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Action:	For Decision

SEC Releases update

1. Purpose

This paper provides an update on progress of SEC Releases, covering the comments we have received on the scope of the 2020 SEC Releases, our revised proposed scope for these releases, and an update on the November 2019 SEC Release.

The Panel are asked to agree the revised scope of the 2020 SEC Releases and agree that progress reports on the November 2019 SEC Release should be produced by the DCC.

2. Comments on the 2020 SEC Releases

We informed the Panel at our May Panel Meeting¹ of our provisional view of the scope for the June 2020 and November 2020 SEC Releases. Since then we have consulted with the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) and the Operations Group and invited comments from SEC Parties. As part of this, we produced a first draft of the June 2020 SEC Release Implementation Document (RID) for consideration.

2.1 Comments from the TABASC

The TABASC were keen to minimise the number of releases that impact on the Technical Specifications, the GB Companion Specification (GBCS) and the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS), with a preference for only one SEC Release per year to impact on these documents where possible. They were also keen to understand how the DCC's environments will be utilised for the release.

The TABASC also noted the volume of change across the smart metering infrastructure. They queried the additional burden these SEC Releases would place on Users, and what the impact on this would be if the SMETS1 Enrolment and Adoption programme were to slip. They requested a risks section be added to the RID.

Members also emphasised support for implementing the second stage of [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#) earlier, ideally alongside stage 1 in November 2019. They were concerned that this second stage would otherwise be at risk of continual

¹ Please see Panel paper SECP_68_1005_11 for more details.

deferment to subsequent releases. We have consulted with the DCC since the TABASC meeting; they have confirmed they cannot include stage 2 in the November 2019 SEC Release.

2.2 Comments from the Operations Group

The Operations Group were concerned about the volume of change across the whole landscape and did not believe there would be time for all these releases. Members wanted to better understand how the operational impact of the June 2020 SEC Release would fit in with the wider context. There was also a query raised over whether the SMETS1 Enrolment and Adoption programme would have completed by this time, and how that would affect any SEC Release.

2.3 Comments from SEC Parties

We received comments from two Parties.

One respondent, a Large Supplier, made the following points:

- They believed SEC Releases should be considered as part of the wider picture with other non-SEC modification changes, with a single view on all changes. Where possible, the number of systems impacting changes each year should be kept to a minimum.
- The benefit and urgency of a change should be considered when determining the contents of a SEC Release. The Panel should be happy to defer and combine changes into a bigger release.

The other respondent, a Large Supplier, made the following points:

- They did not agree with the scope and content of this release.
- Changes to the Technical Specifications creates significant complexity in implementing new versions and in managing these alongside existing versions. This complexity increases exponentially with the number of 'live' versions in effect at one time. It is also not clear whether a new version would mean that Devices built against previous versions would no longer be able to be installed (or if an installation validity period end date would be set), and whether Suppliers would be required to transition to the new version.
- Similar complexity is created with new versions of the DUIS, with Users also having to determine if and when to upgrade to take advantage of the new services.
- They found it difficult to see how the modifications proposed for the June 2020 SEC Release would justify the complexity and cost. They queried if anyone would upgrade to the new versions of the Technical Specifications or the DUIS unless forced to.
- They felt there should be, at most, one Device/System impacting release each year, and this single release needs to include material changes that justify the cost of implementation.
- They were also concerned by the proposed timing of the release, coming at a point when the DCC and Users will be occupied in an intensive period of the SMETS1 Enrolment and Adoption programme, defect resolution and maintenance releases. They believed the SEC Release should be deferred at least until after the Final Operating Capability (FOC) has been implemented and stabilised.

3. Revised scope for the 2020 SEC Releases

In response to these comments, we have reviewed the scope of the June 2020 and November 2020 SEC Releases.

Three out of the four modifications that were targeted for June 2020 would impact on the Technical Specification, the GBCS and/or the DUIS. Noting the comments received around consolidating changes, we believe all of these modifications should be implemented as a single package in the November 2020 SEC Release, alongside other modifications and changes that impact these items. We will also work with BEIS to co-ordinate changes to these items.

