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Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)

TABASC_49_1212, 12 December 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
	Martin Christie
	Rochelle Harrison (<i>teleconference</i>)
	Mark Morrison (<i>alternate for Grahame Weir</i>)
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood (<i>part</i>)
	Patrick O'Neill
Other SEC Parties	Elias Hanna
	Tim Boyle (<i>teleconference</i>)

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	Simon Harrison
	Mannu Rawat (<i>part</i>)
	David Walsh (<i>part</i>)
	Darren Robbins (<i>teleconference, part</i>)
	Chun Chen (<i>teleconference, part</i>)
BEIS	David Aknin (<i>alternate for Joe Howard</i>)
Ofgem	Anna Stacey (<i>part</i>)
ELEXON	Mark De Souza-Wilson (<i>part</i>)
SECAS	Phillip Twiddy
	Anik Abdullah
	Edward Williams
	Rebecca Jones

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	Kayla Reinhart
	Harry Jones <i>(part)</i>
	Jahan Haroon <i>(part)</i>

Apologies	
Large Suppliers	Grahame Weir
	Ashley Pocock
	Emslie Law
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton
BEIS	Joe Howard

1. Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlements

ELEXON and Ofgem provided an update on the Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS), explaining the Target Operating Model (TOM), the next stage of work to develop the next level of detail, transition approach and overall programme timetable.

ELEXON Update

The TOM segregates the market by meter type, with many of the actors being roughly equivalent to today's actors. A major difference introduced by the TOM is the use of Settlement Period level data for every meter. The Meter Data Retrieval (MDR) Service will retrieve Smart Meter data via the DCC with the Processing Service validating and estimating (where necessary) meter data and providing the data for each Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN) to the BSC Central Settlement Services.

ELEXON expects a day of consumption data to be collected from each Smart Meter on a daily basis, which will enable Interim Information (II) Settlement Run to be performed after four Working Days and enables efficient data collection via the DCC.

ELEXON set out the current view of the Settlement timetable after the TOM is implemented, noting that the final decision on the Settlement timetable will be made during the transition period. The Final Reconciliation (RF) run is currently expected to take place at four months, allowing for sufficient level of actual data from non-smart meters.

It was noted that the high-level transition approach refers to the key processes during the transition, rather than referencing when they will take place or how long it will take to implement them. The transition approach will enable legacy processes to run alongside the TOM processes, ensuring that each MPAN is settled once and only once.

Ofgem Update

Ofgem noted previous consultations and a Request for Information to support their development of the Impact Assessment (business case) for MHHS. Ofgem is analysing the responses and will be consulting on the Impact Assessment with minded-to positions in early 2020, with a view to publishing the final business case in Q3 2020.

In Q1/2 2020 the TOM will be developed further and it was noted that SECAS has been invited to the two working groups (Architecture Working Group and Code Change and Development Group). A Design Advisory Board including senior representatives and innovators will sense check solutions and ensure creative thinking is not limited.

The TABASC discussed the ability of the Code Change and Development Group to develop changes to regulation ahead of the solution being defined by the Architecture Working Group, with Ofgem noting that this is likely to be an iterative process.

The TABASC Chair noted the desire to review the solution and changes to avoid unintended and adverse consequences upon the smart metering business and technical architectures.

The TABASC also asked whether the identity of the MDR Service provider was determined. ELEXON and Ofgem noted that the TOM was agnostic to which organisation performs the activity (e.g. whether it is a Supplier or an independent Data Collector). The TABASC noted that there could be a significant impact if this is not the Supplier, potentially including the creation of a new SEC User Role.

Ofgem also noted that detailed work on the access to data policy is underway, noting that the expectation is that customers will be able to opt out of allowing their half-hourly data to be collected for Settlement purposes. The policy recognises the balance between defaulting to collecting half-hourly data and the potential impact on Smart Meter roll-out penetration.

If a consumer were to opt out of allowing half-hourly data to be used for Settlement the output of the Load Shaping Service would be used to estimate the Settlement period data for those consumers.

It was noted that changes could be made through Modifications or the Smart Meters Act.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

2. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

Action Reference	Action
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.

