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<b>Paper Reference:</b>	<b>CSC_09_2611_01</b>
<b>Action:</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>

## New Draft Proposals

### 1. Purpose

This paper provides a summary of all the new Draft Proposals raised since the last Change Sub-Committee (CSC) meeting. We will verbally update the CSC on any further Draft Proposals that are raised prior to the meeting. We invite members to provide any views and comments on these Draft Proposals at this initial stage, which will help us in our assessment of the associated problem statements.

### 2. New Draft Proposals

#### DP094 'Supporting prepayment customers in no SM WAN scenarios'

DP094 has been raised by Andy Knowles of Utilita. The Lead Analyst from SECAS is Joe Hehir.

The Proposer has raised concerns that the minimum functional requirements set out in Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 2 do not result in a device that is sufficiently robust to serve smart prepayment customers effectively. Similarly, the Adoption and Enrolment of SMETS1 meters in the Data Communications Company (DCC) leads to the same loss of resilience in relation to SMETS1 meters. The Proposer would like to explore the impacts this is having and identify any ways that could resolve this.

The draft problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix A. This problem statement will be updated as we investigate the issue further during the Development Stage.

#### DP095 'Alignment of Credit Cover'

DP095 has been raised by Ash Pocock of EDF Energy. The Lead Analyst from SECAS is Bradley Baker.

In the financial years 2018/19, and 2019/20, five SEC Parties ceased trading, and it is anticipated that more will follow. This has so far resulted in unpaid DCC charges of around £731,000 being socialised amongst all other SEC Parties. Of the five parties ceasing to trade, the credit cover circumstances have varied. The most significant example is where a SEC Party had sufficient credit cover for the first month's missed payment, but not for the following months. This alone resulted in around £362,000 being socialised amongst all SEC Parties. This is a growing frustration for SEC Parties as Credit Cover requirements are intended to prevent socialised costs.

The Proposer would like to explore the current Credit Cover calculation to identify the potential to mitigate the occurrence of socialised costs across the industry.

The draft problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix B. This problem statement will be updated as we investigate the issue further during the Development Stage.

### **DP096 'DNO Power Outage Alerts'**

DP096 has been raised by Del Kang of DCC. The Lead Analyst from SECAS is Bradley Baker.

In the case of a power outage lasting more than three minutes, the DCC is obliged to provide Power Outage Alert (POAs) to Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) within a given timeframe. The SEC states that the timeframe POAs must be sent within is 60 seconds after the initial three minutes of the outage. Once power has been restored, a Power Restoration Alert (PRA) is sent to the DNO via the Data Service Provider (DSP). This must also be sent within 60 seconds. The DCC is currently unable to meet this SEC obligation and have had extended discussions with DNOs to understand their requirements.

The draft problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix C. This problem statement will be updated as we investigate the issue further during the Development Stage.

## **3. Anticipated Draft Proposals**

We have been contacted by two Proposers setting out their intention to raise a Draft Proposal. To date neither Proposer has confirmed the detail in the Draft Proposal, but we believe both have sufficient information to be discussed at the next CSC meeting.

In lieu of the problem statements, we have summarised the issues below and seek any feedback on the potential changes. If these Draft Proposals are raised before the meeting, we will circulate a copy of the problem statements to CSC Members.

### **Large Gas Meter Displays**

The SMETS sets out that Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) should display consumption values as:

1. a decimal integer number of thousandths of metres cubed, rounded down to the nearest thousandth of a metre cubed;
2. discarding all except the eight least significant decimal digits;
3. exactly eight decimal digits (adding leading zeros if necessary); and
4. the decimal point separator placed between the fourth and third least significant digits.

However, some large meters are unable to measure to thousandths of a metre cubed and, due to the greater flow rate, require more than the five most significant digits to meet Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) requirements. This conflicts with the SMETS requirement to have only five digits before a decimal point.

The Technical Specifications Issues Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS) has discussed the issue and is seeking a proposer to raise a modification to remove this obligation on Large Gas Meters.

#### **Power Outage Alerts**

Implementing an Over The Air (OTA) firmware update on some Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) generates a POA. After discussion at industry forums, manufacturers have agreed that all future OTA firmware updates would be designed so as not to initiate a POA event. However, there is no such obligation in the SEC and therefore a new ESME manufacturer may be unaware or not comply with such an agreement.

Additionally, there are still approximately 500,000 ESMEs that will continue to initiate a POA when an OTA firmware update is implemented. This issue cannot be resolved retrospectively and ultimately these meters would need to be replaced to resolve the problem. During this time, there isn't a solution that can stop POAs from being forwarded to the relevant Electricity Network Party unnecessarily.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The CSC is requested to **DISCUSS** the new Draft Proposals and provide any initial views and comments.

**Bradley Baker**

**SECAS Team**

**19 November 2019**

#### **Attachments**

- **Appendix A:** DP094 draft problem statement
- **Appendix B:** DP095 draft problem statement
- **Appendix C:** DP096 draft problem statement