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Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)

TABASC_42_1605, 16 May 2019

10:00 – 15:15, Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place, London EC3M 4AJ

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	TABASC Members
TABASC Chair	Julian Hughes
Large Suppliers	Stephen Lovell
	Rochelle Harrison
	Ashley Pocock
	James Nixon (<i>alternate for Graeme Weir, teleconference, part</i>)
	Emslie Law
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood
Other SEC Parties	Elias Hanna
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	Simon Harrison
	Mannu Rawat (<i>teleconference, part</i>)
BEIS	Joe Howard
SECAS	Phillip Twiddy
	Kayla Reinhart
	Rebecca Jones
	David Kemp (<i>part</i>)

Absent	
Small Suppliers	James Kirk
Gas Networks	Leigh Page

Apologies	
Large Suppliers	Grahame Weir
Other SEC Parties	Tim Boyle

1. BEIS Electric Vehicle Feasibility Studies Update

This agenda item was postponed to the June 2019 TABASC meeting.

2. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

Action Reference	Update
TABASC34/04 DCC to present findings from the T3 Aerials RFI to the TABASC at the January 2019 Meeting.	An update was provided under agenda item 5. Action: OPEN .
TABASC39/01 BEIS to return to the TABASC meeting in April to present the outcome of the Electric Vehicle feasibility studies due to close in March.	An update will be provided at the June 2019 meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC40/02 DCC to provide an update on Ecosystems Management Framework (EMF) at the May 2019 TABASC meeting.	An update was provided under agenda item 4. Action CLOSED .
TABASC40/04 DCC to provide an update on the LTE Communications Hubs and the next steps for developing a business case for a DCC RFQ and indicative delivery timeline and cost.	An update was provided under agenda item 6. Action OPEN .

<p>TABASC41/01</p> <p>TABASC to write to the SEC Panel regarding concerns relating to the potential consequences on the SEC and Users / Manufacturers to support Half Hourly Settlement changes.</p>	<p>An update was provided under agenda item 3.</p> <p>Action OPEN.</p>
<p>TABASC41/02</p> <p>The TABASC Chair to write to the Operations Group Chair to consider the need for the TABASC to review the DCC Major Incidents and assess whether architectural design could be a cause.</p>	<p>The TABASC Chair wrote to the Operations Group Chair, who is supportive of the TABASC involvement in assessing Major Incidents, where the cause is architectural. Details of any involvement will be further discussed between the Operations Group Chair, TABASC Chair and the DCC.</p> <p>Action CLOSED.</p>
<p>TABASC41/03</p> <p>The TABASC to request clarification from the DCC on the Draft Proposal 71 (DP071) submitted by the DCC.</p>	<p>An update was provided under agenda item 13.</p> <p>Action CLOSED.</p>
<p>TABASC41/04</p> <p>SECAS to request that Alt HAN address the two points raised by the TABASC when they return in June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whether the project requested an Impact Assessment from DCC for adding an Alt HAN Device type to the inventory (rather than listing it as a CAD); and - How issues can be diagnosed and impacted when Alt HAN Devices are present. 	<p>An update will be provided at the June 2019 TABASC meeting.</p> <p>Action OPEN.</p>
<p>TABASC41/05</p> <p>SECAS to request ELEXON to present an update to the TABASC on their work to enable multiple Suppliers to be registered to one MPAN.</p>	<p>ELEXON will provide an update at a future TABASC meeting.</p> <p>Action OPEN.</p>

3. Potential Letter to Panel

SECAS provided the TABASC with a potential draft letter to the SEC Panel regarding Market-wide Half Hourly Settlements (MwHHS), highlighting that the TABASC considers it necessary to have an oversight body for design and governance issues surrounding the implementation of MwHHS. The letter requests that the SEC Panel consider a cross-code governance and design arrangement to manage impacts that programmes have on the SEC. The TABASC Chair noted that the letter should identify activities that can be fulfilled by the TABASC and those requiring wider governance.

The TABASC acknowledged the urgency of the matter and concern remains as to whether the Smart Metering infrastructure can support what the MwHHS programme is asking to be implemented, noting that a Request For Information (RFI) is expected to be sent to DCC to consider impacts of implementation in June, however it will not consider the capability of Devices to support such requirements.

ACTION TABASC42/01: SECAS to obtain feedback from TABASC Members regarding other projects that may feed into this, and within the paper set out which actions are relevant to the TABASC, and which are relative to other bodies.

The TABASC **AGREED** to re-draft the letter regarding Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement to the SEC Panel to include the above TABASC input.

ACTION TABASC42/02: SECAS to re-draft the letter regarding Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement to the SEC Panel to include the TABASC input.

