

This document is classified as **White** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy. Information can be shared with the public, and any members may publish the information, subject to copyright.



# MP106 'CHISM update for Unknown WAN Variant'

## Modification Report

Version 0.4

7 July 2020



## About this document

---

This document is a draft Modification Report. It currently sets out the background, issue, and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions. This document will be updated as this modification progresses.

## Contents

---

1. Summary.....	3
2. Issue.....	3
3. Solution .....	4
4. Impacts .....	5
5. Assessment of the proposal .....	7
Appendix 1: Progression timetable .....	9
Appendix 2: Glossary .....	10

This document has three annexes:

- **Annex A** contains the business requirements for the proposed solution.
- **Annex B** will contain the redlined changes to the Smart Energy Code (SEC) required to deliver the proposed solution.
- **Annex C** contains the full Data Communications Company (DCC) Preliminary Assessment response.

## Contact

---

If you have any questions on this modification, please contact:

**Bradley Baker**

020 7770 6597

bradley.baker@gemserv.com

## 1. Summary

This proposal was raised by Chun Chen from the DCC.

For a DCC User to obtain a Smart Metering Wide Area Network (SM WAN) Coverage, they must send Service Request 12.1 'Request WAN Matrix'. The Data Service Provider (DSP) will then provide an Availability Date and WAN Variant in response. WAN Variants are listed in Table 3 of SEC Appendix I 'Communications Hub Installation and Maintenance Support Materials (CHISM)' Annex E. In the exception case where the Availability Date for SM WAN Coverage is known, but the WAN Variant is not, with the implementation of [MP081 'Alignment of DUIS and CHISM to reflect current DCC Processing'](#), the DSP will return " " (Space) for the South and Central regions.

As a result of the agreed solution of MP081, the response " " (Space) has been highlighted as a potential cause of confusion for the customer.

The Proposed Solution is to replace " " (Space) with "Unknown" as this gives a more accurate representation of the exception case where the WAN Variant is not known. The Proposed Solution will impact Large and Small Suppliers as well as the DCC. The anticipated lead time is three months and implementation is targeted for the November 2020 SEC Release. The DCC have advised that the cost of implementation is approximately £150,000.

## 2. Issue

### What are the current arrangements?

When a DCC User sends Service Request 12.1 'Request WAN Matrix' to receive SM WAN Coverage, in most cases they will receive an Availability Date and WAN Variant. However, in an exception case, the Communications Service Provider (CSP) for the South and Central regions may respond to a SM WAN Coverage request (CSPM-S1 or CSPM-S2) with an Availability Date for coverage but without being able to confirm the WAN Variant that will need to be used. On receipt of this data, the DSP returns the Availability Date and the value of the unconfirmed WAN Variant in the response to Service Request 12.1 'Request WAN Matrix'.

The WAN variant returned by the DSP is defined by Table 3 in SEC Appendix I 'Communications Hub Installation and Maintenance Support Materials' (CHISM) Annex E as below:

WAN Variant (DCC 1.3)	WAN Variant (DCC 2.0)	CSP Region
Standard 420	420	CSP North
Variant 450	450	CSP North
Cellular	Cellular	CSP South & Central
Cellular+Mesh	Cellular+Mesh	CSP South & Central
No Coverage Intended	No Coverage Intended	N/A
" " Space	" " Space	CSP South & Central

With the pending implementation of [MP081 'Alignment of DUIS and CHISM to reflect current DCC Processing'](#), a “ ” Space will be used by the CSP for the South and Central regions to indicate the unconfirmed WAN Variant.

During a User engagement design discussion, it was highlighted by a customer that the “ ” Space response would be confusing and they would prefer a more meaningful response. It has been suggested that the wording to use is “Unknown”.

This change will require an update to the SM WAN coverage database managed by the CSP for the South and Central regions.

