

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.

Technical Architecture and Business Architecture

Sub-Committee (TABASC)

TABASC_54_0406, 4 June 2020

09:30 – 16:30 Teleconference

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	TABASC Members
TABASC Chair	Julian Hughes
Large Suppliers	Stephen Lovell
	Emslie Law
	David Hipwell (<i>alternate for Rochelle Harrison</i>)
	Martin Christie
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood
	Patrick O'Neill
Other SEC Parties	Elias Hanna
	Tim Boyle

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	Simon Harrison
	Mannu Rawat (<i>part</i>)
	Ro Crawford (<i>part</i>)
	Bushra Ali (<i>part</i>)
	Andrew Rabey (<i>part</i>)
	Rachel Mahon (<i>part</i>)
	Grahame Liggett (<i>part</i>)
	Robin Seaby (<i>part</i>)
	David Walsh (<i>part</i>)
	Nick Rodgers (<i>part</i>)
SSC & SMKI PMA Chair	Gordon Hextall (<i>part</i>)
Operations Group Chair	Dave Warner (<i>part</i>)

Managed by

BEIS	Joe Howard <i>(part)</i>
	Russell Kent-Smith <i>(part)</i>
SECAS	Anik Abdullah
	Rebecca Jones
	Kayla Reinhart
	Harry Jones <i>(part)</i>
	Joe Hehir <i>(part)</i>
	Joey Manners <i>(part)</i>
	Rainer Lischetzki <i>(part)</i>
	Robin Healey <i>(part)</i>
	Abhay Soorya <i>(part)</i>

Apologies:

Category	TABASC Members
Large Suppliers	Rochelle Harrison
	Mark Morrison
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton

1. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

The TABASC noted that no comments were received relating to the minutes of the TABASC53 meeting held on 7 May 2020. The TABASC **APPROVED** the Draft Minutes as written.

Action Reference	Action
TABASC47/07	As per transferred OPSG action 24/06: DCC to explain the CSP N Scalability approach. The DCC provided an update under agenda item 10, in the confidential minutes. 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 provided an update under agenda item 10, in the confidential minutes. Status: CLOSED .
TABASC49/03	The DCC to set out how the objectives of simplification and low cost in the Next Gen programme will be fulfilled and measured. The DCC provided an update under agenda item 11, in the confidential minutes. Status: OPEN .
TABASC49/04	DCC to provide a detailed strategy and business requirements documents for the Next Gen programme for the TABASC to review. The DCC provided an update under agenda item 11, in the confidential minutes. Status: OPEN .

Action Reference	Action
TABASC50/03	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.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC50/09	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 provided an update under agenda item 13, in the confidential minutes. Status: CLOSED .	
TABASC51/05	DCC/SECAS to look at the User buffer in more detail and bring to the TABASC how it would be implemented.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC51/06	DCC to explore the CR for Telefonica to resolve the AD1 issue, for the alerts lost during DCC scheduled maintenance issue.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
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.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
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.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC51/13	(Network Evolution) The DCC to explain to the TABASC what additional coverage would be provided by roaming.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC52X/01	The DCC to look into the CH & Network Programme A Phase 3 'Design/Build/Test' cost as it seems too high, and bring an update to the TABASC at the 7 May meeting.
The DCC provided an update under agenda item 11, in the confidential minutes. Status: CLOSED .	
TABASC52X/02	The DCC to bring back to the TABASC how Users will be impacted from a cost perspective for usage and roaming.
The DCC provided an update under agenda item 11, in the confidential minutes. Status: CLOSED .	

