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## Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)

### TABASC\_51\_0503, 5 March 2020

**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
	Ashely Pocock
	Emslie Law
	Rochelle Harrison
	Mark Morrison <i>(teleconference) (alternate for Grahame Weir)</i>
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood
	Patrick O'Neill
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton
Other SEC Parties	Elias Hanna
	Tim Boyle

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	Steve Stathakis <i>(alternate for Simon Harrison)</i>
	Mannu Rawat <i>(part)</i>
	James Henton <i>(part)</i>
	Paul Skillings <i>(part) (teleconference)</i>
	Bilal Ali <i>(part) (teleconference)</i>
	Chalam Neelam <i>(part)</i>
	Helen Metcalfe <i>(part)</i>
	Chris Barlow <i>(part)</i>
	Chun Chen <i>(part)</i>

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BEIS	Joe Howard
SECAS	Anik Abdullah
	Edward Williams <i>(part)</i>
	Rebecca Jones
	Kayla Reinhart
	Harry Jones <i>(part)</i>
	Alison Beard <i>(part)</i>
	Abhay Soorya <i>(part)</i>

<b>Apologies</b>	
Large Suppliers	Grahame Weir
	Martin Christie
DCC	Simon Harrison

## 1. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

Action Reference	Action
<b>TABASC47/07</b>	As per transferred OPSG action 24/06: DCC to explain the CSP N Scalability approach. The DCC will provide an update at the April TABASC Meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC48/04</b>	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 April TABASC Meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC49/02</b>	DCC to provide the test automation business case for the Next Gen programme. The DCC will provide an update at the 19 March TABASC Meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC49/03</b>	DCC to set out how the objectives of simplification and low cost in the Next Gen programme will be fulfilled and measured. An update is provided in the confidential minutes. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC49/04</b>	DCC to provide a detailed strategy and business requirements documents for the Next Gen programme for the TABASC to review. The business requirements document will be provided at the May TABASC meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC49/10</b>	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.

Action Reference	Action
	An update will be provided in the 19 March TABASC meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC50/01</b>	The DCC to discuss with CGI how the limitation of connections is calculated and what the limits of connections are per User.
	The DCC will be providing an update at the April TABASC meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC50/02</b>	TABASC Member (SL) to send the details of a specific incident to the DCC for it to identify how the SECMP0067 solution could have fixed that issue.
	TABASC Member (SL) advised that he is still working on getting the reference number for the specific incident and asked that this action is kept open while he works on this. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC50/03</b>	The DCC to provide a report to the TABASC to understand the current reliability of the HAN communications to ascertain whether resolving the EUK problem as stated would deliver the intended benefits or whether there will still be a problem with delivery of critical Alerts.
	The DCC advised that following a GBCS alert could allow for monitoring of the HAN reliability issue with 8F84, 819D and 819E being the main candidates. Following a DCC alert (N53) could also allow for monitoring of the HAN reliability issue for customers who are following DUIS2. More updates will be given at the April TABASC meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .
<b>TABASC50/04</b>	The DCC to compare N53 and N13 alerts so that more could be understood on HAN stability.
	The DCC noted that they could not compare N53 against N13 due to the lack of data available through the DCC operations centre, therefore with this limitation in mind, it would not be useful to focus on N13 to track HAN stability. Status: <b>CLOSED</b> .
<b>TABASC50/05</b>	TABASC Members to advise the DCC which Alerts they feel are the most critical ahead of the March TABASC meeting
	SECAS emailed TABASC Members with a proposed list on 24 February, asking for feedback to be provided prior to the March TABASC meeting. Status: <b>CLOSED</b> .
<b>TABASC50/06</b>	The DCC to confirm if CSP C&S can run "Active/Active" datacentre operations.
	The DCC advised that Active/Active switching is currently limited to the Telefonica network component. A further update was provided under agenda item 6. Status: <b>CLOSED</b> .
<b>TABASC50/07</b>	SECAS to provide the TABASC with a strawman statement at the March 2020 TABASC meeting to discuss what is to be taken forward to the relevant Market Wide Half Hourly Settlements Design Working Groups.
	An update will be provided at the April TABASC meeting due to time constraints this month. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .

