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Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)

TABASC_47_1710, 17 October 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
	Ashley Pocock
	Martin Christie
	Rochelle Harrison (teleconference)
	David Hipwell (teleconference) (<i>part</i>)
	Emslie Law
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton
Other SEC Parties	Elias Hanna
	Tim Boyle

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	Helen Metcalfe (<i>alternate for Simon Harrison</i>)
	Darren Robbins (<i>part</i>)
	Ian Marshall (<i>part</i>)
	Steve Bull (<i>part</i>)
	Raj Patel (<i>part</i>)
BEIS	Joe Howard
SECAS	Phillip Twiddy
	Rebecca Jones
	Kayla Reinhart
	Rainer Lischetzki (<i>part</i>)

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	Harry Jones (<i>part</i>)
	Fiona Chestnutt (<i>part</i>)

Absent	
Small Suppliers	James Kirk

Apologies	
Large Supplier	Grahame Weir
DCC	Simon Harrison

1. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

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.	The TABASC agreed for SECAS to formally transfer this action to the SEC Operations Group. Action CLOSED . ACTION TABASC47/01: The DCC to confirm whether it continues to expect the T3 Aerial solution to be used or not.
TABASC45/03 The TABASC Chair and SECAS to speak with the policy maker and participate in working groups for market-wide half hourly settlements and meter splitting.	SECAS and the TABASC Chair are meeting with the policy maker on 21 October 2019. An update will be provided to the TABASC at the November 2019 meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC46/01 SECAS to present the analytical data for BAM usage and downloads of the BAD and TAD at the next TABASC meeting on 17 October 2019.	An update was provided under agenda item 5. Action CLOSED .

Action Reference	Update
TABASC46/02 SECAS to present a forecast for the CPL enhancement project at the October TABASC meeting with updated timescales and RAG statuses, to be reported up to the meeting paper day rather than the end of the preceding month going forward.	An update was provided under agenda item 6. Action CLOSED .
TABASC46/03 SECAS to reassess the pre- and post-rankings for Risk 11.11 considering the most recently calculated costs and present to the TABASC at the next meeting on 17 October 2019.	An update was provided under agenda item 9. Action CLOSED .
TABASC46/04 DCC to confirm the contractual arrangements for extending the duration of 2G coverage including whether the contract must be mutually agreed.	The DCC will provide an update at the November 2019 TABASC meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC46/05 SECAS to amend the CPL enhancement project milestones and rankings on the TABASC Activity Planner based on current progress.	An update is provided under agenda item 10. Action CLOSED .
TABASC46/06 DCC to share the classification criteria for Change Co-ordination rankings at a future TABASC meeting.	An update is provided under agenda item 11. Action CLOSED .

¹ Risk 11.1 – The sunset of 2G/3G mobile coverage will impact WAN coverage in CSP C/S regions and for SMETS1 installations.

Action Reference	Update
TABASC46/07 DCC to share the finalised 4G Communications Hubs Business Requirements Document with TABASC members by mid-October for review at the November 2019 TABASC meeting.	The DCC will share the finalised 4G Communications Hubs Business Requirements Document (BRD) with TABASC Members at the end of October to be discussed at the November 2019 TABASC meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC46/09 DCC to confirm the intention of the ECS licence including whether test services are encompassed, or the scope is restricted to production services.	This action was not discussed at the October 2019 TABASC meeting however, the DCC will provide clarity at the November 2019 meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC46/10 DCC (HM) to present an update on the DCC Elective Communications Service Business Requirements for approval at the October 2019 TABASC meeting.	An update was provided under agenda item 3. Action CLOSED .
TABASC46/11 BEIS to provide further clarity on aspects of the HAN coverage model.	An update was provided under agenda item 14. Action CLOSED .
TABASC46/12 SECAS to re-assess the severity of TABASC Risks 3.12 and 3.23 and include on the agenda for discussion at the October 2019 TABASC meeting.	An update was provided under agenda item 9. Action CLOSED .

² Risk 3.1 – HAN performance of the 2.4GHz HAN solutions fails to provide expected coverage for 70% of in scope premises.