Action Reference	Action
	The DCC provided an update under agenda item 3, confirming that a draft will be issued on 5 March 2020 with sign-off expected on 2 April 2020. Status: OPEN .
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 DCC provided a revised approach under agenda item 4, which bases risks on duration of user system outages. Status: CLOSED .
TABASC47/07	As per transferred OPSG action 24/06: DCC to explain the CSP N Scalability approach.
	The DCC will provide an update at the February TABASC meeting following its discussions with the Operations Group in January. Status: OPEN .
TABASC47/08	SECAS to re-evaluate the TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals for the TABASC consideration.
	SECAS provided an update under agenda item 16 whereby the TABASC requested some minor enhancements to the Principles document. This action has been superseded by ACTION TABASC49/03. Status: CLOSED .
TABASC48/01	The DCC to correct the allocation formula document for SECMP0067.
	The TABASC requested that the revised text be forwarded to RH to confirm she has seen the change and is happy with it, following which the action can be closed. Status: OPEN .
TABASC48/02	The DCC to provide an update to the TABASC once it has an impact assessment for SECMP0067 for the TABASC to review.
	The DCC will provide an update at the February TABASC meeting. SECAS (HJ) will provide an update following DCC completion of the Impact Assessment. Status: OPEN .
TABASC48/03	SECAS and DCC to develop a clear problem statement off the back of EUK statement to clearly discuss any further actions.
	An update is provided under agenda item 6. This action is closed, and several subsequent actions have been raised. Status: CLOSED .
TABASC48/04	The DCC to advise whether the Arqiva solution can meet the ISFT2 requirements in its current form and how ISFT2 requirements compare with live usage.
	The DCC will provide an update at the February TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .
TABASC48/05	SECAS to provide details on which risks and/or issues have been transferred and/or escalated to the SEC Panel.
	SECAS provided an update under agenda item 11. Status: CLOSED .

Action Reference	Action
TABASC48/06	Stephen Lovell to assess whether a Smart Export project should be added to the SEC Strategic Plan list and bring a proposal to the TABASC for approval.
The DCC informed the TABASC that it has completed some investigation into Smart Export. The TABASC considered whether the DCC implementation correctly implements the current requirement. The TABASC agreed that this is an issue and should be added to the list of projects for inclusion in the Draft Budget 2020/2023. The TABASC requested that SECAS develop a Project Initiation Document. This action has been closed and superseded by ACTION TABASC49/01. Status: CLOSED .	
TABASC49/01: SECAS to develop a Project Initiation Document for a Smart Export Project.	

3. Extending Durations of 2G Coverage / 4G-LTE Communications Hubs (**AMBER**)

The DCC provided an update on options to extend the duration of 2G service and the provision of 4G/LTE Communications Hubs solution. The TABASC provided feedback specifically on the timelines and customer engagement.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

4. DCC Change Coordination

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on the DCC Change Coordination actions, a revised and simpler approach for gaining information from Users regarding change and the next steps for the project.

The DCC highlighted that the information they are now looking to obtain from Users is simply the duration of outages, which is a significant departure from the detailed information sought previously. TABASC noted that the DCC may wish to request the User's view of the complexity or significance of a change – for instance implementing a new DUIS schema may require a short outage but may result in significant change to operations.

Risk is based on Outages, as follows:

- Outages <2 Hours = Green – perceived as Minor
- Outages 2-6 Hours = Amber – perceived as Medium
- Outages >6Hours = Red – perceived as Major

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The TABASC members provided feedback to the DCC to consider the terminology used and to provide clarity around the relationships between the complexity of small, medium and major change and small medium and major outages.

The DCC noted the feedback and clarified that the data sheets will consider the complexity of outage duration and the significance of the change.

The DCC also noted the feedback will be reflected into the associated SEC Modification. The DCC confirmed that a trial with Users will commence in January.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update and supported the simplified approach, subject to the above feedback.

5. DCC Update

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on the following:

- SMETS2 Dual Band Communications Hubs – no resolution has yet been reached
- SMETS1 active meter migrations are delayed. DCC has established a group of subject matter expert to resolve the issues
- Concerns raised around EDM I and Arqiva performance, particularly including capacity monitoring and management
- Switching programme is progressing, main concern is with existing data provider readiness
- Created Faraday cage / room in Brabazon House with the aim to reduce costs of RF emissions assessment
- Test lab in Brabazon House is getting positive feedback
- Over 12,000 Devices in Manchester at the moment, only one remaining test lab to migrate from Telefonica
- 0.5 million meters installed in CSP N out of a total of around 3m although the rate of installations is increasing.

The TABASC asked whether DCC has an owner to resolve the alert volumes issues currently being experienced as the resolution is still unclear.

The TABASC **NOTED** the DCC update.

TABASC49/05: DCC to confirm the owner of the enduring solution for the Alerts problem and provide a plan of actions to get to resolution.

6. Alerts Lost during DCC outages – EUK problem statement

SECAS provided the TABASC with a problem statement and high-level assessment of options for Alerts lost during DCC outages.

SECAS and DCC provided a recap of the Energy UK concern provided to TABASC on 17 October 2019. Since then, the problem statement has been refined as per Action TABASC48/03.

