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Action:	For Information

Transitional Governance Update

1. Purpose

This paper is intended to inform the SEC Panel and SEC Parties of the activities occurring in the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP). The update covers a high-level overview of the following:

- **Transitional Work Group** (Section 2) – updates are provided regarding the meetings that were attended by the Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) and the Panel Chair, in the last month.
- **Publications** (Section 3) - Relevant publications, responses and consultations issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Data Communications Company (DCC) and Ofgem (the Authority) in relation to smart metering, whilst highlighting areas that may be of interest to the SEC Panel and/or SEC Parties.

The SEC Panel are invited to note the contents of the paper.

2. Transitional Work Group Updates

2.1 Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG)

The SMDG met on 12 December. Matters discussed included:

Ofgem / Citizens Advice presented a consumer issues report; updates were given on the Large Supplier bilateral meetings with BEIS on Suppliers’ progress against roll out. The DCC gave an update covering Release 2.0, SMETS1, and an operational update. The current number of installed SMETS2 meters reported at the meeting was at 190,000 at the time of the meeting – with slightly more electric meters installed.

2.2 Technical Design and Execution Group (TDEG)

TDEG met on 11 December 2018. Items discussed included:

Communications Hub (CH) update

Instrumented Test Communication Hubs (ITCH) are now available for Toshiba and expected to be available for Arqiva in the New Year. Data transfer from Arqiva Gas Smarter Metering Equipment

Administered by



(GSME) to Prepayment Interface Device (PPMID) should work and will be tested with real devices in Systems Integration Testing (SIT).

DCC Prepayment Joint Testing

The DCC set out a high-level proposal for joint testing, by co-ordinating testing of the same business processes at the same time across multiple parties, probably in DCC test labs.

SMETS1 Update on progress of regulatory documents

The SMETS1 test lab is capable of testing c.200 SMETS1 Smart Metering Systems, with the ability to double capacity, given time. Work on a non-regulatory user guide document was underway for planned release at the end of December. The document will include User Entry Process Testing (UEPT) guide and Device & User System Testing (DUST) end to end guide. The Dual Control Organisation and the Dual Control Organisation (DCO) and Data Service Provider (DSP) are conducting early integration testing.

Communications Hub (User Integration Testing (UIT) firmware management & emergency firmware updates)

The DCC is seeking feedback on user engagement in UIT ahead of emergency CH firmware fixes, TDEG requested that the DCC provides scenarios for participants to comment on.

2.3 Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)

TSIRS met on 13 December 2018 and the following issues were discussed:

DCC Alerts Analysis

The DCC presented a tool which can measure back end traffic of Alerts, Responses and Requests. Currently about 2 million records of interactions are created daily. The tool uses several dashboards which allow the detailed analysis of the data. Results of the analysis showed issues with PPMIDs not being recognized by the Gas Proxy Function (GPF) which resulted in Alert 0x8F3E being generated by the GPF. The DCC observed several E21 error messages despite the end Devices being present, and the HAN working, and is investigating why these are created. The DCC has guidance on how to limit alert storms.

Options to Resolve SMETS2 Prepayment Meter Emergency Credit (PPM EC) anomalies

There was a brief overview of the recent prepayment workshop which explored different approaches on how to handle the emergency credit on meters. There were differences in opinion on best solution. The issue will go to the Great Britain Companion Standard (GBCS) drafting session. No changes to DCC systems are envisaged. The GBCS drafting will be used at the 10 January TSIRS meeting.

DCC top issues overview

- PPMID and GPF are causing issues in the test and the live environments. The access to historic consumption data seems to be the top issue. The upgrade of the Toshiba CH software appears to clear historic data, future software will address this.
- The Over the Air (OTA) firmware upgrade does not work reliably, most customers have encountered issues and in the UIT environment for the North region, all OTA upgrades failed.
- During testing Alerts, E21/N25 have been observed by DCC customers related to the North region.

- The CH exchange is still unclear to customers. Further testing will be carried out in the UIT environment.

Other issues discussed

1) Energy UK requested clarification about problems regarding fitting of meters from stock which have outdated software versions (by the time of fitting). The DCC offered help to migrate devices to Release 2 to prevent having to test too many software versions in parallel. This issue will possibly be escalated to the Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG).