³ Risk 3.2 – HAN performance of the 868MHz HAN solution fails to provide expected coverage for 25% of in scope premises.

Action Reference	Update
TABASC46/13 SECAS to liaise with a TABASC Large Supplier Member to capture the full extent of the issues that trigger 8F3E alerts.	The TABASC was advised that the Operations Group is dealing with the issues and Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS) is leading the 8F3E alert issue to ensure it is being looked at, however TSIRS do not own the issue. Action CLOSED .
TABASC46/14 SECAS to scope the work required to assess potential technical specification changes in connection to higher loads of Alert issues and present at the October meeting.	SECAS will develop a Project Initiation Document (PID) and provide to the TABASC at the November 2019 meeting. Action OPEN .
TABASC46/15 SECAS to investigate why the TABASC were not part of the decision for only one system release per year and present at the October 2019 TABASC meeting.	SECAS clarified that it was never intended for there to only be one SMETS/CHTS/DUIS/GBCS impacting release per year. The intention has been to seek to collate all such changes into a single release per year wherever possible, noting the impacts that implementing new versions of these documents have on Users. However, it is acknowledged there may be the need for additional such releases in a year (e.g. for high-priority or urgent changes), and that flexibility must exist to accommodate this. Action CLOSED .
TABASC46/16 SECAS to investigate the viability of third parties providing an interim supply service to customers during a SoLR event and provide an update at the October 2019 TABASC meeting.	An update is provided under agenda item 4. Action CLOSED .

2. Centralised Switching Service (CSS) Interface Code of Connection

The DCC provided an update to the TABASC regarding the CSS Code of Connection highlighting that this is looking into network access options for connecting users and DCC to a Central Switching Solution, which will enable faster switching. One of the access options is via the internet because

CSS systems are hosted in a Microsoft cloud environment which natively supports internet connectivity. The DCC also recognises that there is a need for Smart Metering Gamma network connectivity to smart metering infrastructure, which will also be securely supported. Private networks are also supported to provide secure connectivity to, for instance, switching data providers.

There are three network options available:

- Internet;
- Private Network; and
- Switching Adapter Solution.

The TABASC was provided with a diagram of how each of the three options will work and the security procedures that are in place. The key point irrespective of which mode of access is chosen is applying the same security model, transport layer targeting TLS1.3 and, where that is not available, then TLS1.2 will be sufficient. All messages in and out of CSS will be signed with a certificate for authorisation and integrity purposes, and any going to the DCC will be signed with a SMKI key.

Integration with Smart Metering will be via the DCC Gamma network with the TLS connection secured using DCCKI keys and messages signed with SMKI keys. For all other interactions, a separate hosted PKI will be used with separate keys for TLS and message signing.

The TABASC questioned the back-off and retry provisions for messages attempted but not acknowledged. The DCC explained that these are set out in the Code of Connection and considered these appropriate.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

3. DCC Elective Communications Service

The DCC provided an update to the TABASC regarding the DCC Elective Communications Service (ECS) highlighting the draft business requirements developed for the SEC Panel and its Sub-Committees. The TABASC provided several comments.

The DCC noted that the formal pathway for ECS to go live will go through Pre-Integration Testing (PIT), System Integration Testing (SIT), User Integration Testing (UIT) and Regression Testing. ECS must be a Permitted Communications Service.

The DCC noted that the Consultation on the Release Management Policy was open and the DCC will seek to publish a supporting ECS Release Management Policy.

DCC will return to the November 2019 TABASC meeting to demonstrate that there are not any gaps in the service.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

4. Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) Update (**AMBER**)

SECAS provided an update on the ongoing work to address issues surrounding SoLR and debated the merits of the different options. A further update is provided in the confidential minutes.

SECAS requested that any TABASC input on the SoLR options be submitted to Phillip Twiddy.