The TABASC acknowledged that, for a variety of reasons, it is impossible to guarantee delivery of 100% of Alerts. For example, the protocols support limited retry attempts and do not guarantee end-to-end acknowledgement.

Given the limitation noted above, the problem statement was summarised as:

- Alerts lost during scheduled maintenance should be avoided by design where cost effective to do so.
- Alerts lost in disaster should be minimised via BCDR.

The number of options for minimising lost Alerts have been considered, addressing varying areas where losses are possible:

1. Buffer at DSP for Messages going to User, to address planned User outages
2. Buffer at DSP for Messages from CSP, to address planned DSP outages
3. Buffer at Communications Hubs, to address CSP (and partially DSP) outages
4. Reduce Outage times and thus the period during which Alerts are lost
5. Invoking BCDR, if appropriate
6. User process to cater for non-receipt of Alerts

The first three solutions may use the same filtering that [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management - Alert Storm Protection'](#) is putting in place.

SECAS and DCC set out a high-level view of the effectiveness of each option, where TABASC recognised that multiple options would be necessary to deal with the majority of issues and even then, could not guarantee 100% delivery. TABASC noted that User processes to retrieve logs from the Device periodically could address most of the issues that are experienced.

The TABASC Chair summarised that the options should be developed further with outline costings where consideration can be given to the extent to which each option would address the issues.

TABASC49/06: SECAS and DCC to provide an extended update on the EUK problem statement which relates to alerts lost during DCC outages at the February TABASC meeting.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

7. BEIS Issue Management Process Transition to SECAS Programme Definition Document (**AMBER**)

SECAS provided the TABASC with a Programme Definition Document for transitioning the issue management process from BEIS to SECAS.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

8. Market-Wide Half-Hourly Settlements PID

SECAS provided the TABASC with a Project Initiation Document (PID) for supporting the Market-Wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) project.

SECAS highlighted Workstream 2 which sets out the deliverables of the Architecture Working Group (AWG), per the group's Terms of Reference, applicable for TABASC. The MHHS project's plan is for the AWG to develop the functional requirements for MHHS by May 2020, with solution architecture being developed thereafter. The PID proposed that the SECAS Technical Operations team supports the AWG until the functional requirements are developed and to then consider whether further engagement would be beneficial.

SECAS presented the key reasons for participating in the AWG and planned activities to minimise risks to Smart and SEC as a result of being involved in the design stage. TABASC recognised the previous discussion regarding potential impacts on smart of the role of the Meter Data Retrieval Service and noted the risks and benefits of participation.

The TABASC requested that SECAS clarify the funding arrangements for this project.

ACTION TABASC49/09: SECAS to clarify the funding arrangements for the Market Wide Half-Hourly Settlements project.

The TABASC **APPROVED** the recommendation to participate, noting that approval would be sought from the SEC Panel and SECCo Board.

9. Market Structure Impacts (including Meter splitting) PID

SECAS noted that the change that has been identified that is considered of interest from a smart metering business architecture perspective is BSC Modification P379, which enables consumers to buy and sell electricity from / to multiple providers through Meter Splitting.

Rather than ongoing participation in working groups, which have a wide-ranging focus, SECAS proposed alternative activities which include the review of P379 use cases for impacts on the SEC and

smart metering; documenting challenges; as well as presenting findings to, and encouraging engagement between, TABASC and ELEXON.

SECAS informed the TABASC that 10 days of effort is expected to complete this activity.

The TABASC **APPROVED** the overall participation in industry changes and the proposed activities set out specifically for BSC Modification P379 engagement noting that approval would be sought from the SEC Panel and SECCo Board.

10. CPL Enhancement Project Update (AMBER)

SECAS presented the monthly update on the Certified Product List (CLP) Enhancement Project.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

11. TABASC Risk Register and Issues Log (AMBER)

SECAS presented the amendments to the TABASC Risk Register, no amendments have been made to the TABASC Issues Log.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

12. TABASC Activity Planner

SECAS presented the amendments to the TABASC Activity Planner which include:

- **Activity 4:** 'Reviewing the Effectiveness of the End-to-End Technical Architecture, Business Architecture and HAN Requirements and reporting to the Panel on the outcome of such reviews'
 - To reflect that work is underway to address the TABASC agreed actions following the survey review responses. It was noted that a progress update will be provided at the February TABASC meeting.
- **Activity 8:** 'Development of Quarterly work packages to present to the SECCo Board'
 - To reflect that the Quarter 4 work package is provided to the TABASC this month for recommendation.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

13. Draft TABASC Q4 Work Package (Jan-Mar) (AMBER)

SECAS presented the TABASC Quarterly Work Package for the period of January – March 2020.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **RECOMMENDED** the quarterly work package for SECCo Board approval.