2) A further aspect of GPF was discussed. In the current implementation, the values for the attributes held on the GPF are not populated until the GSME is joined, sometimes adding an extra waiting time of 30 minutes. The In Home Device should get a reply stating “unsupported attribute” but not all CHs allow this, which may lead to complications in distinguishing between non-supported and not-yet-populated attributes. The ZigBee specifications are currently unclear, which will be corrected in a later version of the ZigBee specifications to clearly separate between non-supported and not-yet-populated attributes.

2.4 Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG)

TBDG met on 11 December 2018. The main topics discussed were:

SMETS1

A mandated firmware upgrade (for some DMCs) will be needed post enrolment. This is out of scope for SMETS1 Interim Operating Capability (IOC) considerations. Analysis of change request 13 is ongoing. Publication of the final plan is expected early this year.

Radio Frequency (RF) Noise

The Communication Service Provider (CSP) North has a Wide Area Network (WAN) standalone file with tolerable Radio Frequency (RF) interference and is having weekly calls with Energy UK. A consultation on a temporary dispensation for RF interference in CSP Central / South closed on 7 Dec, with the DCC responding on 20 December – see publications section.

DCC Updates

These included the CH firmware transition plan from Release 1 to Release 2. There was an update on the various models of Instrumented Test Comms Hub (ITCH). Fylingdale Pre-integration Testing is expected to be completed in January with Production in July.

2.5 Implementation Managers Forum (IMF)

The IMF did not meet during December.

2.6 January 2019 Transitional Group meetings

Transitional Group	Meeting date
Test Design and Execution Group (TDEG)	15 January 2019
Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG)	17 January 2019
Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)	10 January 2019

Transitional Group	Meeting date
Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG)	16 January 2019
Implementation Managers Forum (IMF)	31 January 2019

3. Publications

3.1 DCC consultations

DCC Production Platform Monitoring (closed 14 December)

Section P of the SEC allows the DCC to carry out Production Proving via test laboratories. This consultation sought views on a way of testing the Production Proving platform itself by communicating with live devices. The DCC would use an existing DCC customer operating in Other User role to send messages to devices specified by the DCC and would use existing monitoring tools to test performance of the network.

The DCC recognises that there are privacy and data protection issues as the device IDs could be treated as personal data as they could be linked to Meter Point Reference Number (MPRN) / Metering Point Administration Number (MPAN). The DCC feels that the benefits of the proposal are of benefit to energy consumers (the data subjects) but seeks views on this. The DCC do not believe there are security implications but will take the issue to the Security Sub-Committee (SSC). The DCC states that they will not introduce additional charges for customers to deliver the service. The consultation was available [here](#) and closed on 14 December 2018.

DCC Consultation on Improving Smart DCC Engagement with Customers and Stakeholders

On 3 December, the DCC launched a consultation on how customers view their engagement with the organisation. It sets out ideas and seeks views as to how engagement can be improved, so that customers have a greater influence on decision-making in Smart DCC. You can find the consultation [here](#). The consultation closes **on 31 January 2019** and a formal response will be issued in March 2019.

DCC Response to consultation on changes to the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) and Communication Hub Supporting Information (CHSI)

The DCC published its responses to this consultation on 20 December 2018 and subsequently published version 1.2 of the ICHIS and version 1.5 of the CHSI. You can see the consultation response [here](#) and the new versions of ICHIS and CHSI [here](#).

3.2 BEIS consultation on SMETS1

BEIS has issued a consultation on proposals for the Baseline Margin Project Performance Adjustment Scheme for SMETS1 Services. This outlines proposals for how the DCC's Baseline Margin for the SMETS1 Services project could be allocated. You can see the consultation [here](#). The consultation closes on **9 January 2019**.

3.3 Ofgem Forward Work Programme 2019-21

Ofgem is currently consulting on its work for 2019-21. Ofgem is consulting on a two year forward work programme as it coincides with several key developments, including smart meter rollout and Brexit. There are four key priorities with smart issues featuring prominently in some activity strands within the first two priorities. The consultation is on the [Ofgem website](#) and closes on **15 February 2019**. The four priorities are:

- Making retail markets work for all
- Enabling future markets and system arrangements
- Network preparedness and performance
- Excellence in statutory and core functions

A more detailed synopsis is available on the SEC [website](#).

4. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **NOTE** the contents of this paper;

Stephen Blann

SECAS Team

04 January 2019