Technical Architecture and Business Architecture

Sub-Committee (TABASC)

TABASC_56_0608, 6 August 2020

09:30 – 16:30 Teleconference

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	TABASC Members
TABASC Chair	Julian Hughes
	Emslie Law
	Rochelle Harrison
	Alex Hurcombe
	Mark Morrison
	Martin Christie
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood (*part*)
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton (*part*)
Other SEC Parties	Elias Hanna (*part*)
	Tim Boyle

Representing	Other Participants
DCC	Simon Harrison
	Michael Wallace
	Verity Thenard (*part*)
	Remi Oluwabamise (*part*)
	Del Kang (*part*)
	Stuart Scott (*part*)
	Steven Bull (*part*)
	Gary Bailey (*part*)
	Chun Chen (*part*)
	Graeme Liggett (*part*)
	Clive Hallam (*part*)

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Operations Group Chair	Dave Warner
BEIS	David Aknin *(part)*
	John Christopher *(part)*
	Russell Kent-Smith *(part)*
Ofgem	Jasmine Killen *(part)*
	Saskia Barker *(part)*
Elexon	Kevin Spencer *(part)*
SECAS	Anik Abdullah
	Cecily Bain
	Kayla Reinhart
	Khaleda Hussain *(part)*
	Harry Jones *(part)*
	Joe Hehir *(part)*
	Robin Healey *(part)*
	Abhay Soorya *(part)*
	Alison Beard *(part)*
	Rainer Lischetzki *(part)*

Apologies:

Category	TABASC Members
Small Supplier	Patrick O'Neil

Absent:

Category	TABASC Members
Large Supplier	Stephen Lovell

1.   Minutes and Actions Outstanding

The TABASC accepted the DCC's proposed amendments to the Draft Confidential Minutes from TABASC 54X, held on Thursday, 18 June. These minutes are now **APPROVED** as final.

The TABASC accepted the DCC's comments and proposed changes on the Draft Confidential Minutes from TABASC 55, held on Thursday, 2 July 2020. The TABASC **APPROVED** the Draft Confidential Minutes as final. The Draft Minutes from TABASC 55 required no changes and the TABASC **APPROVED** these as final.

Action Reference	Action
TABASC54/01	SECAS to take DP125 'Correcting ESME Variant' 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.
SECAS provided an update under agenda item 7. **Status**: Closed.	
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'.
SECAS provided an update under agenda item 7. **Status**: Closed.	
TABASC54/03	The DCC to send the Contract Change Requirements Register to SECAS to capture known requirements from all Sub-Committees.
The DCC has provided the Contract Change Requirements Register to SECAS. SECAS is liaising with each Sub-Committee, including the TABASC to collect the known requirements relevant to each group prior to providing to the DCC. An update will be provided at the TABASC57 meeting. **Status**: Open.	
TABASC54X/01	SECAS to confirm whether SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management' would cause a DUIS uplift to version 4.1 or version 5.
SECAS provided an update under agenda item 8. However, this specific question was not answered and SECAS will investigate further. **Status**: Open.	
TABASC55/01	TABASC Chair and the DCC Representative to discuss TABASC involvement in changes to DCC Internal Systems.
A meeting is being set up between the TABASC Chair and the DCC Representative and an update will be provided at a future TABASC meeting. **Status**: Open.	
TABASC55/02	SECAS to provide the TABASC with a proposal for changes to the Terms of Reference to strengthen the governance role of changes that affect the technical and/or business architectures.
Following an agreed approach at the TABASC55 meeting, SECAS is drafting proposed changes to the ToR for agreement. SECAS will provide an update at the TABASC 57 meeting. **Status**: Open.	
TABASC55/03	SECAS to investigate whether the GBCS table 28d being implemented as part of DP131 'Default maximum demand configuration conflict' includes information defined elsewhere, and if so it is removed to avoid duplicated data across multiple sections of the technical specifications.
SECAS provided an update under agenda item 7. **Status**: Closed.	
TABASC55X/02	The DCC to produce a Lessons Learned paper for Network Evolution.

Action Reference	Action
	The DCC will provide an update at a future TABASC meeting. **Status**: Open.

2. Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlements Consultation Response (AMBER)

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on Ofgem's Market-Wide Half Hourly Settlements (MWHHS) programme, along with seeking agreement for several key positions which will be provided in response to the draft consultation 'Electricity Retail Market-Wide Half-Hourly Settlement: Consultation'. This item is classified as AMBER and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **AGREED** that the following points will form the basis of the TABASC's response to Ofgem's draft consultation:

- A new User Role is required for the Meter Data Retrieval (MDR) Party.