Action Reference	Action
TABASC52X/03	The TABASC provided feedback and requested clarity on the benefits of DCC CH and Network problem statements, investment options, business needs and delivery timing. The DCC to return to 7 May TABASC meeting to re-present the business case noting the six feedback points made by the TABASC at the TABASC 52X meeting.
	The DCC provided an update under agenda item 11, in the confidential minutes. Status: CLOSED .
TABASC52X/05	The DCC to consider the cost impacts to DCC Users for set up and operational costs.
	The DCC provided an update under agenda item 11, in the confidential minutes. Status: OPEN .
TABASC52X/06	The DCC to provide architectural diagrams for each of the programme options for CH & Network, showing how the technical architecture changes.
	TABASC agreed to close this at the TABASC 54 meeting as it has an incorrect open status. The action was addressed at the 53X meeting. Status: CLOSED .
TABASC53/01	The DCC to provide the TABASC with the draft Contract Change Requirements Tracker and example requirement, to assess its level of detail and to suggest any requirements to be added in order for it to be discussed at the TABASC54 meeting.
	The DCC provided an update under agenda item 13. Status: CLOSED .
TABASC53/02	SECAS/DCC to reanalyse the MWHHS capacity challenge from a multiple Meter Data Retrieval and DCC User perspective trying to retrieve half hourly data.
	This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .
TABASC53/03	SECAS/DCC to consider the impacts of the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) Modification P379 'Multiple Suppliers through Meter Splitting' change on MWHHS.
	This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .
TABASC53/04	SECAS to prepare the TABASC response to the MWHHS consultation and send to the TABASC Chair for review and then onto TABASC Members.
	This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .
TABASC53/05	The DCC to return to the TABASC to present on the DSP Sandpit lessons learnt and indicate the benefit it obtained from conducting Stage 1 of the project.
	This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .
TABASC53/07	The DCC to reassess the CH and Network WAN Chipset and technical options chart and provide the TABASC with a view of what each of the options would look like for implementation in 2021/2, in 2028 and in 2033.

Action Reference	Action
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC53/08	The DCC to consider other CH WAN Module processor and memory options, including the cost and benefit, and articulate what additional benefit this would give Service Users in real terms.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC53X/01	The DCC to communicate with Telefonica regarding performance of Mesh statistics for measurement to understand how it works and which Devices are operating on Mesh.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC53X/02	The TABASC to review the DCC Assessment of WAN Technology document and provide comments by 3 June 2020 for it to be discussed at the TABASC54 meeting.
This update is provided under agenda item 12, in the confidential minutes. Status: CLOSED .	
TABASC53X/03	The DCC to confirm the expected timeline for the CH and Network Programme A and the delivery of the CH Minimal Viable Product and the indicative date for UIT Entry on the CH and Network Program.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC53X/04	The DCC to facilitate further dialogue about the ability to transition Telefonica CH onto new architecture, and when and how this would be assessed.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	
TABASC53X05	The TABASC Chair to contact the SEC Panel Chair recommending a third-party report on the DCC's Network Evolution business case.
This action will be addressed at a future TABASC meeting. Status: OPEN .	

2. Q2 2020 Work Package (Jul – Sept) (**AMBER**)

The TABASC was provided with the Quarter 2 2020-21 Work Package (July – September). This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **RECOMMENDED** the Q2 Work Package to the SECCo Board for approval.

3. Effectiveness Review Update

SECAS have provided the TABASC with update reports on the effectiveness review outcomes, each month since the survey was issued in September 2019. This included the findings and investigation next to each resulting action and the proposed next step for each.

The TABASC were asked its thoughts on running the survey again in September 2020, one year after it was last run, remembering that TABASC have a SEC obligation to ensure the Technical and Business Architectures are effective. A TABASC member raised that due to the current pandemic, a lot of activities are suspended, and therefore the questions due to be asked in the fourth iteration of the survey should be reviewed by the TABASC to ensure they are still relevant. Prior to TABASC agreeing the timing of the next survey, SECAS will provide a benefits case following the last survey and the analysis of the survey questions. The TABASC will consider the analysis and review the questions due to be asked to ascertain whether the current pandemic will affect the responses.

The TABASC:

- **AGREED** that the actions recommended by SECAS for closure, may be closed;
- **AGREED** that the actions transferred to other SEC Sub-Committees are monitored;
- **AGREED** the next steps for each open action provided; and
- **AGREED** to revisit the suitability of the survey questions ahead of its next iteration of the survey using the benefits gained from the last survey results prior to agreeing the timing for issuing the next Effectiveness Review Survey.

