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Paper Reference:	SECP_76_1701_23
Action:	For Decision

SEC Releases update

1. Purpose

This paper provides an update on the scope of the SEC Releases in 2020 and 2021 and asks the Panel to re-baseline the Release Implementation Document (RID) for the June 2020 SEC Release. We have also reviewed the acceptance criteria to be used for SEC Releases and ask the Panel to agree an updated set for use going forward.

2. June 2020 SEC Release

The Panel previously approved two DCC System-impacting modifications for inclusion in the June 2020 SEC Release on 25 June 2020:

- [SECMP0053 'Amend Target Response Times for Service Requests Critical to Installation and Commissioning Processes'](#)
- [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#) part 1

We are proposing that the following modifications that don't impact DCC Systems are also included in scope:

- [MP079 'Provisions for withdrawing modifications'](#)
- [MP084 'Other User Panel Seating Amendment'](#)
- [MP088 'Power to raise modifications'](#)

The DCC has also provided the list of DCC Change Requests that it plans to implement alongside this SEC Release, and these can be found in the RID.

The June 2020 SEC RID has been updated to include these modifications, and can be found in Appendix A. We are asking the Panel to re-baseline this document for this updated scope.

The SEC Release Management Policy lays out that the scope of a SEC Release on the SEC documentation should be set six months before go-live. We would therefore not expect any further modifications to be added to the scope after this meeting. However, the Panel can still choose to add further modifications to the scope of this SEC Release if it would be necessary or more efficient to do so, and these would be managed as exceptions under the project.

The DCC In-Life Change Team is investigating multiple Test Approach options for the delivery of this SEC Release. These will be presented to the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) in January.

3. November 2020 SEC Release

SECAS and the DCC have reviewed the DCC System-impacting modifications previously targeted for the November 2020 SEC Release. We currently understand that only the following modifications could be included:

- [SECMP0046 'Allow DNOs to control Electric Vehicle chargers connected to Smart Meter infrastructure'](#)
- [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#) part 2
- [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#)
- [MP093 'Implementing IRP511 and CRP535 to support GBCS v3.2 devices'](#)

Following this meeting, we will update the November 2020 SEC RID to reflect this reduced scope on the DCC Systems. This RID is due to be returned to the Panel in May 2020 to be re-baselined for modifications that don't impact DCC Systems.

4. 2021 SEC Releases

Following our review of implementation timelines with the DCC, the following DCC System-impacting modifications previously targeted for the November 2020 SEC Release are now expected to be implemented in 2021. At this stage, we have not determined whether each would better fit into the June or the November SEC Release.

- [SECMP0007 'Firmware updates to IHDs and PPMIDs'](#)
- [SECMP0015 'GPF timestamp for reading instantaneous Gas values'](#)
- [SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'](#)
- [SECMP0056 'IHD / PPMID Zigbee Attributes Available on the HAN'](#)
- [MP078 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Part 2'](#)

The DCC has highlighted that it is not possible to deliver the above modifications as part of the November 2020 SEC Release due to the following reasons:

1. There is a dependency on two key Communication Service Provider (CSP) firmware changes being delivered prior to development commencing on any of the above modifications, specifically the dependency relates to DCC Change Requests CR1057 and CR1047. Whilst CR1057 is at an advanced stage, there are currently no committed timelines for CR1047, although it is expected to be delivered in Q4 2020. The DCC is working with the CSPs to establish a clear plan for the delivery of CR1047 which will enable the DCC to confirm the timeline for the delivery of the above modifications.
2. Testing CSP firmware changes typically takes significantly longer than the testing of modifications that only impact the Data Service Provider (DSP). Previous experience suggests that it is prudent to incorporate additional test cycles into the plan, which has an obvious impact on the timeline. The DCC, along with SECAS and the Service Providers, is looking at ways of shortening the amount of time required to test CSP Firmware changes, focussing primarily on the early identification (and remediation) of defects to reduce the number of test cycles required. The DCC will provide further updates as work progresses.