### What is the issue?

The WAN Variant “ ”(Space) has been highlighted as being confusing to Users. Comments have been received from a Large Supplier that this response lacks meaning. A more suitable term should be used to identify the scenario where an Availability Date can be provided but the WAN Variant cannot. This affects South and Central regions only.

In order to implement the functionality required, the Table 3 in CHISM Annex E must be amended. This is a CHISM documentation change as well as a change for the CSP for the South and Central regions.

### What is the impact this is having?

As a result of the agreed solution of [MP081 'Alignment of DUIS and CHISM to reflect current DCC Processing'](#), Users send Service Request 12.1 'Request WAN Matrix' to check the SM WAN Coverage to obtain SM WAN coverage. “ ” (Space) is returned as WAN variant in the exception case that an Availability Date for coverage is confirmed but the WAN Variant is not. This has been highlighted as a potential cause of confusion for the User.

## 3. Solution

---

### Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is to amend SEC Appendix I 'CH Installation and Maintenance Support Materials' Annex E3. Upon the implementation of MP081, it has been agreed that the CSP South & Central WAN Variant “ ” Space will be replaced with “Unknown”. This will remove ambiguity from Annex E3 Table 3 and will provide clarity of the scenario of when the Availability Date is known, but the WAN Variant is not.

## 4. Impacts

This section summarises the impacts that would arise from the implementation of this modification.

### SEC Parties

SEC Party Categories impacted			
✓	Large Suppliers	✓	Small Suppliers
	Electricity Network Operators		Gas Network Operators
	Other SEC Parties	✓	DCC

Suppliers will be impacted. For a smart metering equipment to have smart capability, a Supplier must obtain SM WAN coverage. In order to do this, the Supplier will need to send Service Request 12.1 'Request WAN Matrix' to the DSP. In the exception case where the WAN Variant is not known, the Proposed Solution will result in DSP responding with "Unknown". This gives a clearer indication of the situation that what is in place as a result of MP081's implementation.

The Proposed Solution will also impact the DCC as this change to SEC Appendix I 'CH installation and Maintenance Support Materials' Annex E3 will require amendments to the DCC System.

### DCC System

The DCC Preliminary Assessment stated that the only Service Provider directly impacted by this modification is the CSP for South and Central regions. The Proposed Solution will require a modification to the CSP's Coverage Deployment Model output and SM WAN Coverage Checker Database to support the inclusion of "Unknown".

The CSP Network Coverage Extract data extract files provided by the CSP via the existing CSP/DSP interface will also include "Unknown" as a Communication Hub Variant in the exception case of an unknown WAN Variant.

The full impacts on DCC Systems and DCC's proposed testing approach can be found in the DCC Preliminary Assessment response in Annex C.

### SEC and subsidiary documents

The following parts of the SEC will be impacted:

- Appendix I 'CH Installation and Maintenance Support Materials'

The changes to the SEC required to deliver the proposed solution can be found in Annex B.

### Consumers

This modification will have no impact on Consumers.

### Other industry Codes

This modification will have no impact on other industry Codes.

### Greenhouse gas emissions

This modification will have no impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

## 5. Costs

### DCC costs

The estimated DCC implementation costs to implement this modification is £150,000. The breakdown of these costs are as follows:

Breakdown of DCC implementation costs	
Activity	Cost
Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT)	£150,000

More information can be found in the DCC Preliminary Assessment response in Annex C.

### SECAS costs

The estimated SECAS implementation costs to implement this modification is two days of effort, amounting to approximately £1,200. The activities needed to be undertaken for this are:

- Updating the SEC and releasing the new version to the industry.

### SEC Party costs

Information regarding SEC Party costs will be gathered during the Refinement Consultation.

## 6. Implementation approach

---

### Recommended implementation approach

SECAS is recommending an implementation date of:

- **4 November 2021** (November 2021 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received before 21 October 2021.
- **3 November 2022** (November 2022 SEC Release) if a decision to approve is received after 21 October 2021 but on or before 19 October 2022.