- Dedicated MWHHS Service Requests with extended Target Response Times are required for the new user role to allow DCC to process MWHHS Service Requests at quiet times and reduce impact on DCC Systems.

- The TABASC has concerns that the implementation of MWHHS may result in nugatory costs as it needs to be implemented under the existing contract with a very short period of utilisation before re-contract.

3. Q1 2020-21 (Apr-Jun) Lookback Report (AMBER)

SECAS provided the TABASC with the lookback report for Q1 2020-21 April - June. This item is classified as AMBER and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the Lookback Report against the Q1 2020-21 Work Package.

4. Sub-Committee Update

Security Sub-Committee (SSC)

The TABASC Chair highlighted that the SSC has finalised the security characteristics for Home Area Network Connected Auxiliary Load Control Switches (HCALCS).

Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)

The TABASC Chair noted that the SMKI PMA has approved several recommendations for a potential solution for DP128 'Gas Network Operations SMKI Requirements', subject to further analysis by the DCC. The TABASC Chair also provided feedback on an ongoing issue with that Modification.

Operations Group (OPSG)

The OPSG Chair informed the TABASC that there are ongoing issues with the performance of the Communication Service Provider North (CSPN) in relation to firmware distribution updates. The OPSG is awaiting confirmation from the DCC regarding when the Service Level Agreement (SLA) will be met.

It was noted that the MWHHS discussion during this meeting reinforces the need for an end-to-end capacity model to support OPSG monitoring of operational traffic, along with architectural planning by the TABASC.

Serious concerns remain regarding the stability of the SMETS1 Services. The OPSG has requested that BEIS considers these concerns when deciding whether MOC Secure Device Model Combinations should be added to the Eligible Product Combination List (EPCL).

Technical Specifications Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)

SECAS presented to the TABASC slides on the highlights from the most recent TSIRS meeting. The TABASC noted the highlights and specifically discussed the following items:

- BEIS advised that it is developing plans to form a HAN stability Working Group under the TSIRS and is expecting this to be discussed at the Transitional Business Design Group (TBDG) August meeting. SECAS noted that it will be writing to TSIRS to formally request this.

- There is renewed interest in ALCS/HCALCS labels, specifically with regards to Electric Vehicle (EV) charging. It was noted that the associated requirements should be added to the DCC contract change requirements register, which TABASC will discuss at a future meeting.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

5. BEIS Update

BEIS provided the TABASC with an overview of activity, including the British Standards Institute issuing a call for comments on Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 1878 by Wednesday, 2 September, which is associated with EV smart charging.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

6. SECMP0007 'Firmware Updates to IHDs and PPMIDs'

SECAS and the DCC updated the TABASC on SECMP0007 'Firmware updates to IHDs and PPMIDs' which is currently undergoing the Refinement Process.

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A TABASC member suggested that the current process could be improved if when the DSP sends an Alert to the requesting Supplier, it also notifies other Suppliers associated with the same meter point. The DCC advised that the firmware tracking mechanism provided by the DSP would address this, along with informing Users of the progress of firmware updates. The Smart Metering Inventory (SMI) will automatically be updated with the subsequent firmware version.

A new Communication Service Provider (CSP) response of 'Too Busy' is being introduced to prevent a CSP system overload. The DCC confirmed that the CSP would generate a http 503 response code to the DSP and the DSP would then continue to retry for up to four days. The DCC noted an N22 Alert (Failure to deliver Update Firmware Command to CSP) would be generated after four days from the CSP "too busy" response which would include enough information for the User to understand the cause. The TABASC agreed that this Alert should provide Users with enough information.

The TABASC Chair questioned whether the implementation of batching under Firmware Distribution Control 3 'Batch Status' would cause complications, but the DCC confirmed that only some additional processing is required and will not incur substantial costs. The TABASC Chair also questioned whether the DCC had considered a new "batched User Alert" as a result of the CSPs batched notifications to the DSP. The DSP advised that a new "batched Alert" could add considerable cost onto the Proposed Solution and had therefore not been considered.