Once the final Impact Assessments have been received from the Service Providers, the DCC will challenge the position that development of these modifications cannot commence until CR1057 has been delivered and CR1047 has exited Pre-Integration Testing (PIT); however, it is unlikely that this position will change. Additionally, the DCC is working on the assumption (based on guidance previously provided by SECAS) that both CSPs must deliver the above modifications at the same time as each other; if this assumption is proven to be incorrect then it may be possible that partial delivery (i.e. one CSP only) of some or all of the above modifications could be accelerated, although this would need further exploration and qualification.

There are six other modifications which are currently undergoing or have recently undergone Preliminary Assessment, with more expected to be submitted over the coming months. We will determine if these are also candidates for the 2021 SEC Releases once the DCC's estimated lead times have been received as part of its responses.

5. Acceptance criteria for SEC Releases

Following feedback from the November 2019 SEC Release, we have reviewed the acceptance criteria we have been using for SEC Releases. Our proposed set of criteria to use going forward can be found in Annex 1. We have based these on the acceptance criteria used as part of the SMETS1 Enrolment and Adoption programme, which received positive feedback when used by the Sub-Committees.

We would include these standard acceptance criteria in the RID for a SEC Release when it is baselined 12 months before go-live. These will then be confirmed as needed, as the scope of the SEC Release becomes clearer and the testing approach agreed. The Panel will be asked to approve any amendments needed to the acceptance criteria for the SEC Release as part of re-baselining the RID six months before go-live.

We are asking the Panel to agree the standard acceptance criteria for use going forward. The criteria in the June 2020 SEC RID in Appendix A have also been updated in line with this approach.

6. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **AGREE** the targeted scope for the June 2020 SEC Release on the SEC documentation;
- **BASELINE** the June 2020 SEC Release Implementation Document;
- **AGREE** the proposed scopes for subsequent SEC Releases on the DCC Systems; and
- **AGREE** the standard acceptance criteria to be used for SEC Releases.

David Kemp

SECAS Team

10 January 2020

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** June 2020 SEC Release Implementation Document v1.1

Annex 1: Standard SEC Release acceptance criteria

Operational acceptance criteria – reviewed by the Operations Group

1. The DCC has brought to readiness all the new and changed components needed to provide the new services. This will include completing the service design and proving the service operations capability.
2. The DCC has demonstrated that all pre-existing services will be stable in the run-up to deployment of the release.
3. The DCC has proven that the new services can be operated alongside, and integrated with, the existing services.
4. The DCC has assessed the risk posed by existing problems and defects in the existing live service, and the implications these will have for the revised service.
5. The DCC has demonstrated that lessons learnt from previous SEC Releases and other DCC changes have been taken on board.
6. The DCC has demonstrated there will be no detrimental impact on consumers' experience.
7. The DCC has completed assurance of the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery processes.
8. SECAS will be ready to implement the approved changes to the SEC on the agreed implementation date.
9. SECAS has brought to readiness all the new and changed components that it is responsible for that are needed to support the new services.

Testing acceptance criteria – reviewed by the TAG

1. The DCC has developed the coding for each approved change and confirmed it will be able to deploy this to the production environment on the agreed implementation date.
2. The DCC has completed and closed each test phase against the agreed exit criteria specified in the Testing Approach Document (TAD).
3. The DCC has successfully completed regression testing.
4. The DCC has confirmed that there are no Severity 1 or 2 defects outstanding that would be deployed to the production environment.
5. The DCC has produced a clear resolution plan for any outstanding Severity 3, 4 or 5 defects and that the number of remaining testing issues is within the agreed threshold figures specified in the TAD.
6. The DCC has demonstrated that the Systems and User Integration Testing (SIT and UIT) test environments were aligned to the solution being deployed to the production environment; if there were any differences, these were identified and the risks these posed demonstrably managed.

Security acceptance criteria – reviewed by the Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

1. The DCC has completed relevant security testing and obtained approval of the security architecture.

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June 2020 SEC Release (25 June 2020)

SEC Release Implementation Document Version 1.1

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About this document

This document is the Smart Energy Code (SEC) Release Implementation Document (RID) for the [June 2020 SEC Release](#), due to be implemented on 25 June 2020. It summarises the scope of the release, the impacts it will have, the timeline and testing strategy, the central costs that will be incurred, and the acceptance criteria for this release.

This document will be updated periodically as the release develops.

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This document also has one annex:

- **Annex A** will contain the Data Communication Company's (DCC's) SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) for this release – this document will be produced by the DCC at a later date.

