Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET

www.gov.uk/beis

12 November 2020

The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel, SEC Parties and other interested parties

Dear Colleague,

SMART METERING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME: DIRECTION TO RE-DESIGNATE SMETS1 TMAD WITHIN THE SMART ENERGY CODE

1. This letter constitutes the Government's response to two consultations undertaken by the Data Communications Company (DCC) on BEIS' behalf and a direction to re-designate SEC Appendix AL SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document (TMAD).

2. The detailed technical and procedural requirements of the migration approach for SMETS1 are set out in the SMETS1 TMAD. The current TMAD (version AL 7.0) covers requirements for the Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and Middle Operating Capability (MOC) for SMETS1 Services. It was first incorporated into the Smart Energy Code (SEC) as Appendix AL by the Secretary of State on 14 February 2019.

Changes to the SMETS1 TMAD for Change of Supplier (CoS) Minimising Dormancy

3. Between 18 December 2019 and 22 January 2020, DCC ran a consultation on revisions to the TMAD in which it proposed reducing timelines to achieve migration of recently dormant meters. Currently, when there is a CoS event for a SMETS1 device, there is a risk that a SMETS1 meter that is yet to be enrolled into the DCC's secure network could become temporarily dormant. The proposals set out in this consultation sought to reduce the amount of dormant time experienced by reducing notification periods prior to DCC promptly migrating these installations onto their solution. The consultation also proposed a small number of SMETS1 Final Operating Capability (FOC)-specific changes to TMAD comprising the technical details involved in preparing and migrating this cohort of meters.[1]

4. On 7 May 2020, DCC published its conclusions on its 18 December 2019 consultation and included an overview of the six stakeholder responses it received[2]. Some respondents were concerned about the potential for increased manual intervention required by DCC's Migration Control Centre to progress its proposed change. DCC provided assurance on

[1] https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/media/3479/tmad_for_foc_consultation_document_issued.pdf
[2] https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-hub/consultations/dcc-responses/dcc-consultation-response-to-the-dcc-consultation-on-changes-to-tmad-for-change-of-supplier-dormancy/

this issue through its consultation response, noting that it has engaged with industry and that it considers the level of additional manual intervention required to be manageable, particularly in light of the anticipated low number of CoS dormancy events.

5. Since the DCC published its conclusions, DCC has provided further information to BEIS explaining how the process to reduce the notification period to Energy Suppliers will operate differently for FOC than for either IOC or MOC. BEIS notes that the process still complies with existing TMAD drafting. Further information on this can be seen in DCC's consultation on its proposed designation date (under paragraph 2.1)[3].

SMETS1 TMAD Changes for SMETS1 Core Uplift 1.2

6. Between 6 August 2020 and 3 September 2020, as part of a broader package of regulatory changes for SMETS1 Core Uplift 1.2, the DCC issued a consultation that included changes to TMAD to provide incremental improvements to the DCC's SMETS1 service[4]. In respect of TMAD, DCC proposed:

   i. A minor change to permit DCC to amend the validation of MPRNs (gas meter identifiers) to account for leading zeros for IOC meters[5].
   ii. For DCC to provide the revised engineering PIN menu to the Installing Supplier where the PIN was incorrectly changed by the DCC during the configuration process[6].

7. Four of the five consultation respondents responded to the TMAD-specific proposals, none of whom objected to them. The DCC published its conclusions on Core Uplift 1.2 to the Secretary of State on 25 September 2020 along with the five written responses it received for SMETS1 Core Uplift 1.2[7].

SMETS1 TMAD Designation Date Consultation

8. On 21 October 2020, the DCC consulted on a new designation date of 3 November 2020 (or, if necessary, as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter) for introducing updates relating to TMAD for CoS Minimising Dormancy and SMETS1 Core Uplift 1.2[8]. DCC received one written response to this consultation which was provided to the Secretary of State once the consultation had closed. The respondent supported the proposal. This respondent stressed that that the functionality offered through SMETS1

[3] https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-hub/consultations/further-smets1-consultation-on-dates-for-re-designation/
[4] https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-hub/consultations/consultation-on-regulatory-changes-for-smets1-uplift-12/
[5] The DCC system requires an integer value for an MPRN.
[6] Clause 13.1 of S1SR mandates that the engineering menu PIN applied to a device is not set to a default value e.g. 1234. For IOC only, this pre-requisite was incorrectly interpreted by DCC in the development of the IOC pre-migration configuration tool and PINs were changed for some IOC Elster gas meters when configuration was applied despite them not being default values and not requiring change. This resulted in the values recorded by the installing engineer not aligning with the engineering menu PIN within the meter.
[7] https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-hub/consultations/dcc-responses/smets1-conclusion-on-regulatory-changes-for-smets1-uplift-12/
[8] https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-hub/consultations/further-smets1-consultation-on-dates-for-re-designation/

Uplift 1.2 should be delivered as soon as possible. DCC also checked with other energy suppliers post-consultation that they did not have concerns about the designation date, several of whom responded with supportive emails.

9. DCC considers it beneficial to re-designate the TMAD as early as possible as it unlocks the volume of available dormant SMETS1 meters to migrate. Changes to facilitate other SMETS1 Core Uplift 1.2 functionality but which relate to S1SR, SRPD and DUIS will be designated at a later date to ensure that the DCC is ready to operationally support the PPMID firmware update service across all cohorts.

Conclusion

10. We conclude that it is appropriate for the new version of TMAD (v8.0) to be designated today, as it appears at Annex A. A marked-up version of the document showing changes relative to the version previously in legal effect is provided at Annex B.

Direction

This direction is made for the purposes of the smart meter communication licences granted to Smart DCC Ltd under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Gas Act 1986 (such licences being the "DCC Licence") and the Smart Energy Code designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the DCC Licence (such code being the "SEC").

Words and expressions used in this direction shall be interpreted in accordance with Section A (Definitions and Interpretation) of the SEC.

Pursuant to Condition 22 of the DCC Licence and Section X5 (Incorporation of Certain Documents into this Code) of the SEC, the Secretary of State directs that, with effect from 12 November 2020, the SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document (TMAD) previously designated and incorporated into the SEC as Appendix AL of the SEC is hereby re-designated and incorporated in the form set out in Annex A of this direction.

For the avoidance of doubt, any re-designation of the TMAD shall be without prejudice to anything done under the DCC Licence or the SEC on or after the TMAD first being designated, or to the continuing effectiveness of anything done under the TMAD prior to its re-designation (which shall have effect as if done under the re-designated document).

This direction is also being notified to the SEC Administrator and an updated version of the SEC to reflect these changes will be available on the SEC website in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Duncan Stone

Deputy Director & Head of Delivery,
Smart Metering Implementation Programme

(An official of the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State)

Annexes (separate documents)

Annex A: SEC Appendix AL - SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document (TMAD) v8.0 – clean

Annex B: SEC Appendix AL - SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document (TMAD) v8.0 – marked up against v7.0