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Paper Reference:	SECP_79_1704_14
Action:	For Decision

SECMP0067 Modification Report

1. Purpose

[SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management'](#) has undergone the Refinement Process and we are recommending that this is ready to be progressed to the Report Phase. The Panel is requested to approve the Modification Report, the implementation approach, and that this modification proceeds as an Authority Determined Modification.

The draft Modification Report setting out the detail of the modification can be found in Appendix A.

2. Summary of the proposal

What is the issue?

The Data Communications Company (DCC) Systems are limited by a finite capacity. As numbers of Smart Meters and Devices increase in the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP), this will increase the traffic of Service Requests in the DCC Systems. In exceptional instances this traffic, if left unchecked, could result in an overload of the DCC Systems and cause an outage, resulting in no Service Requests being sent from the Data Service Provider (DSP). The DCC has recommended management of the System, in order to prevent an outage without the expense of expanding the DCC infrastructure.

What is the solution?

The Proposed Solution is to introduce a mechanism to throttle Service Requests when the DCC System is experiencing heavy traffic. This mechanism will only be active once the total capacity threshold in the DCC Systems is in danger of being breached. This way, the Service Request throttling will only take place in exceptional circumstances and not be a day-to-day activity. Service Users will be allocated their own capacity thresholds, proportional to their portfolio; they can exceed this allocation where there is spare System capacity but will be forced to operate within that allocation if the System is near capacity and the mechanism is active.

3. Proposed progression

We believe that this modification is now ready to progress to the Report Phase.

Determination approach

This is an Authority Determined Modification Proposal. This is due to it meeting the criteria in SEC Section D2.6 (b) where it details a Modification Proposal will be Authority Determined if the change is likely to materially affect competition. As the Modification Proposal is introducing Service Capacity allocations, this will affect SEC Parties by limiting the amount of Service Requests they can submit to these allocations when the mechanism is active – thereby having a material effect.

Implementation approach

We recommend an implementation approach of:

- 5 November 2020 (November 2020 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received by 31 May 2020; or
- 24 June 2021 (June 2021 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 31 May 2020 but by 31 December 2020.

4. Recommendations

The Panel is requested to:

- **AGREE** that SECMP0067 should be progressed to the Report Phase;
- **APPROVE** the Modification Report;
- **APPROVE** the implementation approach; and
- **AGREE** that SECMP0067 should be progressed as an Authority Determined Modification.

Harry Jones

SECAS Team

15 April 2020

Attachments:

- **Appendix A:** SECMP0067 Modification Report
 - **Annex A:** SECMP0067 changes to the Traffic Management Mechanism Document.
 - **Annex B:** SECMP0067 business requirements
 - **Annex C:** SECMP0067 Reporting Wireframes
 - **Annex D:** SECMP0067 legal text
 - **Annex E:** SECMP0067 Impact Assessment
 - **Annex F:** SECMP0067 Refinement Consultation
 - **Annex G:** SECMP0067 Worked Example
 - **Annex H:** SECMP0067 DCC Business Case.