1. Scope

Approved Modification Proposals

One Modification Proposal has been approved for inclusion in this release:

- [SECMP0053 'Amend Target Response Times for Service Requests Critical to Installation and Commissioning Processes'](#) will reduce the Target Response Times for time-critical Service Requests relating to the installation and commissioning process.

Targeted Modification Proposals

The following Modification Proposals will be included in this release if a decision to approve is received by the respective cut-off dates:

- [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#) proposes to put in place a traffic management system for Alerts issued by Devices to protect the DCC System and Service Users against alert storms originating from a single Device. SECMP0062 is being implemented in two parts, with the first part of the solution, the mechanism for throttling Alerts, being implemented in this release. The second stage of the solution will be implemented in a later release and will cover the changes to allow Users to be notified of throttled Alerts via the metadata in the Alerts that are allowed through.
- [MP079 'Provisions for withdrawing modifications'](#) proposes to grant the SEC Panel the power to withdraw Modification Proposals if feedback from the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) and the Working Group suggest this is the appropriate course of action.
- [MP084 'Other User Panel Seating Amendment'](#) proposes to create a seat on the SEC Panel to ensure representation from the Other Users sub-set of the Other SEC Parties category.
 - The Proposed Solution is to require one of the existing Other SEC Party seats to be filled by an Other User.
 - The Alternative Solution is to create a new seat on the Panel specifically for Other Users.
- [MP088 'Power to raise modifications'](#) proposes to expand the list of Parties that can raise Draft Proposals to include SECAS, the SEC Panel and Sub-Committees.

No further modifications that impact on DCC Systems are expected to be added. Further modifications that do not impact on DCC Systems may be added as exceptions to the scope of this release later, subject to Panel approval.

DCC Change Requests

The following DCC Change Request is being targeted for implementation alongside this SEC Release:

- CR1088 'DCC Production Proving' proposes that the DCC should undertake production proving activities. This involves conducting tests using production meters and other Devices in the live production environment. The key benefit of this activity is to provide additional assurance of the smart metering production network, systems and Devices.



DCC Change Requests do not form part of a SEC Release, and so this RID does not cover the details of the impacts these will have.

2. Impacts

This section lists the impacts that the changes included in this SEC Release will have on participants and their systems, SEC documents and other industry codes. This section assumes all targeted modifications will be approved for inclusion in this release.

SEC Party and DCC impacts

Participant impact matrix					
Modification	Suppliers	Electricity Networks	Gas Networks	Other SEC Parties	DCC
SECMP0053	✓				✓
SECMP0062	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MP079	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MP084				✓	
MP088					

The impacts on the different participants are summarised below. The business requirements for each Modification Proposal are annexed to the Modification Reports for each modification, which are available on the corresponding modifications' webpages.

SEC Party impacts	
Participant	Summary of impacts
Supplier Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers will receive a response to Service Requests 6.14.1 'Update Device Configuration (Auxiliary Load Control Description)', 6.14.2 'Update Device Configuration (Auxiliary Load Control Scheduler)' and 7.9 'Add Auxiliary Load to Boost Button' within 30 seconds, rather than 24 hours. Suppliers may be subject to the throttling of Alerts from Devices that exceed defined thresholds. Modification Proposals raised by Suppliers may be subject to withdrawal by the SEC Panel.
Electricity Network Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity Network Parties may be subject to the throttling of Alerts from Devices that exceed defined thresholds. Modification Proposals raised by Electricity Network Parties may be subject to withdrawal by the SEC Panel.
Gas Network Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas Network Parties may be subject to the throttling of Alerts from Devices that exceed defined thresholds. Modification Proposals raised by Gas Network Parties may be subject to withdrawal by the SEC Panel.
Other SEC Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties may be subject to the throttling of Alerts from Devices that exceed defined thresholds. Modification Proposals raised by Other SEC Parties may be subject to withdrawal by the SEC Panel. Other Users will have a seat on the Panel to be filled by a representative for this sub-group of Other SEC Parties.

