12 months as soon as practicable.

SECMP0046 'Allow DNOs to control Electric Vehicles chargers connected to Smart Meter Infrastructure'

The SSC considered a change to the SEC to enable electricity Distribution Network Operators to use Smart Meter Infrastructure to modify Electric Vehicle charging load within a household. This is to avoid the risk of overloading low voltage circuits between secondary substations and properties, and therefore avoid power outages. The SSC agreed HAN Auxiliary Load Control Switch (HCALCS) would be appropriate and confirmed their interest in the modification, whilst providing assistance to set a secure process.

1.5 SMKI PMA Highlights

SECMP0042 'Amendment to SMKI Services to provide DDC Users and/or SMKI Participants with Authorised Responsible Office (ARO) Statistics and Information'

The SMKI PMA considered the estimated costs and progression timetables associated with the assessment costs provided by the DCC which utilised both the Trusted Service Provider (TSP) and Data Service Provider (DSP). The SMKI PMA agreed to withdraw the modification, noting that Users can email the DCC Helpdesk to gain the information.

EU Exit Preparations

The SMKI PMA discussed Ofgem requesting all Code Administrators to prepare the modifications and legal text changes needed in the case where the UK leaves the EU in a 'No Deal' scenario. The SMKI PMA acknowledged the modification team's work to identify all European references within the SEC and proposed what changes might be needed. In addition to this, it was agreed by the SMKI PMA to leave SEC Appendix C 'SMKI Compliance Policy' as currently written.

4. Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) and Testing Advisory Group (TAG)

4.1 TABASC Highlights

The TABASC cancelled its January 2019 meeting due to the low number of working days since the December 2018 meeting. At the February meeting, the TABASC will focus on:

- the initial impact assessment of the SMETS1 Service Release Technical Architecture Document (TAD) and Business Architecture Document (BAD);
- the investigation of the benefits and delivery mechanism of the Business Architecture Model (BAM) prior to it being updated with the SMETS1 Services Release content;
- an approach to retiring the Design Notes, while ensuring the content is reflected in other formal documentation such as the BAD and TAD; and
- the changes to the Central Switching Service (CSS) to DCC Data Service Provider (DSP) interfaces, including the changes to existing Registration Data Providers (RDP) to DCC interfaces in the SEC and its impacts on the technical architecture and/or business architecture.

4.2 TAG Highlights

Release 2.0 Items

The DCC provided an update on the outstanding and new testing issues that have affected Dual Band Communications Hub System Integration Testing (SIT). It was noted that the root causes have been identified and a solution developed and the DCC were requesting guidance on the extent of regression testing that should be undertaken. The TAG recommended a full 3 weeks (15 WD) timescale for regression testing of the fix. This means that the timing of the availability of certain DBCHs will be affected and the impact will be reflected in the milestone planning considered and discussed at the Implementation Managers Forum (IMF).

The TAG and DCC also discussed further updates on the progress with Release 2.0 Device Integration Testing (DIT) using SMETS2v3 Devices, including the planned revisions to account for the availability of sub-GHz Devices and challenges in testing dual band Pre-Payment Meter Interface Devices (PPMID) using sub-GHz HAN connections.

SMETS1 Items

The DCC provided an update on the progress of SMETS1 testing, including the progress with the production of associated Testing Approach Documentation. Discussions took place on the timing and availability of the documents, in light of the proximity of the expected start of Initial Operating Capability (IOC) User Testing Services (Eligibility Testing).

The TAG and the DCC also revisited discussions on the challenges arising from the proximity of IOC SIT completion and User Testing Services (UTS) starting. The TAG noted an observation from BEIS that the timescales for governance activities as planned, would potentially lead to an overlap of SIT and UTS. Discussion on this point by the TAG resulted in a very clear recommendation to the DCC and BEIS that, due to the importance of the SMETS1 Services Release and based on previous lessons learnt exercises around not overlapping testing phases, that the overall SMETS1 Release plan (captured in the revised Licence Condition 13 plan) should be adjusted to allow for the completion of SIT completion governance activities prior to the formal start of IOC UTS.

The TAG also undertook an initial review of the format and current content of the IOC SIT Completion report. The TAG provided initial feedback on the structure and content. The DCC will be applying updates and expanding content of the report, in light of the feedback, in advance of further discussions at the next TAG meeting in February.

Addressing National Audit Office (NAO) recommendations on testing

BEIS provided details of the approach it planned to take in response to the NAO review of testing that has been undertaken in relation to the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) and SMETS2 Devices. The proposed approach will involve seeking feedback from stakeholders (including the DCC, Meter Manufacturers, Suppliers and Network Parties) via a number of questions. The output of the work will be a briefing note on testing that is/has been undertaken and what it demonstrates. This work is expected to continue until mid-March 2019.

5. Recommendations

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

Rebecca Jones

SECAS Team

8 February 2019

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Security Assurance Status Update (**RED**)