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**Department for Business,**

**Energy & Industrial Strategy**

1 Victoria Street,

London SW1H 0ET

[www.gov.uk/beis](C:\\Users\\dstone\\Downloads\\www.gov.uk\\beis)

28 October 2019

The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel, SEC Parties, and other interested parties

Dear Colleague,

**Smart metering consultation on Technical Specification changes to support proportional load control functionality**

Today BEIS has published[[1]](#footnote-2) a response to the 2 August 2019 consultation on proposed changes to SMETS2 to add proportional load control functionality to the Smart Metering System. We have decided to proceed with the further development of the Technical Specifications required to facilitate proportional load control and to request the Data Communications Company (DCC) to carry out a full impact assessment for the development and implementation of the necessary changes to DCC systems.

This consultation seeks confirmation from industry technical specialists that the changes proposed in Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) and Communication Hub Technical Specifications (CHTS) are suitable to facilitate the functionality specified in Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS2) v5.0 Draft 2 (attached at **Annex A**).

In summary the changes to SMETS2 introduced the Auxiliary Proportional Controller (APC), both as a component of Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) and also as a new device type of Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controller (SAPC).

DCC’s systems will require changes to accommodate devices complying with SMETS2 v5.0 and the associated GBCS v4.0 (as embedded at **Annex B**) and BEIS hereby requests DCC to carry out a full impact assessment within the consultation period. In summary, the expected changes to DCC Systems are to support the new use cases for the ESME with APC and SAPC Devices and to allow an SAPC to operate at Sub GHz frequency bands.

In order to mitigate the risk that the full impact assessment indicates the provision of support for Sub GHz SAPC operation in Communications Hubs cannot be achieved in time for the target go-live date of November 2020, we have provided two versions of CHTS: v1.p, which does not include Sub GHZ support; and v1.n, which includes it (both also embedded in **Annex B**). This provides the option for APC capability to be delivered in two stages if the full impact assessment suggests this is necessary. However, it would is our preference to implement only one new version of CHTS which includes the Sub GHz capability, if DCC can deliver it in time for the targeted November 2020 DCC Release. We will take a final decision once the full impact assessment has been returned to us.

Change Request Proposal 612 (CRP612) at **Annex B** presents the further changes to the technical specifications required to deliver the SMETS2 v5.0 capability, including red-line changed versions of SMETS, GBCS and CHTS. CRP612 will follow the BEIS issues management process for issue resolution, and provision has been made for a walk through at the Technical Specifications Issue Resolution Sub-group (TSIRS) meeting on the 14th November 2019 and, if necessary, via an extraordinary TSIRS meeting prior to the end of the consultation.

Responses to this consultation should be submitted **by 10am on 25 November 2019** to: [smartmetering@beis.gov.uk](mailto:smartmetering@beis.gov.uk), or addressed to:

APC Consultation

Smart Metering Implementation Programme

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy,

2nd floor, Spur,

1 Victoria Street,

London SW1H 0ET

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be subject to publication or release to other parties, or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

Individual responses to this consultation may be published and you should therefore let us know if you are not content for your response or any part of it to be published. If you indicate that you do not want your response published, we will not publish it automatically but it could still be subject to information requests as detailed above. If you do not want your individual response to be published, or to otherwise be treated as confidential, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request. For the purposes of considering access to information requests, it would also be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Yours faithfully,



**Duncan Stone**

Deputy Director and Head of Delivery,

Smart Metering Implementation Programme

**Annex A – SMETS2 v5.0 Draft 2**



**Annex B – CRP612**

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1. [https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/latest-news/beis-response-to-consultation-on-proportional-load-control-and-associated-smets-drafting-new-consultation-on-gbcs-and-chts-drafting/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsmartenergycodecompany.co.uk%2Flatest-news%2Fbeis-response-to-consultation-on-proportional-load-control-and-associated-smets-drafting-new-consultation-on-gbcs-and-chts-drafting%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cduncan.stone%40beis.gov.uk%7C261fb29db6ea41b48bb408d75ba691f2%7Ccbac700502c143ebb497e6492d1b2dd8%7C0%7C0%7C637078643276983487&sdata=lgpk5HPQYHLF3t8qlmLkUeuhMDjdXwgspoxamPPv5Uo%3D&reserved=0) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)