SECAS informed the TABASC of the next steps, including a Request for Information (RFI) that closed on 6 August, a review from the SSC on 12 August, and a presentation to the SEC Panel on 14 August.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

7.   New Draft Proposals and Modification Proposals

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

- DP136 'Enduring ICHIS Compliance Related to RF'. The TABASC agreed that this Modification is likely to be of more interest to the OPSG but suggested the TABASC may have some interest in the documents.

- DP137 'Sharing Information on Defects and Issues'. The TABASC agreed that this Modification was of interest and requested to be involved in its progress. The OPSG Chair noted that this Modification Proposal was originally raised on behalf of the OPSG.

- DP138 'DCC Service Testing in ETAD'. The TABASC agreed that it does not need to be involved with this Modification.

SECAS updated the TABASC on the following open Modification Proposals:

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- SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management'. In response to action TABASC54/02, the Proposer has confirmed they will investigate a SharePoint solution and a standalone cost for the Alert upon activation of Communications Hubs (CH) firmware. SECAS is updating the business requirements and has sought the opinion of the Working Group.

- MP125 'Correcting the ESME Variant'. In response to action TABASC54/01, SECAS shared its business requirements at the Working Group on Wednesday, 5 August.

- MP131 'Default maximum demand configuration conflict'. In response to action TABASC55/03, SECAS confirmed that the values in Table 28d are found elsewhere in the GBCS use cases, but relate solely to pre-configuration.

- MP134 'Use of SMKI Certificated relating to a SoLR event'. SECAS is currently discussing next steps with the Proposer and will return to the TABASC once these have been agreed. The TABASC noted its interest in this Modification.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

8.   SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management' Update

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update on SECMP0067 'Service Request Traffic Management' highlighting the outcomes of the ad-hoc Working Group meeting on 9 July 2020. The key outcomes were as follows:

- The Working Group agreed with thee TABASC's preferred option of linking the HTTP 429 response code to a DUIS version;

- The Proposed Solution was queried whether any impacts to the CSP would have consequences, the investigations from which have been added to the Modification Report; and

- The Working Group members were asked ahead of the Second Refinement Consultation to provide any costs or savings incurred by the Modification Proposal to help provide additional detail to the business case.

The TABASC agreed an implementation model whereby the capability is included in the SEC at the earliest opportunity, with the DUIS changes implemented in the November 2021 release alongside a number of the other DUIS changes.

The TABASC:

- **NOTED** the update; and

- **AGREED** that the Modification Report should reflect the discussions and concerns raised.

9. DCC Update

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

- Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) Request For Proposal (RFP) has completed and the DCC will review responses received in August.

- A general update on SMETS1 challenges, including the need to achieve operational stability before uplifting the Middle Operating Capability (MOC) code into the production environment, which is currently scheduled for the 15-16 August.

- An update to the Final Operating Capability (FOC), including a 2-drop plan to introduce the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) definition to support the migration of installations during 2020.

- The Faster Switching programme is undertaking Systems Integration Testing (SIT) in the SIT-B environment and has encountered some early integration challenges which the DCC has addressed.

- Currently, 4.7 million SMETS2 meters have been installed. The current volume of installs is 60,000 per week, down from 90,000 a week pre-Covid-19, but significantly improved since April 2020.

- The DCC is working with Alt HAN for testing.

- The BIZZDesign Horizon suite has been selected to act as the architectural design tool. The DCC noted that the TABASC members will be able to access the tool via viewer licenses once it is finalised.

- The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

10. DCC Power Outage Alert Programme (AMBER)

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on its Power Outage Alert Programme. This item is classified as AMBER and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC:

- **NOTED** the update; and

- **REQUESTED** that the DCC returns to a future meeting with more information about its proposed requirements and technical solutions.

11. Phase 2 of the DSP Northbound Motorway Cache Issues (AMBER)

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on phase 2 of the Data Service Provider (DSP) Northbound motorway cache potential issues, whereby options were presented to lower the likelihood of the risk materialising. This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

12. CSP North Performance (AMBER)

The DCC presented the TABASC with the CSPN performance approach. This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC:

- **NOTED** the update; and

- **AGREED** to monitor this area going forward.

13. SR4.10 Delivery Failure (AMBER)

The DCC provided the TABASC with an update on the SR 4.10 failure in the CSP North Region, including an overview of the problem statement. This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

14. Any Other Business (AOB)

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 August.

16. Transitional Governance Update (GREEN)

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update paper setting out an overview of the activities occurring in the transitional governance entities and other 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 – July 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: 3 September (TABASC 57)