

This document is classified as **White** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Information can be shared with the public, and any members may publish the information, subject to copyright.

Paper Reference:	CSC_08_2910_01
Action:	For Decision

DP082 Draft Proposal decision

1. Purpose

This paper provides a summary of our assessment of [DP082 'Alt HAN Channel Selection'](#), taking into account industry views and views of the Panel Sub-Committees on the problem this Draft Proposal has identified. We are asking the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) to agree that the problem identified under this Draft Proposal is clearly understood and that it is ready to progress to a Modification Proposal.

2. What is the issue?

DP082 has been raised by Angel Osos De Leon of Scottish Power.

As the smart metering rollout progresses, more and more Devices will be installed and used. How Devices coexist in dense deployments of Smart Metering Systems using the 2.4GHz band has been managed as a programme of risk for some time.

As smart metering deployments start in Multi Dwelling Units (MDUs), using both standard and Alternative Home Area Network (Alt HAN) technologies, there could be well over a hundred Communications Hubs and Smart Meters in some meter rooms operating constantly. These will be virtually co-located and hence be competing for access to the available ZigBee radio channels. It is also of note that the ZigBee 2.4GHz channel selected at install will be set for the life of the Smart Metering System unless the system is subject to external intervention. This would be via a site visit involving a Communications Hub exchange and a subsequent re-commissioning of the HAN.

Single premises are also impacted, with customer Devices having been seen to disable 2.4GHz HANs when certain high capacity streaming solutions occupy the same channels as the HAN.

It is acknowledged that these are an example of a non-standard roll-out scenario. However, they will be encountered and need to be considered as part of the rollout.

The problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer and updated by SECAS during our investigations can be found in Appendix A.

3. Comments on the issue

Two Parties and the HAN WAN sub-group advised that this proposal will benefit all SEC Parties and that it is not a dependency for the Alt HAN programme.

The HAN WAN sub-group agreed that there was no evidence of any systemic or large-scale problem associated with 2.4GHz, and that the problem statement was related to two main use cases:

1. **At install** – ability for an installer to override any channel selection algorithm and select a channel, especially in crowded meter rooms; and
2. **Post install** – ability for an energy supply to remotely change or select channel to deal with “one-off” customer calls or issues.

Both the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) and the HAN WAN sub-group agreed the title of the proposal should be changed as it could be perceived to only benefit the Alt HAN programme. SECAS is therefore suggesting the title be changed to ‘2.4GHz Channel Management’.

Using crude and conservative estimates given by Parties during the Development Stage, SECAS estimates that this issue could result in costs of at least £15,000,000 across the industry if left unresolved.

The full collated comments and questions raised can be found in Appendix A.

4. Next steps

We recommend this proposal proceeds to the Refinement Process to begin development of a strawman solution. We will liaise with the Proposer and the DCC to develop this. Once we believe we have a workable solution in place, we will ask the Working Group to consider the solution. We will consult with the HAN WAN sub-group and the TABASC during the development of any solution.

5. Recommendations

The CSC is requested to:

- **AGREE** that the issue identified under DP082 is clearly defined and understood;
- **RECOMMEND** to the Panel that this Draft Proposal is ready to be converted to a Modification Proposal; and
- **RECOMMEND** to the Panel that the Modification Proposal should proceed to the Refinement Process.

Joe Hehir

SECAS Team

22 October 2019

Attachments

- **Appendix A:** DP082 problem statement