Action Reference	Action
<b>TABASC50/08</b>	SECAS to provide a further update on DP098 at the March TABASC meeting in order to agree whether the IRPs should just be applied to the latest version of the technical documents being implemented by BEIS or should also be included in earlier versions.
The TABASC agreed that the modification should be implemented in the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) v4.0 subject to there being no material changes to Devices. A further update was provided under agenda item 14. Status: <b>CLOSED</b> .	
<b>TABASC50/09</b>	The DCC to provide proposals on how to handle new requirements that may be included in re-procured DCC Service Provider contracts for the TABASC to consider at the March TABASC meeting.
The DCC will be providing an update at the April TABASC meeting. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .	
<b>TABASC50/10</b>	The DCC to amend the requirements within Wave 1 of the NextGen Core Evolution to address the full problem statement which includes the North Region and SMETS1 as well.
An update is provided in the confidential minutes. Status: <b>OPEN</b> .	

## 2. Extending Durations of 2G Coverage / LTE Communications Hubs (AMBER)

The DCC provided an update on Communications Hubs and supporting 2G services activities. This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 3. DSP Sandpit for Network Evolution (RED)

The DCC provided an update on DSP Sandpit for Network Evolution. This item is classified as **RED** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 4. Expanded GFI Test Tools

The DCC provided an update on its expansion of GBCS Integration Testing for Industry (GFI) tools project. The current GFI Test Tools are restricted to only Communications Hubs, Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) and Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME). However, the intention should be to support all HAN Devices, such as IHDs, PPMIDs and CADs. The expanded GFI test tool will be developed to support version 4 of GBCS which is due for implementation in November this year.

The DCC are proposing to add a DCC User Interface and an emulated Data Service Provider (DSP) and Communications Service Provider (CSP) gateway as part of the expansion. The aim is to provide DCC Users with the ability to simulate the interaction of Devices with the DCC systems in test environments. This will provide a full end-to-end environment for DCC Users for their own testing purposes. Furthermore, the Communications Hub, ESME and GSME will be put onto a physical USB stick including the ZigBee stack. The code could also be provided to DCC Users in order to be used on their own ZigBee stacks. The TABASC asked the DCC to also consider the use of the service on additional stack manufacturer versions.

**TABASC51/01:** The DCC to consider the use of the service on additional stack manufacturer versions, for the expansion of GFI Test Tools.

The expected duration of this project is 18 weeks and will be undertaken in nine sprints. If the DCC commence with this project soon then it can be delivered in advance of and in support of GBCS v4.0, for the November 2020 Release.

The DCC advised that this project would replace the current GFI tools and that they have looked at SEC Section X and do not believe that wording would need to be changed for this expansion. The DCC have had internal approval but part of the approval was to speak to the TABASC and get its views.

The TABASC Chair noted that to be representative of Live the inclusion of additional Communications Hubs and support for different ZigBee stacks would be of significant benefit.

TABASC noted that there are different cost models that could be used for the expanded tool and requested DCC to consider options that include the development costs.

**TABASC51/02:** The DCC to provide the TABASC with alternative cost models for the expansion of its GFI test tools.

**TABASC51/03:** The DCC to provide the TABASC with the cost and time impacts of implementing the expansion of GFI test tools on additional Communications Hubs and ZigBee Stack versions.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 5. DCC Update

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

## 6. Alerts Lost During DCC Scheduled Maintenance – EUK Problem Statement

SECAS and the DCC continue to investigate the EUK problem statement which relates to alerts lost during DCC Planned Maintenance.

Following two actions taken at the February TABASC meeting, the DCC provided the below updates:

*Home Area Network (HAN) reliability:*

- The DCC covered the reasons why an alert may not find its way back to the service request sender.
- The DCC also mentioned which alerts could be followed within the Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) that could allow for monitoring of the HAN reliability issue:
  - 8F84: Failure to deliver remote party message to ESME
  - 819D: GSME command not retrieved
  - 819E: Tap off message response or alert failure
- Following a DCC Alert could also allow for monitoring of the HAN reliability issue:
  - For DUIS2 customer, N53 alerts command not delivered to ESME is generated as a result of 8F84, and sent back to request originator
  - 819D and 819E which targets Access Control Broker (ACB), which will not be received by the service user.
- The DCC also highlighted that is current HAN stability monitoring provides these key findings:
  - ESME dropping off the HAN in the CSP Central and South region
  - EDMC Communications Hub not yet supporting GBSCS 2.x, as a result no N53 alerts are being generated by the Communications Hubs.
  - A mix of Communications Hubs and Meter problems that are having an impact on the total volume of devices dropping off the HAN.

The DCC also noted that it is seeing between 400-900 Communications Hubs sending the N53 alert for the first time during this time period, the N53 cumulative totals do not increase at the expected run rate due to reboot activities undertaken in conjunction with CSPs. However, the caveat is that the N53 alert does not always indicate that a Device has dropped off the HAN.