ACTION TABASC47/02: TABASC Members to provide any input on the SoLR options to Phillip Twiddy.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

5. SMETS1 Services Release BAD & TAD Project Update – September 2019

SECAS informed the TABASC that the Business Architecture Document (BAD) and Technical Architecture Document (TAD) project is complete. It was also noted that the design notes are being finalised into a new version of the BAD to be published on the SEC Website shortly. SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on the usage of the BAD and TAD month by month, noting that since versions 3.0 of the BAD and TAD were published in June, they have been downloaded a total of 137 and 109 times respectively.

SECAS advised that it has not been able to track the BAM usage due to changes implemented to ensure compliance with new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), but Gemserv is looking into this on a wider basis.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

6. CPL Enhancement Project Update

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on the CPL enhancement project. The TABASC was requested to agree the proposal to re-baseline the dates with the project due to complete on 24 November 2019. The project is currently running over budget; however, it was noted that SECAS are investigating whether resource can be reallocated from the final milestone (documentation and training) into the Implementation milestone to mitigate this.

SECAS is currently focusing on developing an enhanced CPL New Entry Form and SharePoint area for storing files.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update and **AGREED** the re-baselined project dates.

7. TABASC Lookback Report – Q2 (July – September 2019) Work Package

SECAS provided the TABASC with the lookback report against the work package for Quarter 2 (July – September 2019) outlining the actual days against estimated days effort, with the actuals being within the estimated budget. The actuals vs budget for the BAD and TAD project and CPL Enhancement Project were also provided.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

8. Non-GBCS Non-Mandated Alert Code Management

SECAS proposed a process for adding Alerts to the Non-GBCS Non-Mandated (NGNM) Alert Code Register to the TABASC. To raise a new NGNM Alert Code, a form needs to be filled in and sent to SECAS to validate. The Alert proposal is then sent on to TSIRS for agreement. Once TSIRS give the go ahead, it is then sent to the TABASC for agreement before it is assigned a new Alert Code and added to the register.

It was clarified that the Alerts contained within the NGNM Register are expected to be incorporated into GBCS by a SEC Modification being raised by an interested party.

The TABASC **AGREED** the process for adding Alerts to the 'Non-GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts Register'

9. TABASC Risk Register

A number of risks on the TABASC Risk Register were reviewed and discussed this month, including:

- TABASC011⁴ – SECAS proposed to develop a PID in regard to the mitigation to 'develop a strategy to avoid or address risk of obsolescence. The ranking has also been updated to reflect the increased assessment of impact of TABASC11.1.
- TABASC11.1⁵– following feedback from the September TABASC meeting, the probability of the risk was amended from 5 to 4, the impact of the risk amended from 2 to 5. The risk management plan was also updated.
- TABASC017⁶ – updates provided to reflect the engagement and planning of SoLR.
- TABASC03.2⁷– updates made following the update from BEIS on the HAN coverage at the September 2019 TABASC meeting.

⁴ DCC system and/or other parts of the Smart Metering infrastructure becomes technically obsolete.

⁵ The sunset of 2G/3G mobile coverage will impact WAN coverage in CSP C/S regions and for SMETS1 installations.

⁶ Supplier of Last Resort processes could have an adverse impact on the ability to serve.

⁷ HAN performance of the 868MHz HAN solution fails to provide expected 25% of in scope premises.

ACTION TABASC47/03: SECAS to develop PID(s) to address relevant TABASC risks and issues and to address the Panel's Strategic Action Plan where TABASC is the owner.

ACTION TABASC47/04: SECAS to create a TABASC issues log alongside the risk register to present to the TABASC monthly, starting at the November TABASC meeting.

ACTION TABASC47/05: SECAS to provide the TABASC with the SEC Strategic Plan at the November meeting, focusing on the TABASC associated known industry topics which may have an impact on the SEC arrangements.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

10. TABASC Activity Planner

SECAS provided the TABASC with the activity planner noting that the targeted start and end dates per milestone and activity were updated for Activity 11: 'CPL Enhancements Project'.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

11. DCC Change Coordination

The DCC provided an update on the DCC Change Co-ordination pilot project, highlighting how the risk assessment works and the factors influencing the heatmap risk status.

