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Transitional Governance Update

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform the SEC Panel and SEC Parties of the activities occurring in the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP). The update covers a high-level overview of the following:

- **Transitional Work Groups** (Section 2) - updates will cover the meetings attended by the Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) and on behalf of the Panel Chair in the last month.
- **Publications** (Section 3) - relevant publications, responses and consultations issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Data Communications Company (DCC) and Ofgem (the Authority) in relation to Smart Metering, whilst highlighting areas that may be of interest to the SEC Panel and/or SEC Parties.

2. Transitional Work Group Updates

2.1 Smart Meter Delivery Group (SMDG)

The SMDG met on 10 December 2020 and discussed:

The following statistics published by BEIS:

- There are currently over 6 million SMETS2 and 2.3 million SMETS1 enrolled meters, with almost 90 thousand SMETS2 Meters being installed each week. It was noted that the second lockdown had not seen the same decrease in install rates as the first one.
- The safety performance of meters in 2020 has generally improved since 2019, with the exception of a small number of installations where the position of the neutral and live terminals were the wrong way round.
- Quarter 3 data on failed installs show a 29% failure rate. 15% of failures are for operational issues, with 13% being customer related.
- In September 2020, 6.4% of all energy related contacts to Citizens Advice consumer advice service related to Smart Meters.

GBCS v2.1 and v3.2 Joint Industry Plan (JIP) – SMDG approved the proposed plan for Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) v2.1 and v3.2.

- Pilots for Toshiba and WNC GBCS v3.2 are targeted for Quarter 4 2021 with Devices targeted to be available from December 2021.

- The Pilot for EDMI Communication Hubs on GBCS v2.1 is planned to commence in June 2021 with the GBCS v3.2 targeted for pilot in May 2022.

2.2 Test Design and Execution Group (TDEG)

The TDEG met on 10 December 2020 and discussed:

- **SMETS1 Final Operating Capability (FOC) testing update –** The DCC provided an update on the progress of the SMETS1 FOC release. The TDEG questioned whether the DCC will revisit the testing already carried out, along with actions to improve it. The DCC confirmed that a re-plan is underway but was unable to provide further details during the TDEG meeting. The Testing Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed the re-plan in more detail when it met in December and an update from that group has been provided in the January 2021 Sub-Committee Report, available to download here.
- **GBCS 2.1 & 3.2** – The DCC provided an update on the plan Single Band Communications Hubs (SBCHs) releases, as well as Dual Band Communications Hubs (DBCHs) for EDMI and WNC releases. User testing dates will be selected using the following principles:
  - Over The Air (OTA) updates of EDMI Dual Band 2.13.3 to start prior to British Summer Time (28 March 2021).
  - Users will be allowed six weeks to test firmware.
  - Fylingdales testing will be conducted in the Communication Service Provider North (CSPN) test lab.

2.3 Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)

The TSIRS met on 10 December 2020 and discussed:

- **Release Update –** Functionality introduced by the November 2020 SEC Release has been implemented in DCC Systems. Some of the data used for making entries to the Central Products List (CPL) needs to be updated to support Devices based on the new Technical Specifications. Once these updates have been verified by the DCC, SECAS will release a new version of the CPL.
- **Home Area Network (HAN) stability –** A new firmware version for Communications Hubs (CHs) is being tested and is expected to increase the stability of the HAN. Mass roll out of this firmware is expected to start during January 2021.

  The root cause analysis of HAN instability continues for several combinations of Meters and CHs. Users are encouraged to report HAN stability issues to the DCC Service Centre so that observed issues can be traced.
- **Nuisance alerts –**
  - The total number of 8F3E Alerts (Unauthorised Communication Access) remains relatively constant at around 25 Million Alerts.
  - The Alert 8F12 (Communication Hub Firmware Device Log Changed) has been observed in large volumes, relating mostly to CSPN CHs installed with the R1 firmware version. A firmware update to these CHs reduces the number and frequency of these Alerts, and this firmware is expected to be rolled out by the end of July 2021.
  - The Alert 8F0C (Clock not adjusted) can be resolved in most cases by sending Service Request Variant (SRV) 6.11 (Synchronise Clock) which reduces the time difference from several minutes to several seconds. Investigations continue into issues relating to the use of British Summer Time (BST).

- **Electricity Meter voltage accuracy –** Increased numbers of SMETS2 Meters are now installed, and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) intend to start using the voltage reported by these meters, for grid monitoring purposes.

  The British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA) confirmed that meters are designed to measure energy and the supported voltage accuracy is typically +/- 2%. The Energy Networks Association (ENA) has advised that an accuracy of 0.5 to 1% is required to use the voltage levels reported by the electricity meters. It was agreed that a SEC Modification would be required if changes to the Technical Specifications are needed to support a higher level of accuracy.

- **SEC Modification Proposal SECMP085 -** The SEC Modification MP085 (Synchronisation of Smart Meter voltage measurement periods) aims to align measurement periods to each full hour and half-hour for all electricity meters. This will enable DNOs to better monitor the performance of the electricity distribution networks and identify issues. SECAS has contacted BEAMA to obtain feedback from Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) manufacturers on feasibility, and whether this can be done via a firmware update to affected Devices.