This would leave only [SECMP0053 'Amend Target Response Times for Service Requests Critical to Installation and Commissioning Processes'](#) in the June 2020 SEC Release. As this would only have a minor impact on the DCC and would not impact Users, we believe it would be appropriate to leave this provisionally targeted for the June 2020 SEC Release. The Panel can then confirm the SECMP0053 implementation approach when they consider the Modification Report and the full impacts and costs of implementing this modification as a standalone change.

The revised provisional scope of the two releases on the DCC Systems would therefore be:

June 2020 SEC Release (25 June 2020):

- [SECMP0053 'Amend Target Response Times for Service Requests Critical to Installation and Commissioning Processes'](#)

November 2020 SEC Release (5 November 2020):

- [SECMP0007 'Firmware updates to IHDs and PPMIDs'](#)
- [SECMP0010 'Introduction of triage arrangements for Communication Hubs'](#)
- [SECMP0013 'Smart meter device diagnostics and triage'](#)
- [SECMP0015 'GPF timestamp for reading instantaneous Gas values'](#)
- [SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'](#)
- [SECMP0046 'Allow DNOs to control Electric Vehicle chargers connected to Smart Meter infrastructure'](#)
- [SECMP0056 'IHD / PPMID Zigbee Attributes Available on the HAN'](#)
- [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#) stage 2²
- [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#)

This picture may be revised based on the lead times needed for the DCC and Parties to implement any changes required, any updated impacts information from DCC Assessments, or the importance or urgency of specific changes, which will be assessed as part of the Refinement Process.

The DCC's Preliminary Assessment for SECMP0067 is expected to be received shortly. The DCC have notified us that they do not believe this change would impact on the DUIS and consider this change should be implemented sooner than November 2020 to benefit pre-payment customers. The full impacts will be assessed and discussed at the July Working Group meeting, and an update will be provided to the Panel at the July Panel meeting.

² SECMP0062 is proposed for implementation in two parts, with stage 1 being implemented in the November 2019 SEC Release.

Given the significantly reduced scope of the June 2020 SEC Release, we have not updated the draft RID. We will instead update and re-publish the RID once the first modification is approved for inclusion in this release. We will begin consultation on the November 2020 SEC RID in September 2019.

Modification Proposals which do not impact on the DCC Systems (“document-only” modifications) may still be added to the scope of these releases.

4. November 2019 SEC Release update

Following the Panel’s agreement to baseline the November 2019 SEC RID at last month’s meeting, the DCC are now engaging with the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) over the Testing Approach Document (TAD). This is expected to be presented to the Panel at next month’s meeting for comment, after which it will be incorporated into the RID.

Now that the DCC have begun delivery of this release, we believe they should prepare monthly progress reports for the Panel. These would cover the progress of the release and updated information on costs and timelines against what has been stated in the RID. We would request the first update to be presented at next month’s meeting.

We have also been preparing the collated set of changes to SEC documents for this release, and we intend to publish these on our website in the week beginning 10 June. We then plan to designate the versions of the Technical Specifications and GBCS for this release into the SEC on or shortly after 4 July with an effective date of 7 November 2019, following the Change Board’s decision on [SECMPO055 ‘Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC’](#).

5. Change landscape plan-on-a-page update

At the May Panel meeting, we took an action to work with the DCC and BEIS to develop a ‘plan-on-a-page’ of all the different changes impacting on the smart metering arrangements. We have begun work on this and expect to be able to provide at least a first draft for consideration at the July Panel meeting. We will also engage with the TABASC and the Operations Group in the production of this item.

6. Recommendations

The Panel are requested to:

- **NOTE** the comments received on the 2020 SEC Release scopes;
- **AGREE** the provisional scopes of the June 2020 and November 2020 SEC Releases on the DCC Systems; and
- **AGREE** that the DCC will provide monthly progress updates on the November 2019 SEC Release to the Panel.

David Kemp

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7 June 2019