As the Proposed Solution impacts the CHISM, the modification should be implemented in a SEC Release that includes an uplift to CHISM to prevent more than one change in a calendar year. The November 2021 SEC Release is the earliest such release this modification can be targeted for. If this modification is not included in the November 2021 SEC Release, it will be targeted for the November 2022 SEC Release, which is when the next uplift to the Technical Specifications is expected. However, if an earlier uplift occurs, MP106 may be able to be incorporated into the uplift at the same time.

## 7. Assessment of the proposal

---

### Observations on the issue

The proposal has been presented to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for recommendation. CSC members were supportive of the proposal and felt that the issue was well defined. The CSC recommended that the proposal progresses to the Refinement Process.

The proposal has also been presented for initial comments to the other SEC Sub-Committees. Each SEC Sub-Committee was happy for the proposal to progress and provided no further comments on the issue.

### Solution development

The wording change for the unconfirmed WAN Variant to “Unknown” was originally suggested by a Large Supplier during a User engagement design discussion. This wording change has been agreed as a more accurate representation of the scenario and therefore removes ambiguity from the SEC. The solution has been developed with the DCC who have completed a Preliminary Assessment to better understand the impacts, lead times and the cost of implementation.

### Support for Change

#### July 2020 SEC Working Group

It was agreed by the Working Group that replacing “ (Space) with “Unknown” is an adequate solution that will remove unnecessary ambiguity in the SEC and confusion for DCC Users.

SECAS presented the findings of the DCC Preliminary Assessment which added further detail to the solution. The DCC confirmed that there will be no change to DSP systems which was initially expected by the CSP for the North region. Comments were received regarding the implementation cost of c£150,000. A Working Group member stated that this was a very high cost compared with a relatively straight forward and minor change to current processes which is then borne by the Service Users. The DCC confirmed that this estimated cost is due to changes to CSP systems. SECAS concluded that this is being investigated with industry as a wider issue. The Working Group were happy for SECAS to issue the Refinement Consultation, followed by requesting that the Change Board approve the Impact Assessment costs for the DCC Impact Assessment.

## Views against the General SEC Objectives

### Proposer's views

The Proposer believes that this modification better facilitates SEC Objectives (a)<sup>1</sup>, (c)<sup>2</sup> and (g)<sup>3</sup>. This is because the Proposed Solution will give a better indication of the scenario where the WAN Variant is unknown, making it clear to Suppliers of the situation. This modification will add further clarity to the SEC by providing a more accurate DSP response when a User requests SM WAN coverage.

### Industry views

The Industry's views will be gathered during the Refinement Consultation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Facilitate the efficient provision, installation, operation and interoperability of smart metering systems at energy consumers' premises within Great Britain.

<sup>2</sup> Facilitate energy consumers' management of their use of electricity and gas through the provision of appropriate information via smart metering systems.

<sup>3</sup> Facilitate the efficient and transparent administration and implementation of the SEC.



## Appendix 1: Progression timetable

As the proposed solution requires amendments to the current CSP systems, SECAS believe that this modification should be progressed to the Refinement Process so a full set of business requirements can be developed, and the impact assessments required can be performed by the DCC.

Timetable	
Action	Date
Request Preliminary Assessment	Early Apr 20
Discuss at the July Working Group meeting	1 Jul 20
Refinement Consultation	8 Jul – 29 Jul 20
Impact Assessment costs approved by Change Board	22 Jul 20
Impact Assessment requested	24 Jul 20
Impact Assessment returned	22 Sep 20
Modification Report approved by Panel	16 Oct 20
Modification Report Consultation	19 Oct – 9 Nov 20
Change Board Vote	25 Nov 20

## 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
CHISM	Communications Hub Installation and Maintenance Support Materials
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
CSP	Communication Service Provider
DCC	Data Communications Company
DSP	Data Service Provider
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat
SM WAN	Smart Metering Wide Area Network
WAN	Wide Area Network