4. Sub-Committee Update

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The TABASC Chair highlighted that the SSC is seeking to improve the authentication of Central Product List (CPL) requests in the chain between manufacturers, Suppliers, and finally to SECAS.

During discussions at the SSC, it was suggested that the Infrastructure Key Infrastructure (IKI) service could be used, but because the current functionality is very bespoke, it is not well suited for signing firmware images and countersigning. The intent is to investigate whether a Public certificate service can be procured, using a certificate profile which would be recognised in Microsoft applications, to enable Suppliers to validate the manufacturer's requests, and SECAS to validate both the Supplier counter signed aspect and the manufacturer signing. The TABASC may need to be involved in the technical design of the service.

A TABASC Member asked whether this would require a change to the SEC, to which the TABASC Chair advised that currently the obligation on manufacturers is to sign an image file using a certificate whether they are a SEC Party or not, the discussion is whether to change the provider of that certificate which may require a SEC change.

Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)

The TABASC Chair noted a PMA requirement to remove the need for SMKI Portal Over The Internet (SPOTI) as part of contract renewal for SMKI services.

Operations Group (OPSG)

The TABASC Chair advised that a process has been agreed at OPSG to manage alert exceptions and assessment periods implemented under [SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'](#). The agreed process to manage alert expectations and assessment periods means that it will come through the TABASC and SSC for review and recommendation to OPSG, if OPSG approve it goes through. If OPSG do not approve, then it will go back to the SSC and the TABASC to review again. SECAS noted that there were outstanding questions at OPSG on whether an industry consultation was required for SECMP0062, whereby it was agreed that this was not required. The process will be formalised and taken to OPSG for final sign off.

Technical Specifications Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)

SECAS highlighted the following items from the most recent TSIRS meeting:

- that there had been previous advice that Device level versioning of SMETS seemed to be administrative only, but at the TSIRS meeting on 14 May 2020, it was discussed that it seems to have a wider impact on TS Applicability tables. BEIS has proposed to apply versioning to individual Device sections within the SMETS. BEIS will issue a consultation which will include some sample documents which will show how it will look in terms of the TS Applicability tables.
- A BEIS consultation is due in July 2020 for SEC changes for subsidiary documents mostly focused on Standalone Auxiliary Proportional Controller (SAPC).
- Issue Resolution Proposal (IRP) 619 has been closed, which was a long-standing item, with IRP618 for twin element calendar being discussed in the June 2020 TSIRS meeting.
- At the Pre-Payment workshop, there was a statement that a Meter should only execute critical commands it has been asked to execute, and no others which was agreed. In GBCS table 7.38, the statement that under certain circumstances, a meter would have to execute other critical commands, has been removed in the drafting of GBCS 4.0. A TABASC member raised that Gas Manufacturers are using DLMS guidance which is incorrect, to which SECAS advised that the specification is silent on Gas requirements with no guidance on how to work on critical command, this is important to discuss at TSIRS to ensure the guidance applies to all Devices.
- HAN Stability will be added as a TSIRS standing agenda item to explore root cause of instabilities. The previous TABASC effort on HAN Stability was noted and SECAS confirmed it will investigate the relationship between the two.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

5. BEIS Update

This agenda item was deferred to the TABASC 54X meeting on 18 June 2020.

6. New Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals

SECAS provided the TABASC with the following new Draft Proposals raised since the May meeting, seeking comments from the TABASC:

- [DP125 'Correcting ESME Variant'](#)

This Draft Proposal has been raised so that the current Supplier can update the Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) variant details in the DCC Inventory, rather than just the installing Supplier. The TABASC requested that the Working Group considers if there are any other SRs that only the installing Supplier can send that would benefit from the current Supplier also being able to send. Also to remind the working group to consider any changes necessary to Business Processes in the Business Architecture Document in terms of who can access what.