DCC impacts	
Area impacted	Summary of impacts
Communications Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Communications Service Providers will need to ensure that a response to Service Requests 6.14.1, 6.14.2 and 7.9 are received by the User within 30 seconds.
Data Service Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Data Service Provider will throttle Alerts issued by Devices when the number of a specific Alert exceeds the set thresholds.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modification Proposals raised by the DCC may be subject to withdrawal by the SEC Panel.

SEC document impacts

The following documents will be updated in this release:

- Section A 'Definitions and Interpretation'
- Section C 'Governance'
- Section D 'Modification Process'
- Section G 'Security'
- Section H 'DCC Services'
- Section L 'Smart Metering Key Infrastructure and DCC Key Infrastructure'
- Appendix E 'DCC User Interface Services Schedule'
- Appendix AB 'Service Request Processing Document'
- Appendix AH 'Self Service Interface Access Control Specification'

Each of these documents is impacted by the following modification(s):

SEC document impact matrix					
Document	SECMP0053	SECMP0062	MP079	MP084	MP088
Section A		✓			
Section C				✓	
Section D			✓		✓
Section G					✓
Section H		✓			
Section L					✓
Appendix E	✓				
Appendix AB		✓			
Appendix AH		✓			

The approved changes to each document are annexed to the Modification Reports for each modification, which are available on the corresponding modifications' webpages.

Other Code impacts

No other Codes are impacted as a result of this SEC Release.

3. Implementation timeline

This section lists the planned timeline for the implementation of this release.

This timeline includes the dates on which decisions on modifications are anticipated, dates for when the System Integration Testing (SIT) and User Integration Testing (UIT) test phases are planned to commence and complete, and key governance steps for the Panel and the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) to complete.

Please note that the DCC is currently working with the TAG to determine the most effective testing approach for this SEC Release. Dates for the production of the TAD, testing windows and the submission and approval of the SIT and UIT Completion Reports will be provided following these discussions. Dates are based on scheduled meetings, but ad-hoc meetings may be required in order to sign these documents off.

Release implementation timetable		
Date	Event	Notes
11 Oct 19	Panel baselines RID for system-impacting modifications	The Panel will review the RID for DCC System-impacting modifications (including modifications targeted but not approved) and baseline the document.
17 Jan 20	Panel baselines RID for non-system-impacting modifications	The Panel will review the RID for non-DCC System-impacting modifications (including modifications targeted but not approved) and re-baseline the document to include these.
	DCC submits draft SEC Release TAD	
	TAG reviews draft SEC Release TAD	
	DCC consults on draft SEC Release TAD	The DCC will consult the industry on the draft TAD.
	DCC submits updated SEC Release TAD	The TAD will be updated to account for comments provided by the TAG and from the consultation.
	TAG reviews updated SEC Release TAD	The TAG will provide a view to the Panel on whether this document is suitable for use.
	Panel reviews SEC Release TAD	The Panel will review the TAD and incorporate it into the RID.
	SIT commences	
	DCC submits SIT Completion Report	
	TAG reviews SIT Completion Report	The TAG will provide a recommendation to the Panel on whether SIT has been completed successfully.
	Panel approves SIT Completion Report	
	Test Participants inform DCC of their regression testing plans	By 10 Working Days before UIT begins
	UIT commences	

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Release implementation timetable		
Date	Event	Notes
	Test Participants provide regression testing results to DCC	By five Working Days before UIT completion
	UIT window closes	
20 May 20	DCC submits UIT Completion Report and evidence against the testing acceptance criteria	
26 May 20	DCC submits evidence against the operational acceptance criteria	
27 May 20	TAG reviews UIT Completion Report and status against the testing acceptance criteria	The TAG will provide a recommendation to the Panel on whether UIT has been completed successfully and on whether the release should be implemented as planned.
02 Jun 20	Operations Group reviews status against the operational acceptance criteria	The Operations Group will provide a recommendation to the Panel on whether the release should be implemented as planned.
12 Jun 20	Panel approves UIT Completion Report	
12 Jun 20	Panel go/no-go decision	The Panel will review the status of the release against the acceptance criteria and will determine if the release should be implemented as planned.
25 Jun 20	Release go-live	The changes are implemented.

4. Test strategy

This section covers the testing approach that will be taken by the DCC as part of the implementation of this release.

DCC's testing approach

The DCC's SEC Release Testing Approach Document will be provided as Annex A to this document in due course. This will cover the DCC's approach to SIT.

