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MP106 ‘CHISM update for Unknown WAN Variant’

October 2020 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Emmanuel Ajayi	SECAS
David Walsh	DCC
Chun Chen	DCC
Sasha Townsend	DCC
Simon Trivella	British Gas
Allan Row	British Gas
Ali Raza	EDF Energy
Julie Geary	E.ON
Elias Hanna	Landis & Gyr
Alistair Cobb	Landis & Gyr
Daniel Davies	Utiligroup
Mahfuzar Rahman	Scottish Power
Emslie Law	SSE/OVO
Rachel Norberg	Utilita
Gemma Slaney	WPD
Lynne Hargrave	Calvin Capital
Ferenc Vanhoutte	Geo Together
Eric Taylor	SLS

Overview

The Smart energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified by MP106, the Proposed Solution, the draft legal text and the Refinement Consultation responses.

Issue:

- When Service Request 12.1 ‘Request WAN Matrix’ is sent to receive Smart Meter (SM) Wide Area Network (WAN) Coverage, in most cases they will receive an Availability Date for the WAN

- [MP081 'Alignment of DUIS and CHISM to reflect current DCC Processing'](#) approved for implementation in the November 2020 Smart Energy Code (SEC) Release
- The Data Services Provider (DSP) response when the Availability Date is known but the WAN Variant is not, The “ “ Space for South and Central regions adds unnecessary confusion for Data Communications Company (DCC) Users

Proposed Solution:

- Replace “ “ Space with “Unknown” in table 3 of Communications Hub Installation and Support Materials (CHISM) Annex E3
- The modification also requires amendments to:
 - Communications Services Provider (CSP) for the South and Central Regions Coverage Deployment Model output SM WAN Coverage Checker Database
 - CSP Network Coverage Extract data extract files
 - DSP design document SD 4.4.4.

Draft legal text:

- Amend SEC Appendix I 'CH Installation and Maintenance Support Materials' Annex E3 Table 3 to replace “ “ Space with “Unknown”.

Refinement Consultation:

- Concerns raised relating to the implementation costs (estimated at £150,000 in the DCC Preliminary Assessment)

Working Group discussions

SECAS summarised issue identified by the Proposer. The Working Group noted the issue and asked whether this had been found to be a problem in practice. As MP081 will be implemented in the November 2020 SEC Release, the WAN Variant values are not yet in use. The issue was identified at a User engagement design discussion.

SECAS provided information on the Proposed Solution as well as the details included in the DCC Preliminary Assessment. The DCC Preliminary Assessment stated that the cost of implementation would be approximately £150,000 for design, build and Pre-integration Testing (PIT), though the DCC commented that they expect this to be reduced (up to PIT) if a DCC Impact Assessment is progressed (although testing costs for the Release would also need to be considered).

Comments were received around the costs included in DCC Preliminary Assessments in general. The DCC advised that due to the short turnaround time (15 Working Days), Service Providers must estimate costs broadly before refining them further under the DCC Impact Assessment. Working Group members stated that they want to see more transparency in modification costs moving forwards.

SECAS informed Working Group members that the Change Board had approved the cost (£19,480) of carrying out the Impact Assessment. However, Refinement Consultation respondents were less supportive of the Proposed Solution. SECAS received four responses to the Refinement Consultation and each respondent raised concern regarding the implementation costs. Issues have arisen surrounding the business case as the relatively small amendment has such a high associated cost.

SECAS stated that a respondent had proposed that guidance should be added to inform Users that “Space should be interpreted as “Unknown”. This would just be a legal text change and the costs associated would be for SECAS time and effort to implement the modification. The Working Group approved the Alternative Solution and felt it should be progressed. The Proposer agreed and acknowledged that due to the high costs of the original Proposed Solution something simpler and less expensive should be explored. A Working Group member queried if this Alternative Solution would still require a modification. The DCC confirmed the guidance would be added to SEC Appendix I ‘CH Installation and Maintenance Support Materials’. As this forms a SEC Subsidiary Document a modification is still needed to amend it.

A member suggested that as the proposed change is now just small clarification to the SEC that it could progress as a Fast-Track Modification. SECAS advised it will explore this approach under the rules for Fast-Track Modification in SEC Section D ‘Modification Process’.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS to work with the Proposer to prepare legal text for the Alternative Solution