TABASC54/01: SECAS to take DP125 to the Working Group and consider the wider use of Service Requests and consider the changes of the Business Processes in the Business Architecture Document.

- [DP130 'CH Order and Delivery Changes due to COVID-19'](#)

SECAS flagged for the TABASC information, that this Draft Proposal was raised as an urgent proposal and was implemented on 27 May 2020. Manufacturers of Communications Hubs were continuing to deliver these devices under the SEC and Suppliers were obligated to receive the deliveries they ordered pre COVID-19. However, due to social distancing guidelines set out by the UK Government, only essential Communications Hub installation are taking place.

- [DP131 'Default Maximum Demand Configuration Conflict'](#)

This Draft Proposal was raised due to a conflict with [SECMP0018 'Standard Electricity Distributor Configuration Settings'](#) which introduced standardised configuration settings for ESMEs. However, there is a conflict with the Energy Networks Association (ENA) required default configuration and Table 28d in Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS), causing a direct conflict with SMETS and the required GBSC use case, DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) and the Message Mapping Catalogue (MMC). The TABASC Chair advised that a greater level of quality assurance is needed, to ensure that any change addresses all aspects and that there are not conflicts introduced before a modification is put into live services.

There were no updates to the Modification Proposals the TABASC has previously expressed interest in this month.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

7. Preliminary Assessment for SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'

SECAS provided the TABASC with the proposed solutions for [SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'](#), which highlights a risk that a Communication Hub Firmware update with defects or interoperability issues could be deployed to large numbers of Communication Hubs, which could raise several issues.

The proposed solutions seek to develop and implement an enduring process for the deployment and activation of Communication Hub Firmware updates. Suppliers would be informed by the DCC when Communication Hub Firmware updates are available and relevant to them and allow Suppliers to specify to the DCC the date and time when they will be deployed.

The DCC provided the TABASC with two proposed solutions, as below:

1. Use of Service Requests (SRs) on DUIS; or
2. Use of DCC web portal.

Option one:

The DCC would develop a set of new DCC Alerts and SRs for pilot and safe launch, with safe launch schedules and date ranges for deployment of Firmware being communicated by DCC Alerts. Alerts would communicate the success or failure of safe launch phases, and process level notifications of when a safe launch phase starts and finishes.

New SRs will be added to DUIS to receive Suppliers preferred pilot lists and preferred pilot schedules. All other interactions between the DCC and Suppliers would take place over Email. The impact on DCC Service Providers would be for the Data Service Provider (DSP) to create the SRs and Alerts required, as well as changes to Communication Service Provider (CSP) management gateway to enable the data which would drive the Alerts.

Option two:

The DCC would develop Self Service Interface (SSI) screens to manage all interactions between DCC and Energy Suppliers during the pilot and safe launch phases, with the dashboard sending notification to Suppliers of updated lists. The difference to option one is that option two is more of a manual process using the SSI rather than machine to machine interface through DUIS. The Impacts of option two will be new Alerts added to DUIS with impact to the motorway, and changes required to SSI and Smart Metering Inventory (SMI).

The TABASC Chair asked what would happen on CoS and whether the gaining Supplier would know there was an upgrade scheduled. The DCC advised that the gaining Supplier would not know there was an upgrade scheduled, however if they knew the list of Devices can be modified up to the point where the CSP is ready to deploy, to which the TABASC advised that an extra check point should be added

at this point to validate that the Device has not changed Supplier and if it has, withdraw the Device from the list.

Of the two solutions presented, the TABASC members considered that firmware management processes are separate from Smart Metering CRM activities and as such having them in DUIS is not preferred and also very expensive to implement. Of the two options presented Option 2 was preferred however, the TABASC challenged the high cost and requested that the DCC consider alternative ways of meeting the requirements, including the use of SharePoint. SECAS and the DCC noted the suggestions and will feed them back to the Working Group.

TABASC54/02: DCC and SECAS to look at alternative technical solutions to delivery of the requirements for [SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'](#).