User testing approach

The DCC's SEC Release Testing Approach Document will be provided as Annex A to this document in due course. This will cover the DCC's approach to UIT.

5. Costs

This section summarises the costs that will be incurred by the DCC and the Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) in implementing this release.

DCC costs

The total DCC implementation costs of this release are currently quoted as £1,120,042.

The DCC has provided the following cost breakdown for each DCC System impacting modification in this release:

Breakdown of DCC implementation costs				
Modification	Design, Build & PIT	SIT	UIT	Implement to live
SECMP0053	£53,572	£26,639	£5,929	£5,510
SECMP0062	£964,346	£96,995	£9,359	£17,692

No impact on operational costs have been identified.

The DCC has provided the standalone costs for SIT, UIT and Implement to Live for each modification as part of the DCC Impact Assessment. Now that the scope of the release is confirmed and the DCC Preliminary Assessments for all candidate modifications are complete, the DCC is completing a combined DCC Preliminary Assessment. This will provide a combined estimated cost for each of these stages when the modifications and the DCC Change Requests are delivered as a single package. The total costs for SIT, UIT and Implement to Live will also be shared between this SEC Release and the DCC Change Requests.

SECAS costs

SECAS will incur two days effort, equating to around £1,200, to update and implement the changes to the SEC. SECAS estimates a maximum of 20 days of effort, equating to around £12,000, will be needed for project management of the release. This cost has already been accounted for in the SECAS budget, and so Parties will not incur any additional costs.

6. Acceptance criteria

The following criteria will need to be met before the release can go live.

Prior to go-live, the Operations Group and the TAG will review the status of the release against these criteria. They will provide a recommendation to the Panel on whether to implement the release as planned. The Panel will review these recommendations and will determine then if the release should or shouldn't be implemented as planned.

Operational acceptance criteria

1. The DCC has brought to readiness all the new and changed components needed to provide the new services. This will include completing the service design and proving the service operations capability.
2. The DCC has demonstrated that all pre-existing services will be stable in the run-up to deployment of the release.
3. The DCC has proven that the new services can be operated alongside, and integrated with, the existing services.
4. The DCC has assessed the risk posed by existing problems and defects in the existing live service, and the implications these will have for the revised service.
5. The DCC has demonstrated that lessons learnt from previous SEC Releases and other DCC changes have been taken on board.
6. The DCC has demonstrated there will be no detrimental impact on consumers' experience.
7. The DCC has completed assurance of the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery processes.
8. SECAS will be ready to implement the approved changes to the SEC on the agreed implementation date.
9. SECAS has brought to readiness all the new and changed components that it is responsible for that are needed to support the new services.

Testing acceptance criteria

1. The DCC has developed the coding for each approved change and confirmed it will be able to deploy this to the production environment on the agreed implementation date.
2. The DCC has completed and closed each test phase against the agreed exit criteria specified in the TAD.
3. The DCC has successfully completed regression testing.
4. The DCC has confirmed that there are no Severity 1 or 2 defects outstanding that would be deployed to the live environment.
5. The DCC has produced a clear resolution plan for any outstanding Severity 3, 4 or 5 defects and that the number of remaining testing issues is within the agreed threshold figures specified in the TAD.

6. The DCC has demonstrated that the SIT and UIT test environments were aligned to the solution being deployed to the production environment; if there were any differences, these were identified and the risks these posed demonstrably managed.

Appendix 1: Version control

Document history		
Version	Date	Changes
0.1	09 May 19	First draft issued to the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), the Operations Group and SEC Parties for comment.
0.2	12 Sep 19	Updated draft issued to the TABASC, the Operations Group and SEC Parties for comment.
0.3	04 Oct 19	Updated draft following comments from the TABASC and the Operations Group presented to Panel to be baselined.
1.0	11 Oct 19	Version baselined by the Panel to cover the proposed scope of the release on the DCC Systems.
1.1	10 Jan 20	Updated draft presented to Panel to be baselined.

Appendix 2: Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communication Company
PIT	Pre-Integration Testing
RID	Release Implementation Document
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SIT	System Integration Testing
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee
TAD	Testing Approach Document
TAG	Testing Advisory Group
UIT	User Integration Testing



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