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Paper Reference:	**SECP_72_1309_13**
Action:	**For Decision**

Request to change the November 2019 SEC Release implementation date

1. Purpose

The DCC have submitted a request that the implementation date for the November 2019 SEC Release be amended. The Panel are asked to consider whether to request that the Authority directs a revised implementation date for all impacted Modification Proposals.

2. Current status of the November 2019 SEC Release

The November 2019 SEC Release, due to be implemented on 7 November 2019, consists of the following approved Modification Proposals:

- SECMP0018 'Standard Electricity Distributor Configuration Settings'
- SECMP0023 'Correct Units of Measure for Uncontrolled Gas Flow Rate'
- SECMP0025 'Electricity Network Party Access to Load Switching Information'
- SECMP0039 'Communication Hub returns notification mechanism for Other SEC Parties'
- SECMP0055 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC'
- SECMP0060 'Amend Requirements to remove 'Pending' devices from SMI'
- MP071 'Second-Comer Charging'
- MP073 'Alteration of SMKI Repository information and documentation'
- MP074 'Clarity on Obtaining SMKI Device Certificates'

MP076 'Pursuing Non-Payment in Events of Default', currently in the Report Phase, is also targeted for inclusion.

SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management - Alert Storm Protection' part 1 was targeted for inclusion. However, the Change Board's decision to return the Modification Report for further clarification means we do not expect this to be approved in time for inclusion in this release.

3. The DCC's request

The DCC are requesting that the go-live date is moved from 7 November 2019 to 24 November 2019, and their letter explaining the request can be found in Appendix A.

The additional time is needed to meet DCC operational requirements. Changes to the delivery timeline for the Initial Operating Capability (IOC) has reduced the amount of time between this and the November 2019 SEC Release to an uncomfortable level. The DCC need enough time between major releases to allow for outstanding defects to be resolved prior to the next release going live.

The delay will also provide the DCC with enough time to resolve defects identified during System Integration Testing (SIT) and User Integration Testing (UIT). The DCC note concerns raised that there is insufficient time allowed for UIT, and this extension will provide the time necessary for Users to complete testing.

The DCC are requesting ad-hoc meetings for the Testing Advisory Group (TAG), the Operations Group and the Panel to better fit in with the revised go-live date. These meetings will be for each group to review the release go-live criteria and agree whether the release is ready to be implemented. The DCC are proposing the following dates:

- An ad-hoc TAG meeting on 25 October 2019;
- Utilise the extra Operations Group meeting scheduled for 28 October 2019; and
- An ad-hoc Panel meeting on 6 November 2019.

We are reviewing these proposed dates with the Chairs and will update the Panel at the meeting.

4. Next steps

SEC Section D10.5 allows the Panel to request that the Authority direct a change to the implementation date for an approved Modification Proposal.

If the Panel agree with the DCC's request, they will need to request that the Authority issue such a direction for all the Modification Proposals in section 2 of this paper. The Authority will then either approve or reject this request.

SEC Schedule 8 'GB Companion Specification' version 3.2, Schedule 9 'SME Technical Specifications 2' version 4.2 and Schedule 10 'CH Technical Specifications' version 1.3 have already been designated into the SEC with an effective date of 7 November 2019. If the date is moved, we will update Schedule 11 'TS Applicability Tables' with the new effective date for these documents.

5. Recommendations

The Panel are requested to:

- **NOTE** the DCC's request to change the implementation date for the November 2019 SEC Release;
- **AGREE** to request that the Authority direct a revised implementation date of 24 November 2019 for all Modification Proposals approved for this SEC Release; and
- **AGREE** to the ad-hoc meeting dates requested by the DCC.

David Kemp

SECAS Team

6 September 2019

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** DCC request to revise the date of the November 2019 SEC Release

Data Communications Company

Ibex House
2nd Floor
42-47 Minories
London
EC3N 1DY

Peter Davies
SEC Panel Chair
Smart Energy Code Company Ltd
8 Fenchurch Place
London
EC3M 4AJ

6 September 2019

Dear Peter,

Re: Request to revise the date of the November 2019 SEC Release

Further to my verbal update at the SEC Panel Meeting on 09 August 2019, I am writing to ask the Panel to support DCC's request to change the November 2019 SEC Release date from 7 November to 24 November 2019. The additional time is needed to meet DCC operational requirements and provide the DCC enough time to resolve defects identified during System Integration Testing (SIT) and User Integration Testing (UIT).

The schedule for SEC System Releases is set out in the SEC Release Management Policy and the November Release is scheduled for the first Thursday of the month. We understand that the schedule may be amended with the support of the Panel and agreement from the Authority. The purpose of this letter is to seek your support.

The November 2019 SEC Release Implementation Document (RID), which includes the implementation timeline, was developed using various sources including the originally proposed dates for the implementation of DCC's SMETS1 Service. Movements of the delivery timeline for the Initial Operation Capability (IOC) for SMETS1 over the past six months have put some pressure on the plan and reduced the amount of time between releases to an uncomfortable level. We need sufficient time between major releases to protect operations and allow for any defects or issues resulting from a release to be resolved prior to the next release going live.

Concerns have also been raised at key governance forums that the current plan does not provide enough time to accommodate UIT (which is non-mandatory from a formal governance perspective but is a requirement of DCC Operational Acceptance procedure in order to approve go-live). The proposed date of 24 November 2019 provides the time necessary for Users to complete testing to meet this Operational Acceptance requirement.

In terms of the SIT, testing for meters was scheduled to start on 20 August 2019. However, meters have yet to be provided which has further delayed the original timetable as we can

currently only test using emulators. We are still awaiting a firm date for the provision of meters but expect to meet the proposed new go-live date of 24 November 2019.

With the support of the Panel to amend the go-live date to 24 November 2019, we would also request that SECAS set up two additional extraordinary meetings to ensure we go through the proper governance process. We propose the following meetings on the following dates.

- An extraordinary Testing Advisory Group meeting on 25 October 2018;
- Utilise the extraordinary SEC Operations Group meeting that is already scheduled for 28 October 2019; and
- An extraordinary SEC Panel meeting on 6 November 2019

I'd like to reassure Panel Members that the DCC is committed to enabling the timely releases of SEC Releases and we are currently reviewing our 2020 delivery roadmap and creating a detailed environment plan to ensure that there is enough environment capacity and appropriate time allowed between each major release that is planned for next year. We will continue to update you on this process at Panel.

I am copying this letter to Jacqui Russell and Michael Walls at Ofgem.

Yours sincerely

Ro Crawford
Delivery Director, Smart DCC Ltd