14. Sub-Committee and Transitional Update

Smart Meter Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)

The TABASC Chair advised that there were no notable updates for TABASC this month.

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The TABASC Chair advised that the SSC is looking at solutions for refurbishment use cases for meter triage and re-use. The TABASC Chair noted that once the options have been developed, the TABASC may need to include guidance in the Business Architecture Model (BAM).

Operations Group (OPSG)

The TABASC noted the OPSG Communication Hubs firmware discussions this month.

Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS)

The TABASC Chair advised that there were no updates to provide as the TSIRS meeting took place on the same day as TABASC.

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

15. BEIS Update

BEIS provided the recent and upcoming BEIS publications and consultations for TABASC's information.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

16. Principles for assessing Modification Proposals

The TABASC was informed that the 'TABASC Principles for Assessing Modification Proposals' document has been reviewed by SECAS as per action TABASC47/08.

SECAS has amended the document to align with SEC version 6.21 wording and include minor clarification changes but considered that the principles in the document remain appropriate.

The TABASC members requested the following enhancements to the Principles:

- Add the consideration of cost effectiveness of change specifically in regards to the ongoing operation to either existing Principles 1 (User Simplicity) or Principle 2 (Efficiency of Implementation)
- Add to existing Principle 4 (Change Relevance) to consider the separate impacts on SMETS1 and SMETS2 Devices.

SECAS suggested assessing some current Draft Proposals or Modification Proposals against these principles to confirm or refine them and that future proposals are explicitly assessed against the principles. TABASC agreed with these suggestions.

The TABASC **AGREED** the approach for using the principles in the future, subject to applying minor amendments to enhance the existing principles. A further update will be provided by SECAS at the February TABASC meeting.

TABASC49/10: SECAS to return with an update at the February TABASC meeting on the TABASC Principles for Assessing Modifications, considering meter sets for SMETS1 and SMETS2 as well as the cost efficiency of the solution.

17. 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. The TABASC requested progress updates on the following Draft Proposals:

- [DP094 'Supporting prepayment customers in no SM WAN scenarios'](#)

This Draft Proposal was raised by the proposer due to concerns that minimum functional requirements set out in SMETS2 do not result in a device that is sufficiently robust to serve smart payment customers effectively. The TABASC suggested that the issue be considered as affecting all meters and not just those in prepayment mode, noting that the problems are more acute for prepayment consumers.

- [DP096 'DNO Power Outage Alerts'](#)

This Draft Proposal was raised by the proposer as currently the DCC cannot meet its current SEC obligation to send a Power Outage Alert within 60 seconds of a power outage lasting longer than three minutes. The TABASC agreed it had an interest in this Draft Proposal but queried why DCC was requesting a SEC modification to change the SEC obligation. SECAS agreed to request the rationale for the Draft Proposal from the proposer.

- [DP097 'Improving SMETS2 Meter Installs for New Connections'](#)

This Draft Proposal looks to amend SEC Section 3.3 in Appendix H 'CH Handover Support Materials' to add a scenario which isn't accounted for when using the SM WAN coverage database. The TABASC noted interest in this Draft Proposal, but also acknowledged as it was being prepared to be sent straight to the Report Phase, that it should not be delayed.

Of the New Modification Proposals, the TABASC noted interest in [MP093 'Implementing IRP511 and CRP535 to support GBCS v3.2 devices'](#).

The TABASC was informed of two updates to the Modification Proposals it has previously expressed interest in.

- [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management - Alert Storm Protection'](#)

This Modification Proposal was to be presented to the SEC Panel on 13 December. SECAS was waiting to finalise the legal text, which has been amended in line with comments made at the ad-hoc Working Group in November 2019. SECAS anticipate that the Modification Report will proceed to Modification Report Consultation if approved at the Panel meeting. TABASC members are encouraged to review this consultation and provide comments supporting approval or amendments.

- [SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#)

The Modification Proposal has been issued for Refinement Consultation. It's open for content review and further discussion during this consultation. Included in consultation is DCC formula for traffic management service requests. The consultation closes on 3 January 2020 and is the ideal opportunity for TABASC members to offer feedback and comments on the Modification Proposal.

TABASC49/11: SECAS to request the rationale from the proposer for DP096 'DNO Power Outage Alerts'
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18. Any Other Business (AOB)

The TABASC Chair noted the Gemserv Charity Spotlight event on 26 February and requested that SECAS provide details of the event to TABASC members. The TABASC members are encouraged to attend and provide support for a worthy cause.

TABASC49/12: SECAS to issue the Gemserv Charity Spotlight event details to TABASC members.

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

19. Transitional Governance Update – December 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 – December 2019

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