2.4 Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG)

The TBDG met on 16 December 2020 and discussed:

- **TBDG 2021 Forward Look**

  BEIS provided an update on what it believes the key topics of discussion at TBDG will be during 2021. These include:

  - TBDG is expected to consider and advise on any technical elements of GBCS v3.2 and v4.0 delivery.
  - TBDG will continue to monitor the delivery of Intimate Communication Hubs (ITCHs) in the Communication Service Provider (CSP) North region.
  - The actions highlighted in the National Audit Office report on interoperability will continue to be monitored.
  - The involvement of the TSIRS with Release 2.0 is likely to increase as DBCHs, 868 GSMEs and 868 In Home Devices (IHD)/Pre-Payment Meter Interface Device (PPMID) start to be rolled out in volume and issues are identified.
  - The HAN Wide Area Network (WAN) working group will present and evaluate the results of the HAN propagation survey to TBDG and SMDG.

- **DCC Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) update –** The DCC presented an update on the programme of activities to replace the current Transitional Change of Supplier (TCoS) arrangement. TCoS is used to change the Supplier certificates on Devices, with an ECoS system intended to better reflect the trust model specified by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). A full plan will be consulted on under direction from BEIS once it is finalised.

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2.5 Implementation Managers Forum (IMF)

The IMF met on 17 December 2020 and discussed:

- **Release 2.0 Single Band Communication Hubs (SBCHs)** – Mass OTA of SBCH v2.02.6 in the CSP North estate is 89% complete. The remaining 11% is undergoing root cause investigation.
- **SMETS1 update –** The DCC is approaching over 2.5 million SMETS1 Devices migrated onto the DCC Systems. Users are operating approximately two million of these as Smart Meters.
    - 90% of the dormant Secure Device Model Combinations (DMC) estate has been made available through substantive equivalence, with roughly 10% of the estate still subject to a BEIS review.
    - All relevant Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and Middle Operating Capability (MOC) Eligible Product Combination List (EPCL) entries have completed the required Device Model Combination Testing (DMCT).
    - The Final Operating Capability (FOC) Go Live has been delayed due to identifying critical defects during User testing. The DCC is proposing a new implementation date of 28 February 2021, subject to SMDG endorsement.

2.6 January 2021 Transitional Group meetings

Transitional Group	Meeting date
Test Design and Execution Group (TDEG)	19 January 2021
Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG)	14 January 2021
Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)	14 January 2021
Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG)	20 January 2021
Implementation Managers Forum (IMF)	28 January 2021

Table 2: Transitional Group meetings

3. Publications

3.1 DCC Publications

The DCC has published the following:

- Smart Meter roll out - On 24 December 2020, the DCC confirmed it had over nine million interoperable Smart Meters on the DCC network.
- DCC's December 2020 consultation on changes to the Migration Authorisation Mechanism (MAM) - The DCC is proposing some changes to the MAM. This consultation closes on **22 January 2021**.
- Consultation on the Sharing of Supplier Data - The DCC is proposing to share installation data owned by Energy Suppliers with Other SEC Parties. This is specifically with Device Manufacturers and Meter Asset Providers (MAPs), where data relates specifically and only to the Other SEC Party in question. This consultation closes on **29 January 2021**.

The responses to closed DCC consultations can be found here.

3.2 BEIS Publications

BEIS has published the following:

- Smart Meter Policy Framework Post-2020: minimum annual targets - BEIS is seeking views on annual tolerance levels associated with Smart Meter installation targets for Energy Suppliers in Great Britain. This consultation closes on **15 January 2021**.
- Further SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document (TMAD) consultation - BEIS has issued a consultation on proposed amendments to the SMETS1 TMAD to support the enrolment and operation of SMETS1 Devices in the DCC's network. This consultation closes on **21 January 2021**.

3.3 Ofgem Publications

Ofgem has published the following:

- Smart Meter Rollout Supplier Reporting Requirements from 1 July 2021 onwards - From 1 July 2021, Ofgem will set a threshold whereby Suppliers with 150,000 gas and/or electricity customer accounts will be defined as Large Suppliers and those with less than a 150,000 gas and/or electricity accounts would be defined as Small Suppliers.
- Switching Programme and Retail Code Consolidation: Proposed licence modifications - Ofgem is proposing some changes to the standard licence conditions required for the Faster Switching Programme and Retail Code Consolidation. This consultation closes on **15 January 2021**.
- Code Change and Development Group (CCDG) consultation on Market-wide Half Hourly (MHH) Settlement - Stakeholders can provide their thoughts on the essential data items, processes and Code changes needed to deliver the MHH Settlement Target Operating Model (TOM). These include a new Smart Energy Code (SEC) User Role to access the Half Hourly Settlement data from Smart Meters, and changes to data items under the Retail Energy Code (REC). This consultation closes on **26 January 2021**.
- Forward Work Programme 2021/22 consultation - Ofgem is consulting on their Forward Work Programme to build a more fair and green energy system for consumers. Ofgem welcomes views on their proposed activities. This consultation closes on **19 February 2021**.
- Retail Energy Code (REC) v2.0 and Retail Code Consolidation - Ofgem is consulting on the schedules to the REC that enable retail code consolidation. This involves merging content from the Master Registration Agreement (MRA) and the Supply Point Administration Agreement (SPAA), and Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC) content regarding metering agents into the REC. This consultation closes on **23 February 2021**.

4. Recommendation

The Panel is requested to **NOTE** the contents of this paper.

Fiona Chestnutt

SECAS Team

8 January 2021