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Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)

TABASC_45_1508, 15 August 2019

10:00 – 16:00 Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place, London EC3M 4AJ

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	TABASC Members
TABASC Chair	Julian Hughes
Large Suppliers	Stephen Lovell <i>(part)</i>
	Ashley Pocock
	Emslie Law
	James Nixon <i>(alternate for Grahame Weir)</i> <i>(teleconference)</i>
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood
Other SEC Parties	Elias Hanna
	Tim Boyle

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	Simon Harrison
	Mannu Rawat <i>(part)</i>
	Jay Khaneka <i>(part)</i>
	Parm Dayal <i>(part)</i>
	Helen Metcalfe <i>(part)</i>
SECAS	Phillip Twiddy
	Kayla Reinhart
	Rebecca Jones
	Robin Healey
	Harry Jones <i>(part)</i>

Absent	
Small Suppliers	James Kirk
Gas Networks	Leigh Page

Apologies	
Large Suppliers	Grahame Weir
	Rochelle Harrison
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton
BEIS	Joe Howard

1. (and 2. continued) Elective Communications Service

The DCC discussed the provision of Elective Communication Services (ECS) with the TABASC, including the governance and architecture principles and how it might work in practice. ECS went live in October 2018. The TABASC were informed that the ECS as described in the SEC is open and switched on.

The DCC noted that within the SEC, there are provisions of confidentiality and exclusivity that mean details of the ECS shall remain confidential for six months after commencement of that service. Six months after the ECS goes live, it is possible for another DCC customer to use that service subject to funding arrangements, which can go on for as long as ten years.

DCC described ECS as a Service Request (SR), response or alert which does not duplicate anything already in the SEC and must not affect the core communication service. ECS allow DCC Users to request tailored messages and alerts to and from the smart meters of their customers, or potentially extend the use of existing messages to additional Device types. Any SEC Party can request an ECS but only a DCC User can use it.

The DCC noted that they would set out two phases at the highest level of ECS, phase one would be up to the point of making it available in a test environment for the DCC User to confirm the intended behaviour and phase two would be to make the service available in the live environment. The TABASC Chair asked the DCC if the ECS designs would come to the TABASC and other Sub Committees in future to ensure that it does not negatively affect the architecture and to help ensure the best implementation. The DCC stated that many of the technical architecture principles that are set out within the Technical Architecture Document (TAD) can be applied to an assurance process which any ECS would go through, and that within the ECS framework, the DCC propose that whilst the detail of the service request could remain confidential, confirmation that the principles have been assured and assessed will be provided. DCC recognised that solution designs may need to be assessed by all the Sub Committees to ensure there are no unintended consequences.

Several use cases were discussed to aid the DCC's development of the framework for providing ECS, these included the below:

- The export alert, whereby there is an alert that goes to customers (DCC User) indicating that a meter completed an install.
- SMETS2 SR that does not operate in SMETS1. Examples given were, setting Load Limits or Tariff Block.
- New meter functionality in addition in addition to SMETS.

ACTION TABASC45/01: DCC to attend the September 2019 TABASC meeting to provide information on the used cases discussed at the August TABASC meeting, for Elective Communications Service.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

3. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

Action Reference	Update
TABASC42/02 SECAS to re-draft the letter regarding Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement to the SEC Panel to include the TABASC input.	<p>SECAS and a TABASC member met with ELEXON on Monday 12 August to discuss Market-wide Half Hourly Settlements and enabling Multiple Suppliers through meter splitting. SECAS and the TABASC member gave a high-level overview of the changes and potential impacts on smart metering and architectures.</p> <p>The ELEXON focus is settlement purposes only.</p> <p>ELEXON have two working groups who deal with Market-wide Half Hourly Settlements, which the TABASC believed a member(s) should attend as a TABASC representative.</p> <p>The TABASC Chair requested that SECAS identify the remit of each of the working groups, in order to determine which TABASC member should attend.</p> <p>Action: CLOSED.</p> <p>ACTION TABASC45/02: SECAS to identify the purpose of each of the Market-wide Half Hourly Settlements working groups and determine if or how the TABASC participate.</p> <p>ACTION TABASC45/03: The TABASC Chair and SECAS to speak with the Ofgem policy maker and participate in working groups.</p>