The DCC provided a view of the workarounds that can be applied to resolve some HAN issues:

- CSP Central and South executes a remote reboot on the newly identified alerting Communications Hubs;
- Following initial reboot attempts, 75% of devices restore service, 25% of device remain failed; and

*Use of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) environment:*

Following questions from the February TABASC meeting the following answers were provided in relation to the Telefonica network providing an active-active switching capability:

- Active/Active switching is currently limited to the Telefonica network component
- Components dealing with security and m2m management of the network rely on active-passive resiliency, meaning that they will be subject to an RTO of four hours.
- Since there are active-passive components within the Telefonica network architecture, it means that for an active-active mechanism to be possible, the network components need to align. The required changes to allow this could be both costly and time onerous.
- It was suggested that a new CR is raised for Telefonica to resolve the gap for loss of AD1 alerts during Telefonica scheduled maintenance.

An action was taken at the February TABASC meeting for members to make the DCC aware of alerts which were deemed critical by Service Users, a steer was given to include those that support the safety of customers and security of operations. The list of alerts was provided to the TABASC, whereby the TABASC asked that SECAS consolidate the list of alerts and send to TABASC highlighting which are mandated and non-mandated.

**TABASC51/04:** SECAS to consolidate the alert list and send to TABASC Members highlighting which are mandated and non-mandated, for the alerts lost during DCC scheduled maintenance issue.

The TABASC highlighted their concern around the level of N53 alerts and advised that they need to know more about this.

SECAS and the DCC provided the TABASC with a view of the points of failure and solution through the environment and any required buffers. The TABASC advised to only look at the User buffer and a CSP buffer to resolve the issue with AD1 which requires investigation. The TABASC highlighted that the DSP to CSP issue could be resolved in a redesign under the re-procurement of the DSP.

**TABASC51/05:** DCC/SECAS to look at the User buffer in more detail and bring to the TABASC how it would be implemented.

**TABASC51/06:** DCC to explore the CR for Telefonica to resolve the AD1 issue, for the alerts lost during DCC scheduled maintenance issue.

The TABASC also asked the DCC to confirm whether there is a different way of solving the issue of AD1 mechanisms for effective AD1 generations, to stop the loss through Telefonica.

**TABASC51/07:** DCC to confirm whether there is a different way of solving the issue of AD1 mechanisms for effective AD1 generations, to stop the loss through Telefonica, for the alerts lost during DCC scheduled maintenance issue.

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The TABASC queried how the N53 alert is generated by Devices which drop off the HAN against Devices which do not, and also whether the N53 alert would be consolidated under [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#).

**TABASC51/08:** DCC to confirm to the TABASC how the N53 alerts are generated by Devices which drop off the HAN against Devices which do not, for the alerts lost during DCC scheduled maintenance issue.

**TABASC51/09:** DCC to clarify whether the N53 alert would be consolidated under SECMP0062.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## **7. Design Positions & Reporting – Multiple Suppliers per MPAN Update (GREEN)**

SECAS provided the TABASC with the design positions and reporting for multiple suppliers per Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN) which relates to Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) Modification [P379 'Multiple Suppliers through Meter Splitting'](#) which is handled by Elexon.

SECAS provided the TABASC with three use cases as follows:

### **Use case one:**

No metering exists beyond the boundary for secondary supplier specific load; appointment is done based on percentage of contract volume or fixed volume.

### **Use case two:**

A secondary supplier load beyond the boundary is metered; in this case, the volumes would be based on the Metering System Identifier (MSID) and Asset Metering System ID (AMSID) volumes.

### **Use case three:**

Similar arrangement to use case two. However, with multiple 'beyond the boundary meter' Meters. Note that such a scenario might include Non Settlement Meters (NSMs) too and the allocation would be done via the MSID and AMSID volumes.

SECAS advised that all of the use cases pose some challenges on its impacts on the SEC.

SECAS advised that this month, the BSC Panel is reviewing this Modifications due to its complexity and deciding whether it should continue as is; if it does, business requirements are to be finalised by the end of March 2020.

The TABASC and the TABASC Chair advised that the solution has not considered the capability of Smart Metering infrastructure, and therefore the SEC Panel should be asked to write to Ofgem and the Elexon Working Group to raise this concern.