4. DCC Ecosystems Management Framework Update

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on the Ecosystems Management Framework (EMF), highlighting that the orchestration process is being piloted to demonstrate that it adds value. A proof of concept test is being undertaken and the team are working on a Target Operating Model (TOM) based on the feedback received. DCC are also considering raising a SEC modification to obligate Users to take part in the orchestration process. The TABASC raised concerns that the benefits of implementing orchestration ought to be self-promoting rather than having to force Users to take part. Other concerns raised included:

- confidentiality, such as notifying all Users that one User is going to carry out a significant activity such as a tariff change, is unlikely to be acceptable; and
- the majority of issues continue to be with the DCC core services and as a result there is a lack of confidence in the orchestration initiative improving service quality.

It was agreed that the orchestration activities are most suited to the SEC Operations Group.

The DCC also provided an update on considerations being given to enforcing a minimum level of testing of Devices and associated firmware before being rolled out on the DCC infrastructure. The TABASC challenged whether the level of testing which the DCC were suggesting for meters is practical and whether the DCC should be allowed to decide Users risk levels.

ACTION TABASC40/02¹ remains open and the DCC are requested to provide a further update on Device testing at the June TABASC meeting.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

5. DCC T3 Aerials Update

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on the T3 Aerials highlighting that DCC project PR1029 was established to deal with the T3 challenge. Ten options were set out, some of which were considered unacceptable, while other are still being considered, to determine which proposals to take forward. Telefonica are due to complete their assessment by the middle of August 2019, a DCC workshop will follow this in late August 2019 and a customer workshop will then take place in September 2019. TABASC Members offered to input into the assessment at an earlier stage than September 2019 to ensure the assessment aligns with User requirements.

Concern was raised that while this assessment is taking place, Users are not installing T3 Devices and the service has proved to be operational, however the CSP is raising incidents against them. DCC were requested to clarify what will happen to the incidents raised, given the service is operational.

ACTION TABASC42/03: The DCC to provide an answer to the TABASC query regarding what will happen with incidents raised where Suppliers are being told to install T3 Aerials at the June 2019 TABASC meeting.

ACTION TABASC42/04: The DCC to provide an update on T3 Aerials each month as a standard TABASC agenda item.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

6. DCC LTE Communications Hubs Update

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on the project to assess the provision of LTE Communications Hubs highlighting that project gate 0 has been approved by the DCC with requirements being gathered and a plan to publish those requirements at the end of August 2019. Concern was raised that DCC's understanding of the requirements appear different to those expected by the TABASC, although not necessarily incorrect. The DCC proposal was to carry out a broad analysis

¹ DCC to provide an update on the Ecosystem Management Framework (EMF)

of technical options including new hardware, new WAN radio and the use of soft sims. Consideration was also being given to the procurement and delivery model.

Concern was raised by the TABASC that to meet the proposed requirements, there would be no solution until 2021 at the earliest, missing the main rollout and as such CHs deployed will not reach the end of their economic or technical lifetime. DCC were urged to consider a two stage project whereby rapid consideration is given to limiting the CH change to a WAN module change only to include LTE, which should provide a more rapid short term solution, and at the same time carry out the more strategic research which may deliver significant benefits. It was also noted that if a solution is not available until 2021 at the earliest, it may be worthwhile considering including 5G capability in addition to 4G.

ACTION TABASC42/05: The DCC to provide an update on LTE Communications Hub project each month as a standard TABASC agenda item.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

7. DCC Update

The DCC provided an update on the following items:

- 961,921 SMETS2 meters have been installed, with approximately 100,000 in the North region. Approximately 12,000 meters are being installed daily.
- the timing and scope of Initial Operating Capability (IOC) delivery is being reviewed.
- soft opening of the new test lab on Monday 20 May 2019. There are 19 separate test labs within the building, 6 of which are ready.
- A project has been initiated to consider DSP re-procurement.

A TABASC Member requested an update on the delivery of Production Proving Function (PPF) and the DCC advised they will provide this at the June 2019 meeting.

ACTION TABASC42/06: The DCC to provide an update on the delivery of Production Proving Function (PPF) at the June 2019 TABASC meeting.

The TABASC **NOTED** the DCC update.

8. Sub-Committee Update

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The TABASC Chair noted that the SSC had made a decision to remove three Central Product List (CPL) entries.

Smart Meter Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)

The TABASC Chair advised that there were no notable updates for SMKI PMA.

Operations Group

SECAS informed the TABASC of the Operations Group activities, particularly regarding DCC Major Incidents. A BEIS sponsored meeting has been set up for Thursday 23 May 2019 to discuss the generation of large volumes of Alerts on the Live system.

SECAS noted that the Operations Group discussed incidences of incorrect DCC Service Flags being reported in RDP systems where smart metering systems are still shown as active when any SMETS2 Devices have been decommissioned or removed, as there is currently no mechanism to revert the status. Modification Proposals are being progressed by Supplier and DNO Parties and the Data Quality Sub-Group are working with the Master Registration Agreement (MRA) team to coordinate this.

