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Action:	For Discussion

New Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals

1. Purpose

This paper provides a summary of the new Draft Proposals raised and the Draft Proposals that have converted to Modification Proposals in the last month. Copies of the draft or approved problem statements for each proposal are attached to this paper.

We seek any initial comments the Operations Group (OPSG) may have on these proposals at these stages in the framework, and agreement on which proposals it will want to provide further input on as they progress.

2. New Draft Proposals

This section lists the new Draft Proposals submitted in the last month and which have entered the Development Stage. At this point in the process, we are focused on assessing and clarifying the issue identified, the impacts this is having (including the impact of doing nothing), and the context of this issue within the SEC. Solutions will not be discussed until the Change Sub-Committee has agreed the problem statement has been fully defined.

We invite any views from the OPSG on the issue identified under each proposal, the impacts this may be having, and any areas the Proposer may need to consider further as part of developing their problem statement.

[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 concern that the minimum functional requirements set out in Smart Meter Technical Specifications (SMETS2) do not result in a device that is sufficiently robust to serve smart prepayment customers effectively. Similarly, the Enrolment and Adoption of SMETS1 meters in the Data Communications Company (DCC) leads to the same loss of resilience in relation to SMETS1 meters.

Anticipated Operational Impacts

If the DCC is unable to remotely resolve the Smart Meter Wide Area Network (SM WAN) coverage in an area, the next step may require an engineer to be sent to the site by the Supplier to resolve the problem, which is not economically viable. Furthermore, issues with SM WAN coverage can result in

an increased amount of customer contact with the Proposer. We welcome any comments from the OPSG on this issue.

The draft problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix A.

DP095 'Alignment of Credit Cover'

DP095 has been raised by Ashley 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 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.

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.

Anticipated Operational Impacts

At this current stage, we do not anticipate any operational impacts arising from this modification. We request the OPSG to advise further.

The draft problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix B.

DP096 'DNO Power Outage Alerts'

DP096 has been raised by Del Kang of the 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 Alerts (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 has had extended discussions with DNOs to understand their requirements.

Anticipated Operational Impacts

As this proposal looks at amending the current obligations of the SEC and researching the current capabilities of the CSPs we expect there could potentially be operational impacts. We request that the OPSG advise further.

The draft problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix C.

DP097 'Improving SMETS2 Meter Installs for New Connections'

DP097 has been raised by David Walsh of the DCC. The Lead Analyst from SECAS is Ali Beard.

The Electricity Supply Licence states that in the case of New Connections (e.g. new houses) the Supplier needs to check there is WAN coverage before attending site to install a smart meter, using the SM WAN Coverage Database. The wording in SEC Appendix H 'CH Handover Support Materials' paragraph 3.3 advises that a customer can only raise a Service Management Service Request where there is no postcode. There can be a time delay from the release of a postcode from the Royal Mail, and the update of the Coverage Database; this can cause a response of 'no premises found', a scenario not covered in Appendix H.

Anticipated Operational Impacts

We anticipate potential operational impacts as this modification is looking to remove a barrier to allow more efficient operations.

The draft problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix D.

3. Draft Proposals converted to Modification Proposals

This section summarises the Draft Proposals that were converted to Modification Proposals by the Panel at its last meeting and which have entered the Refinement Process. At this stage, the issue has been agreed and we have begun developing the business requirements for any solution with the Proposer and the DCC.

We invite any initial views and considerations from the OPSG to feed into the development and assessment of solutions to the issue. We also seek agreement with the OPSG as to which of these they will need to provide further input on, including commenting on the business requirements as they are developed.

The OPSG reviewed the following changes at Draft Proposal stage and did not believe there was any operational impact:

- [MP085 'Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods'](#)
- [MP088 'Power to raise modifications'](#)
- [MP090 'Incorporation OF Non GBCS Non-Mandated Alerts into the SEC'](#)
- [MP093 'Implementing IRP511 and CRP535 to support GBCS v3.2 devices'](#)

The Operations Group believed there was a potential operations impact or interest in the following proposals when it reviewed them at Draft Proposal stage:

MP092 'New Planned Maintenance Methodology'

DP092 was raised by Chris Thompson of the DCC. The Lead Analyst is Adam Lattimore.

In April 2019 the DCC began a trial of a new approach regarding the delivery of Planned Maintenance. The new approach sought to categorise planned changes as either low or high impact, based upon a risk-based methodology. It also amended the timings with which Planned Maintenance was scheduled and implemented.

Following a final report to the Operations Group, this Draft Proposal was presented to the Panel where it was agreed that it would become a Modification Proposal and would enter the Refinement Process.

The problem statement containing the information provided by the Proposer can be found in Appendix E.

4. Recommendations

The Operations Group is requested to **DISCUSS** the proposals in this paper and provide any views or comments.

Bradley Baker

SECAS Team

26 November 2019

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** DP094 draft problem statement
- **Appendix B:** DP095 draft problem statement
- **Appendix C:** DP096 draft problem statement
- **Appendix D:** DP097 draft problem statement
- **Appendix E:** MP092 final problem statement