Action Reference	Update
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.	DCC to address query in a subsequent monthly update. Action OPEN .
TABASC43/03 The DCC to provide an update the August 2019 TABASC meeting on the EMF orchestration pilot.	An update will be provided at the September 2019 TABASC meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC43/04 DCC to provide an update in July on the options under investigation for T3 Aerials and to discuss the benefits.	An update has been provided under agenda item 6. This action will be closed as this will be a standing agenda item going forward. Action CLOSED .
TABASC44/03 BEIS to present their work on HAN performance modelling to the TABASC, explaining their confidence in 868MHz coverage (relating to TABASC risk TABASC3.2 ¹).	An update will be provided at the September 2019 TABASC meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC44/04 CPL systems updates to be added to the activity planner, following PID being presented at the August 2019 TABASC meeting.	The CPL Enhancements Project milestones have been added to the TABASC Activity Planner following the TABASC approval of the CPL Enhancements PID. Action CLOSED .

4. SMETS1 Service Release BAD & TAD Project Update – July 2019

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on the Business Architecture Document (BAD) and Technical Architecture Document (TAD) projects for July 2019 highlighting that progression of the remaining activities has been delayed slightly due to resource being used to work on the SMETS1

¹ TABASC3.2 Risk - HAN performance of the 868MHz HAN solution fails to provide expected coverage for 25% of in scope premises.

Live Services Criteria. The dates to complete the two remaining activities were revised in the document and presented to the TABASC as below:

- Remaining activities are underway to update the BAM. These are expected to be completed in FY Q2 19/20. Forecasting that the BAM will take 7 days effort and plan to issue the model by 15 September 2019.
- Remaining activities to transpose the Design Notes into the BAD are expected to be completed in FY Q2 within the remaining project budget. Forecasting that the Design Notes can be completed over 9 days additional effort.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

5. DCC LTE Communications Hubs Update

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on Long-Term Evolution (LTE) Communications Hubs, highlighting that within the last month the DCC have commissioned the work to outline the business case as part of the DCC governance process. The DCC noted that they are still progressing a high-level architecture with respect to connectivity, expecting the work to complete by September to provide a high-level view.

The TABASC queried whether there will be a discussion involving the TABASC surrounding the business case. The DCC noted that they are developing an engagement approach, which the DCC is happy to present to the TABASC in September. The TABASC Chair noted that there has been no visible progress in recent months, which is concerning considering the potential cost of Communications Hubs being stranded through obsolescence. The DCC confirmed that it would provide a more in-depth presentation to the TABASC in September, including a plan and milestone dates.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

6. DCC T3 Aerials Update

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on T3 Aerials, highlighting that investigation on the ten options previously discussed has concluded. There has been no straight-forward alternative identified but the suggestion from Telefonica will be presented to the TABASC in September with 2021 still being the date for this to become available. Following the completion of the investigations, the next steps are to hold a customer workshop which will take place in September 2019.

The TABASC Chair questioned with the next steps for the issues raised by Telefonica. DCC advised that the Operations Group is tasked with this and an invite will be issued for a workshop in September.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

7. DCC Single Hop for CSP C&S Proposal

The DCC noted that CR1013 (to enable Comms Hub firmware to be upgraded in a single hop) was raised at Technical Design and Execution Group (TDEG) in 2018, and was then discussed at Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG) in July 2019, where TBDG agreed that it should be brought to the TABASC for consideration. The proposed change the TABASC was presented is to accommodate Telefonica Communications Hub Firmware being upgraded Over the Air to the latest version in a single hop. The TABASC noted that the principal that firmware should be able to be updated in one hop is sound with the main question being why this aren't is not already taking place, as is done in the north. However, the TABASC did note that this is to the benefit of the CSP and as such, it should not be for Users to fund.

ACTION TABASC45/04: DCC to return to the TABASC at a future meeting with a conclusion on whether they will be implementing the single hop for CSP C&S proposal and an update on the costs.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update, however, raised concerns over the proposed cost attribution.

8. DCC Ecosystems Management Framework Firmware Management

The DCC provided an overview of the challenge of keeping the ecosystem available and noted that although they have oversight and control of DCC Systems and Communications Hubs testing they do not have a view of the assurance of other Devices. Clarification was provided by TABASC Members that they all have commercial and regulatory obligations. The DCC presented a view of the risks to the ecosystem, which the TABASC did not agree with and requested that DCC clarifies the risk that they are attempting to address, where the SEC/licence responsibility for that risk lay and the assessment of the impact of the risks. TABASC also noted that two of the risks listed had root causes lying with the DCC and not other Devices.

