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MP102B ‘Power Outage Alerts triggered by an OTA firmware upgrade – enduring solution’

June 2020 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Eessa Mansoor	SECAS
Joey Manners	SECAS
Damien Bevan	SECAS
David Walsh	DCC
Chun Chen	DCC
Mari Toda	DCC
Remi	DCC
Robbie Macintosh	DCC
Michael Walls	Ofgem
Simon Trivella	British Gas
Paul Saker	EDF
Chiko Wade	Imserv
Elias Hanna	Landis + Gyr
Tony Pile	Landis + Gyr
John Noad	Npower
Lauren Irvine	PFP Energy
Steve Walker	PFP Energy
Mahfuzar Rahman	Scottish Power
Emslie Law	SSE
Matthew Alexander	SSE
Fotis Tsompanidis	Trilliant
Daniel Davis	Utiligroup
Gemma Slaney	WPD

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified by MP102 and a summary on how the modification was split into two separate solutions (MP102A and MP102B).

Issue:

- Over the Air (OTA) firmware updates are causing certain meter types to reboot which cuts the power to the Communications Hub (CH) for more than three minutes
- No governance regarding the duration of the meter cutting the power supply to the CH via the Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS)
- No means of identifying or suppressing erroneous Power Outage Alerts (POAs)

Modification split

- [MP102A 'Power Outage Alerts triggered by an OTA firmware upgrade'](#) for meter Manufacturers to abide by going forwards, and
- [MP102B 'Power Outage Alerts triggered by an OTA firmware upgrade – enduring solution'](#) for Devices currently installed

Solution Discussions

The Working Group discussed the scale of the issue to establish the business case. A meter Manufacturer is currently working with the Data Communications Company (DCC) to identify exactly how many meters are causing AD1 Alerts to be sent to Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) after an OTA firmware update has taken place. The meter Manufacturer confirmed that an approximate 1.4m meters have been produced that could result in an AD1 Alert being generated by the CH. The testing however, has so far identified an approximate 14,000 meters which are causing the issue.

A Working Group member commented that they have had visibility of the list of Global Unique Identifiers (GUIDs) of the meters causing the issue. Several Networks Party members questioned the accuracy of the results so far as there have been instances where AD1 Alerts are lost. A Working Group member stated that they have experienced three to five thousand cases where they have received a Power Restoration Alert but not an AD1 Alert.

The Working Group expressed further concern with the testing taking place. A member stated that the current list has shown that a Large Supplier has 15 meters causing the issue, however they have received a very high number of AD1 Alerts which exceeds 15 meters. Comments were also received that there are numerous points where the AD1 could be generated which needs to be considered. In short, the Proposer would like a definitive list of meters to better understand the business case for this modification.

The Working Group discussed whether there could be a rule with the Data Service Provider (DSP) that no AD1 Alerts are sent after an OTA firmware update has taken place. This in theory could resolve the problem, however this could result in DNOs not having sight of a genuine power outage.

SECAS presented the proposed business requirements that would be used as framework for a DCC Preliminary Assessment. The requirements are similar to that of MP102A, however they are explicit to installed meters. A Working Group member commented that the requirements need further

development as it is currently too vague, to which the DCC strongly agreed. The Working Group agreed that the Proposer should develop the business requirements with the Distribution Issues Group (DIG) and DCC. Once the requirements are agreed, SECAS will request a DCC Preliminary Assessment.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- The Proposer will develop the business requirements with the DIG
- SECAS will request a DCC Preliminary Assessment