A table was provided to the TABASC with a scoring system based on whether it is core service or customer affecting, the complexity and the downtime required. The scores are used to calculate a risk score, which reflects a RAG status in the heatmap.

The TABASC provided feedback and specifically noted that more detail around how the Firmware upgrade risk status is determined is needed as it should be viewed as a business as usual activity.

ACTION TABASC47/06: The DCC to return to the November 2019 TABASC meeting to provide scenarios and how they are attributed with a risk status, as part of the DCC Change Coordination.

The TABASC asked if the Technical Operations Centre (TOC) was feeding into this, and the DCC advised that TOC have not looked into this yet but are due to.

It was also clarified that the pilot project is running in parallel with the associated Modification Proposal [SECMP083 – Change Coordination](#).

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

12. DCC Update

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

- The finalised 4G Communications Hubs Business Requirements Document (BRD) will be circulated at the end of October 2019.
- A T3 Aerials customer session was held on 16 October and the DCC is intending to have written up a clear position from CSP C/S to present to the TABASC in November 2019.

The TABASC **NOTED** the DCC update.

13. Sub-Committee Update

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The TABASC Chair advised that the SSC is looking at solutions for use cases for Meter Triage. A workshop has been set up by the SSC for Wednesday 6 November to go through the details. The TABASC Chair believed that once the options have been developed, the TABASC should discuss them.

Smart Meter Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)

The TABASC Chair advised that there were no notable updates from SMKI PMA this month.

Operations Group

SECAS informed the TABASC of the Operations Group activities, particularly regarding the consideration of [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#) and the expectation that TABASC will have responsibility for the list of prioritised Service Requests.

The Operations Group also received a presentation from the DCC and Service Providers on the ability to scale up and passed queries over the CSP N presentation to the TABASC as a formal action.

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

ACTION TABASC47/07: As per transferred OPSG action 24/06: DCC to explain the CSP N Scalability approach.

14. BEIS Update

BEIS provided the TABASC with a presentation listing the recent and upcoming BEIS publications and consultations.

BEIS also provided an update on the HAN Coverage Model following action TABASC46/11, highlighting that the 868 MHz model [provides-predicts at least](#) 95% coverage.

The TABASC **NOTED** the BEIS update.

15. CodeWorks – The Digital SEC

SECAS provided the TABASC with an overview of [The Digital SEC](#) on CodeWorks highlighting that this platform allows you to search through the SEC easier by filtering by Party types, keywords and more. CodeWorks launched on 23 September 2019 with the Digital SEC. It was noted that there is a plan for further releases, the first being in November 2019 where a more collaborative Modification Process is envisaged; enhancements to the Security Self-Assessments process will follow in March 2020. The TABASC was given a step by step guide on how to use CodeWorks and shown how to register for the platform.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

16. 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/Modification Proposals where the TABASC provided comments previously and which required further action to be taken or a response from the Proposer was provided below:

- [MP080 'Ensuring a managed move to DUIS version 3.1'](#) – is currently in the Refinement Process. The TABASC noted the need to future proof this modification. The TABASC also noted its interest in any development of this Modification Proposal.
- [MP078 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Part 2'](#) – SECAS noted that the finalised list of IRPs is being sent for preliminary assessment to the DCC. The TABASC advised that IRP586 is missing from the list of finalised IRPs, SECAS advised it would look into why this is not on the list. The TABASC noted its interest in any development of this Modification Proposal.

Post-Meeting Note: *The DCC were not willing to include IRP586 in the Preliminary Assessment as at the time it was unconfirmed by TSIRS. After discussing this with the DCC SECAS agreed to finalise the list at the start of October 2019 to allow the Service Providers to process the request and still have sufficient DCC lead-time following. It was brought to light at the time that IRP586 had two possible solutions, and the Preliminary Assessment would not reflect the eventual decided outcome of IRP586.*

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

- [DP088 'Power to raise Modifications'](#) – The TABASC does not require further involvement in the Draft Proposal.
- [DP089 'Changes to Appendix R 'Common Testing Scenarios Document''](#) – The TABASC noted their interest in any development of this Draft Proposal.