The TABASC stated that they do not agree with the views of the DCC on the risk areas in the Ecosystem in the presentation provided. The TABASC was advised that the DCC have set up a workshop for 2 September 2019, which the TABASC noted their concerns regarding and advised that they did not think the workshop should go ahead until such time as they have provided credible examples of risks, nor that the DCC should use the existing materials for wider engagement as they may incorrectly cause significant concern across the industry.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

9. DCC Update

The DCC provided the TABASC with a verbal update on the following:

- First SMETS1 Meter migrations have taken place, one of the first meters was 'chatty'.
- 1.8 million SMETS2 meters installed (70k installed per week) and over 1 million Communications Hubs installed, with over 10% being in the North region.
- 500 SMETS1 sets in the test lab.
- Received RFI from Ofgem on half hourly settlements, with a response required by 2 October 2019. The response has gone to the DCC Board as the DCC anticipates the impact to have a significant cost.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

10. Sub-Committee Update

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The TABASC Chair noted that an SSC item of relevance to the TABASC will be covered under agenda item 14.

Smart Meter Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)

The TABASC Chair advised that there are no SMKI PMA updates this month.

Operations Group

SECAS informed the TABASC of the Operations Group activities, particularly regarding data quality process issues. It was noted that the Data Quality Issues Sub-Group raised the following questions to the OPSG Members. SECAS will circulate the same Data Quality Issues Sub-Group questions that were raised to the OPSG Members to the TABASC members for consideration.

ACTION TABASC45/05: SECAS to circulate the Data Quality Issues Sub-Group questions which were raised to the OPSG members to TABASC Members.

- Issue raised as part of the responses to the Data Quality RfI:
 - Updates to the Smart Metering Inventory by Service Request 8.4 currently has a 30 second response time to confirm it has received the request rather than actually make the change, which may be hindering Supplier business process'. The DCC target is to apply the update within five minutes but this is neither an obligation nor a commitment. The TABASC was asked if this was likely to cause them a problem, however, the TABASC Chair noted that this is not the expected behaviour of a service request in that the business outcome should be achieved within the target

response time, not just acknowledgment that the request has been received. DCC should consider whether the behaviour indicated is meeting the SEC requirement.

The TABASC members will be asked to confirm whether this current timescale is sufficient to support their processes, or whether a more prescribed service level is required.

- The issue to address which Parties had the ability to change Device status in the SMI using SR8.4, particularly where a Device has been pre-notified by a User other than the Supplier, has a status of Pending, but needs to be updated – but for some reason the User who pre-notified cannot perform the action.

The TABASC members will be asked, by repeating the request already made to Operations Group members, to confirm whether a SEC Modification should be raised to address the identified issue. However, a TABASC member raised that guidance to address this issue is available and the general consensus was that a change is not needed – thus the initial view is that a modification will not be required.

SECAS also informed the TABASC of an OPSG presentation from the DCC regarding pre-payment for SMEST1 Devices, the question was if the service needed to be more robust to facilitate SMETS1 pre-payment top-up functionality availability. DCC is re-developing the options appraisal and taking it back to the Operations Group in September.

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

11. CPL Enhancement Project Initiation Document

SECAS provided the TABASC with the Central Products List (CPL) enhancement Project Initiation Document (PID) highlighting the plan for delivery, the cost, resource allocation and roles and responsibilities.

Part of the objectives would be performed iteratively following an Agile methodology within time bound sprint cycles that provides a measure of delivery velocity for achieving the following deliverables:

- List management re-platforming;
- Shared network drive re-platforming; and
- Enhancing the internal management process.

The TABASC was informed that the current Excel workbook and how CPLs are processed will not be changing. SECAS noted that the TABASC will be provided with monthly reports against the actuals vs budget of the CPL enhancement project going forward.

The TABASC Chair noted interest in the migration aspect.

The TABASC **AGREED** the CPL enhancements PID.

12. TABASC Effectiveness Review Survey

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on the third iteration of the Technical and Business Architecture Effectiveness Review Survey noting that following TABASC comments received at the July TABASC meeting, the Effectiveness Review Survey was updated and circulated to the TABASC. Following this, one further comment was received from a TABASC member which was incorporated into the survey, the feedback received included the view that the percentage of successful Over the Air (OTA) firmware upgrades question, with the top level being >50% would not reflect code performance measures and might lead to a situation where TABASC believed the situation was satisfactory, while OPSG could see that targets were being missed.