The TABASC **AGREED** to request that the SEC Panel write to Ofgem and the Elexon Working Group for Multiple Supplier per MPAN, to raise the TABASC concerns. These concerns were associated with:

- reconciling and displaying consumption and cost information from multiple suppliers on the IHD
- potential discrepancies between consumer billing and settlement costs for each supplier party
- challenges in exchanging private consumption data in premises with multiple consumers (especially when reconciliation of information is performed)
- lack of sufficient clarity regarding how the proposed algorithms to apportion energy between multiple suppliers deal with Import and Export of supply
- security implications from a metering device installed downstream of a SMETS boundary meter

**TABASC51/10:** SECAS to request that the SEC Panel write to Ofgem and the Elexon Working Group for Multiple Suppliers per MPAN, to raise the TABASC concerns and highlight the capability of the Smart Metering Infrastructure to support the P379 solution.

## 8. BEIS Update

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

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 9. Design Positions – Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlements Update

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

## 10. Smart Export Project Update

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on the Smart Export Review workshop held on Wednesday 4 March 2020. The workshop was intended to help clarify the current Export business processes within the smart metering end to end solution. High-level problem statements and any proposed solution were captured. The outputs and actions which have been identified will be sent to the DCC to address with the findings reported to the TABASC next month.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 11. Q1 2020-21 Work Package (**AMBER**)

The TABASC was provided with the Q1 2020-21 Work Package (April – June). This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **RECOMMENDED** the Q1 Work Package to the SECCo Board for approval but noted that this may be subject to change due to additional resourcing required over Q1.

## 12. TABASC Risk Register and Issues Log (**AMBER**)

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

## 13. TABASC Effectiveness Review Update (**AMBER**)

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

## 14. Current IRP Modifications Update

SECAS provided an update on [DP098 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 3'](#). A table was provided showing the 20 Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) which are included in this modification and are all Non-DCC System impacting. SECAS advised that all Non-DCC impacting IRPs can be implemented in the November 2020 Release. These will be incorporated into the current Technical Specifications which will increase GBCS v3.2 to v3.3 and SMETS2 v4.2 to v4.3. It will also increase the BEIS draft Technical Specifications from GBCS v4.0 draft 2 to draft 3 and SMETS2 v5.0 draft 3 to draft 4. The TABASC provided views on the approach. They questioned if a GBCS v3.3 is actually needed if there is no material change to Device specifications, noting that this would add little benefit but may increase confusion and costs. The TABASC asked SECAS to confirm if the IRP changes provide material changes to Device specifications or if Devices are already being manufactured including the changes. The TABASC gave its view which was to implement the modification in GBCS v4.0 subject to there being no material changes to Devices.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 15. TABASC Principles for Assessing Modifications Update

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

## 16. New Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals

SECAS provided the TABASC with the new Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals raised since the February meeting, 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 Proposal:

- [DP117 'Bulk CH Returns'](#)

This Draft Proposal was raised by the DCC and related to the grouping of multiple Service Requests (SRs) relating to a bulk Communications Hubs return, which is currently done via a single SR to notify the DCC of each Communications Hub return. TABASC questioned the value of this modification given sending multiple SRs would deliver the same outcome.

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

- [SECMP080 'Managing DUIS Uplifts'](#)

SECAS advised that at the February Working Group discussion, the proposed solution was to move DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) to the Technical Specification Applicability Tables (TSAT) so that DUIS versions could be end dated. SECAS also provided the TABASC with the proposed legal text for this modification. The TABASC agreed with the intent of the solution to move DUIS to the TSAT but disagreed with the planned approach of removing the TSAT from the SEC Schedule 11. The TABASC asked for another update on this modification before it is taken to Panel.

- [SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'](#)

SECAS advised the TABASC that the Preliminary Assessment for this modification has been returned by the DCC and is currently with SECAS for review.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## **17. Sub-Committee and Transitional Update (SMKI PMA, SSC, OPSG, TSIRS)**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

## **18. CodeWorks Update**

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

## **19. Any Other Business (AOB)**

The TABASC Chair raised an item of other business around the timing constraints of the TABASC meetings. Due to the TABASC needing to provide detailed input and have in depth conversations on numerous DCC projects at the moment, the Chair feels that an extra TABASC meeting per month may be required. This is to ensure that the TABASC covers everything that they need to, whilst allowing enough time to have meaningful discussions. The TABASC agreed to holding an extra meeting per month and preferred that these meetings take place face to face rather than via teleconference.

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

## **20. Transitional Governance Update – February 2020**

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update paper from the transitional governance entities and other smart metering related meetings and workshops attended by SECAS in the last month for its information.

## **21. Change Status Report – February 2020**

The TABASC was provided with an update on the status and progress of Modification Proposals for its information.

**Next Meeting: 19 March 2020**