It was also noted that the DCC informed the Operations Group of plans to upgrade Communications Hub firmware on all production Communications Hubs for DCC Release 2 by 27 October 2019.

The DCC and BEIS are discussing with the Operations Group, Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and Security Sub-Committee (SSC) the planning for Live Services Criteria for SMETS1 IOC.

The TABASC **NOTED** the Sub-Committee update.

9. BEIS Update

BEIS provided the TABASC with an update on the publication of upcoming consultations.

Upcoming Publications due in May:

- Licence change consultation to implement Special Administration Regime.
- Consultation on preferred Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) solution option.
- Government response to consultation on proposals to raise microbusiness awareness of smart metering.
- Enrolment & Adoption (E&A) Baseline Margin Project Performance Adjustment Scheme (DCC Incentives).
- SMETS1 SEC subsidiaries documents designation consultation related to provision of a DCC SMETS1 IOC service.
- Response to SMETS1 regulatory consultation.
- Response to Secure Final Operating Capability (FOC) go/no go consultation.
- Quarterly statistics report for January to March 2019.

The TABASC **NOTED** the BEIS update.

10. Draft TABASC Work Package July – September 2019

SECAS provided the TABASC with the quarterly work package which provided an overview of the activities and associated resource requirements for the SECAS core team and project resource for the period of July – September 2019. It was noted that the project brief for the CPL Database proposal will be provided shortly and include project scope, cost and resource requirements prior to the TABASC decision.

SECAS noted that the Core Team resource allocation will be amended following the TABASC discussion (captured under Agenda item 17) to issue the Effectiveness Review Survey in September.

The TABASC **RECOMMENDED** the Work Package to SECCo Board for approval, noting the update to resources required as a result of deferring the work on the Effectiveness Review Survey to September.

11. SMETS1 Service Release BAD & TAD Project Update – April 2019

SECAS presented the SMETS1 Services Release Business Architecture Document (BAD) & Technical Architecture Document (TAD) Project Update for April 2019, which covered the activities undertaken in support of the SMETS1 Services Release and the resource and expenditure to date reported against the Q1 Financial Year project budget.

SECAS highlighted that:

- the BAD and TAD were issued in April and work is underway to address the industry comments received;
- work on completing the Business Architecture Module (BAM) updates have commenced; and
- the design notes are updated into the BAD, TAD and BAM.

The TABASC **AGREED** with SECAS' proposal to re-baseline the BAD and TAD project in terms of its delivery timelines to update the TABASC expectation of the final issue date.

The TABASC **AGREED** for SECAS to address any final industry and TABASC comments and issue the documents one week ahead of the SMETS1 Services Release. SECAS will then provide the TABASC with an update at the June 2019 meeting.

12. Sub-Committee Input during the Modifications Process

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on how they intend to seek Sub-Committee input into the Modification and Release processes going forward, highlighting that their new approach will see greater and earlier input from Sub-Committee's during this process. The three core phases of the process are Define, Refine, Opine. The TABASC fed back its need for greater involvement in the Define and Refine stages.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

13. New Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals

SECAS provided the TABASC with the new Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals raised in the past month, seeking comments from the TABASC on these proposals and agreement on which proposals the TABASC would want to provide further input on as they progress. SECAS provided the TABASC with the below four new draft proposals where the TABASC agreed that its involvement is not needed:

- [DP073 'alteration of SMKI repository information and documentation'](#)
- [DP074 'clarity on obtaining SMKI device certificates'](#)
- [DP075 'third party metering service providers'](#)
 - The TABASC echoed the views of other Sub-Committees that SEC change is not required.
- [DP076 'pursuing non-payment in events of default'](#)

The TABASC **PROVIDED** its views and comments on the proposals.

14. 2020 SEC Releases

SECAS provided the TABASC with the proposed scope of the June 2020 and November 2020 SEC Releases, seeking views from the TABASC on the proposed allocation of modifications to these releases. Comments were also sought on the first draft of the Release Implementation Document (RID) for the June 2020 Release. The TABASC raised the following points:

- Modifications affecting DUIS, MMC, SMETS, CHTS and GBCS can have significant impact on Users and Manufacturers, as well as DCC, and as such the decision to update these documents should not be taken without fully understanding the implications, and also an understanding of whether the changes can be implemented by the impacted parties.
- The TABASC considered the contents of the June 2020 Release, however as there was not a RID for the November 2020 Release, advice could not be given to the preferred grouping of Modification Proposals.
- It was queried whether [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#) in its entirety could be included in the November 2019 Release, or at least a single release, rather than splitting the modification into two separate releases. Concern was raised that splitting the implementation of SECMP0062 could incur significant additional effort by Suppliers to implement the interim workaround for little benefit.