8. DCC Update

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

- 20,000 installs a day were taking place pre COVID-19, activities are ramping up again with 2000 installations taking place per day;
- 160 million Service Request Variants (SRVs) run in March, and 145 million in May. There has been at 10% drop in alert activity, with SMETS1 alerts starting on an initial challenging vector;
- 300,000 SMETS1 meters have been migrated, with 500,000 planned in the next month. There has been 95% enrolled right first time, the majority of the failures have been on Gas Smart Meters;
- Middle Operating Capability (MOC) cohort for SMETS1 is close to being ready, but seeing ongoing challenges with the Final Operating Capability (FOC) trilliant cohort;
- Seen Polyphase devices in test, the first ones to go into production are expected in July;
- DCC has engaged a consultancy to perform an evaluation of capacity across DCC Total Systems;
- Continued discussions with Ofgem and Elexon on Half Hourly Settlements. There are concerns around the Meter Data Retrieval (MDR) role, as well as an overarching issue with capacity;
- An RFP is in flight for Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS); and
- There have been questions on whether the DCC would be in a position to allow MAPs access to smart data without allowing them to be DCC Users. The DCC advised that this is in the SMETS1 world so they will want to be able to see which meters have been migrated without being DCC Users. The TABASC Chair advised that a Draft Proposal would need to be raised

for this, and that no work should be done on it until such time as it is accepted into the modifications process.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

9. Engagement Plan for Network Evolution (AMBER)

The DCC provided the TABASC with its engagement plan for the Network Evolution programmes, focussing on Test Automation, Communications Hub and Network and the DSP re-procurement. This included the delivery timescales and when each project will go through the stages of the DCC Change Delivery Methodology (CDM) process. This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

10. CSP N Scalability Approach (AMBER)

The DCC provided an update on its CSP North Scalability Approach. The DCC has been asked to return to the TABASC in August 2020 to provide a snapshot of CSP N actual performance against user experience. This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

11. Communications Hubs and Network Business Case (RED)

The DCC provided an update on the Communications Hub and Network business case. This item is classified as **RED** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

12. TABASC Feedback on DCC Assessment of WAN Technology (AMBER)

SECAS provided an overview of the comments received by TABASC Members on the DCC Assessment of WAN Technology. This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

13. DCC Contract Change Requirements Register

The DCC presented the TABASC with a draft of the contract change requirements register, which seeks to capture known requirements for DCC to consider when extending or changing service provider contracts.

The TABASC noted that the intention is to have a register where new or alternative requirements can be recorded such that they can be considered as part of any contract renewals being processed by DCC. The TABASC Chair asked that when the DCC is entering new contracts or renewing contracts, it takes this to the relevant Sub-Committees to ask whether any changes in requirements should be considered as part of the renewal.

The Security Sub-Committee Chair raised that, in previous SSC meetings, some changes to requirements have been approved and minuted. The DCC agreed to send the Contract Change Requirements Register to SECAS to input any known requirements including those from SSC and PMA.

TABASC54/03: The DCC to send the Contract Change Requirements Register to SECAS to capture known requirements from all subcommittees.

The SSC Chair recognised the DCC concern around receiving too many new requirements, and suggested that the register is sectioned into, essential, highly desirable, etc.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

14. Any Other Business (AOB)

SECAS noted that a vacant TABASC Large Supplier Seat has been opened to industry for nominations, with nominations due by Friday, 12 June 2020.

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

Items for Information

15. Risk Register and Issues Log (AMBER)

SECAS provided the TABASC with its Risk Register and Issues Log which had no material updates for June.

16. Transitional Governance Update – May 2020 (GREEN)

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update paper setting out an overview of the activities occurring in the transitional governance entities and other the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) related meetings and workshops attended by SECAS in the last month for its information. The paper also covers relevant industry publications, responses and consultations.

17. Change Status Report – May 2020

The TABASC was provided with the Change Status Report, which provides information on the progress of SEC Modifications and Releases for its information.

Next Meeting: 18 June 2020 (TABASC54X)