The TABASC **AGREED** the Effectiveness Review Survey, for distribution on 9 September 2019.

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.

An update on the Draft Proposals where the TABASC provided comments previously and which required further action to be taken or a response from the Proposer was provided below:

- [DP077 – ‘DCC Service Flagging’](#) – this has now been converted into a Modification Proposal following the SEC Panel meeting in August 2019. Any business requirements for this modification will come to the TABASC first for comment.
- [DP079 – ‘Provisions for Withdrawing Modifications’](#) – this is scheduled to be converted into a Modification Proposal and is still in the Development Stage and will be taken to the Change Sub-Committee in August 2019. TABASC’s interest in this modification is limited to whether Sub-Committees will have any involvement in withdrawing modifications.

SECAS provided the TABASC with an overview of the following two new Draft Proposals submitted since the last meeting:

- [DP081 - ‘Alignment of DUIS and CHISM to reflect current DCC Processing’](#). The TABASC agreed that its involvement is not needed.
- [DP080 – ‘Ensuring a Managed move to DUIS Version 3.0’](#). The TABASC noted interest in the Draft Proposal. The TABASC Chair noted that he believes this should be positioned differently for two reasons: 1) the extant version of DUIS will be v3.1 rather than v3.0; 2) the objective is really to deprecate DUIS versions 1.0 and 2.0. The TABASC Members agreed that the modification is required and suggested that the modification could propose a

framework which involves an enduring solution. SECAS were requested to report back to the September TABASC meeting.

- [DP082 – ‘Alt HAN Channel Selection’](#). The TABASC noted interest in this Draft Proposal. The TABASC Chair noted that channel selection in noisy environments is not only an Alt HAN challenge and therefore the Draft Proposal should be re positioned away from Alt HAN and re named. The TABASC noted ongoing interest in this modification.

The TABASC **DISCUSSED** the proposals, noting which proposals are of interest and wish to input into as they progress.

14. Guidance on Device Triage – Device Refurbishment

The TABASC Chair provided the TABASC with an SSC paper outlining the use case for Guidance on Device Refurbishment seeking to securely replace Distribution Network Operator (DNO) certificates during Device triage. It was questioned whether the DNO's were having to develop functionality to allow DNO certificates to be changed between DNO's once the Device was installed. If so, this could potentially be used to do the same thing without the security risks associated with changing security keys. The TABASC raised no further comments or suggestions to be referred back to SSC.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update and supported the use case.

15. Risk Register

SECAS provided the TABASC with the Risk Register noting that there were no updates this month.

The TABASC **NOTED** the Risk Register.

16. Activity Planner

SECAS provided the TABASC with the activity planner noting updates to three activities this month:

- **Activity 7:** updated the BAM milestone status to Amber to reflect the delay in finalising the updates.
- **Activity 8:** Updated the date that the TABASC will receive the Q3 and Q4 2019 Work Packages for approval. These will be presented to the TABASC one month later to allow for sufficient progress through a quarter to be able to predict the next quarter's spend.
- **Activity 11:** Added the CPL Enhancements Project and its planned activities as per the Project Initiation Document.

The TABASC Chair noted that the activity planner was hard to view due the scale of the activity planner. SECAS agreed to rectify this for the next TABASC meeting.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

17. Any Other Business (AOB)

The TABASC Members discussed the following:

- The TABASC asked SECAS to consider whether to publish a newsletter article regarding SMETS1 enrolment and adoption progress;
- The TABASC asked SECAS to publish a newsletter article and link to the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV) charging consultation; and
- The TABASC asked SECAS to publish a newsletter article and link to the BEIS consultation on Auxiliary Proportional Controller (APC)

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

18. BEIS Update

BEIS tabled a presentation listing the recent and upcoming BEIS publications and consultations.

19. Transitional Governance Update – August 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.

20. Change Status Report – August 2019

The Change Status Report, which provides information on the progress of Smart Energy Code (SEC) Draft Proposals, Modification Proposals and Releases. This paper has now been provided ahead of the TABASC meetings, covering updates up to and including SEC Panel paper day monthly.