- Members considered that the RID should include an understanding of testing environment requirements so that consideration can be given to the viability of the release alongside any other releases in process.
- The risks around other industry implementations that are running in parallel, for example, Enrolment and Adoption (E&A) or BEIS releases, and the impacts on the June and November 2020 Releases.

The TABASC asked for the 'SEC document impacts matrix' to be drawn out for the modifications included in the November 2020 Release. The TABASC are requested to provide comments to SECAS on the proposed allocation of modifications between the two releases by the end of May in order to be included in the June 2019 Panel paper.

ACTION TABASC42/07: SECAS to provide the November 2020 RID at a future TABASC meeting for the TABASC to consider the groupings of Modification Proposals across releases.

ACTION TABASC42/08: The TABASC to provide comments to SECAS on the proposed allocation of modifications to the two releases by the end of May 2019 for this to be fed into the Panel paper for the June 2019 SEC Panel meeting.

The TABASC Chair noted that a modification for the next bundle of Issue Resolution Processes (IRPs) that have been handed from BEIS to SECAS has yet to be raised. SECAS advised that this will be included on the June 2019 TABASC meeting agenda for discussion, ahead of a Draft Proposal being raised.

ACTION TABASC42/09: SECAS to draft the next IRP modification to be discussed at the June 2019 TABASC meeting.

The TABASC **PROVIDED** comments on the proposed scope on the June 2020 and November 2020 SEC Releases and on the draft June 2020 SEC Release Implementation Document, and the TABASC will provide further comments once the anticipated November 2020 document impacts matrix has been received.

15. TABASC Risk Register

SECAS provided an update on the TABASC risks and associated risk management plans. SECAS presented the key points regarding the existing five mid-tier risks.

TABASC noted that Risk 19 (excessive volumes of alerts) has materialised and is an now and Issue. The TABASC noted that several initiatives are in flight in the industry and SECAS agreed to capture information regarding where alert issues are being addressed to help identify if any additional activity is required.

ACTION TABASC42/10: SECAS to capture information regarding where alert issues are being addressed to help identify if any additional activity is required.

TABASC noted that the risk should be retained as the enrolment of SMETS1 meters may exacerbate the situation.

The TABASC **AGREED** minor amendments to the existing five mid-tier risks.

16. TABASC Activity Planner

SECAS provided the TABASC with the updated Activity Planner and highlighted that the amendments for May 2019 included:

- removing activity 11 'Release Milestones' and 12 'SMETS1 (Enrolment & Adoption) Services' to not duplicate the Joint Industry Plan (JIP); and
- setting activity 8 'Development of quarterly Work Packages to present to the SECCo Board' for Q2 2019 status to Green as it is provided for TABASC recommendation this month.

SECAS also noted that activities 6 'Maintaining the Technical Architecture Document and arranging for publication on the SEC Website' and 7 'Maintaining the Business Architecture Document and arranging for publication on the SEC Website' milestones dates, will also be amended in June, following the TABASC decision under Agenda item 11 to re-baseline the project.

The TABASC **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

17. Effectiveness Review Survey

SECAS provided the TABASC with a presentation on the Effectiveness Review Survey, highlighting that there is a proposed new format for the third iteration of the Effectiveness Review Survey, which will be provided to the TABASC for comments due at the June 2019 meeting. The TABASC proposed issuing the questionnaire in September 2019 rather than August 2019 due to the holiday period.

ACTION TABASC42/11: SECAS to circulate the updated format in word version of the third iteration of the Effectiveness Review Survey to the TABASC.

ACTION TABASC42/12: The TABASC to provide feedback on the third iteration of the Effectiveness Review Survey at the June 2019 meeting.

18. Oversight and Input on Industry Developments

The TABASC were provided with the opportunity to note recent industry developments that are of relevance to the TABASC. There were no topics discussed.

19. Newsletter Topics

The TABASC were asked to consider any topics to be included in the next edition of the SEC Newsletter. No specific TABASC related topics were agreed for inclusion this month.

20. Any Other Business (A.O.B)

One item of additional business was raised by the TABASC Chair regarding the current vacancy of a Large Supplier seat on the TABASC.

There were no additional items of business raised and the TABASC Chair closed the meeting.

21. Transitional Governance Update – May 2019

The Transitional Governance Update is a compendium of activities occurring in the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP). The paper provides a high-level overview of any relevant publications, responses and consultations issued by BEIS, the DCC, and Ofgem, in relation to smart metering, whilst highlighting areas which may be of interest to the SEC Panel and/or SEC Parties.

22. Change Status Report – May 2019

The monthly Change Status Report provides information on the progress of SEC Modifications and Releases, covering the May 2019 SEC Panel recommendations and decisions.