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- [DP090 'Incorporation of Non-GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts into the SEC'](#) – The TABASC noted their interest in any development of this Draft Proposal.

The TABASC noted its role in providing support and advice in respect of Modification Proposals that affect or are likely to require change to the Technical Code Specifications, the End-to-End Technical Architecture and/or the Business Architecture. It was noted that TABASC should be using the Modification Process TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals.

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

ACTION TABASC47/08: SECAS to re-evaluate the TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals for the TABASC consideration.

17. SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection' and SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management' Updates

Due to time constraints, this paper (specifically SECMP0067) was not discussed and postponed to the November TABASC meeting. However, Steve Bull from the DCC joined the meeting to provide technical details on [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management - Alert Storm Protection'](#).

The DCC noted that alert storms occur when Devices repeatedly send alerts to DCC systems and Service Users. Devices pose a risk on entering a state whereby they repeatedly and rapidly generate the same Device alert, adding potentially large volumes of traffic through the Communication Service Provider (CSP), which in turn results in increased traffic between the DCC systems and Service Users. Currently, there is little protection against alert storms, meaning that due to some current errors in operation, excessive alerts are passing through the systems and the proposal is to consolidate alerts based on the unique combination of Device and Alert. The TABASC asked several questions about the information provided to Users when consolidation starts and about the configuration for starting and stopping filtering.

The DCC advised that specific alert codes may be configured to be excluded from the protection mechanism, but unless excluded, a global configuration setting is used for each Alert Code. It was reiterated that that Alert filtering would be implemented per Device per Alert Code (so an Alert would not be filtered if it were a new Alert Code from a Device subject to traffic management for other Alerts, or if it were from a new Device).

This does not change anything to do with Anomaly Detection Threshold (ADT) nor Anomaly Detection Attribute (ADA).

TABASC requested further consideration be given to the operation of the traffic management solution given the discussions and also to provide detailed technical information explaining the operating process and criteria for both SECMP0062 & SECMP0067.

ACTION TABASC47/09: The DCC to provide the TABASC with a technical update on [SECMP0067](#) 'Service Request Traffic Management' in the November 2019 meeting.

ACTION TABASC47/10: The DCC to provide the TABASC with detailed technical information explaining the operating process and criteria for both SECMP0062 and SECMP0067.

18. Any Other Business (AOB)

A TABASC member raised an issue surrounding alerts being lost during DCC outages, which Suppliers consider to be a significant concern as business-critical Alerts could be lost. The issue arises when the alert leaves the Communications Hub and what happens to those alerts in the event of a DCC outage; currently it looks as though those alerts will be lost and not recoverable. Energy UK put forward four suggestions for the TABASC to consider:

- Assessing the current DCC technical architecture and its limitations – this needs to be supported by DCC analysis.
- Understanding the regulatory position in terms of requirements on DCC within its Licence and the SEC.
- Establishing an appropriate set of options with DCC to resolve the technical limitations in the short term and long term.
- DCC developing a business case for the identified options to allow for a robust assessment in due course.

This issue has been raised by a number of Large Suppliers as a concern. The Operations Group will look into this issue but there is a concern that this could be a growing problem going forward. The TABASC is believed to be the best committee to discuss the issue which appears to be architectural.

ACTION TABASC47/11: The DCC, TABASC Chair and SECAS to discuss the issue of alerts being lost during DCC outages and agree the next steps.

Another AOB was raised, around the recent restrictions on firmware updates in Central and South region.

ACTION TABASC47/12: The DCC to provide details as to the restrictions on firmware updates in Central and South region and provide clarity over the method of communications of that constraint.

Lastly, SECAS informed the TABASC that four nominations for the three Larger Supplier seats have been received during the election process so this will go to a vote. No nominations have been received for the Small Supplier seat and the Gas Networks seat.

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

19. Transitional Governance Update – October 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 – October 2019

The Change Status Report, which provides information on the progress of Smart Energy Code (SEC) Draft Proposals, Modification Proposals and Releases.