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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 8 April 2021 and discussed:

SMDG Dashboard update:

- The DCC operational data suggests that around 840k Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 2 installs took place in the first quarter of 2021. The DCC considers this a good outcome in recognition of the current Covid restrictions. The DCC noted an uplift in daily install activity, which is likely due to all Suppliers now installing again.
- BEIS expressed concerns about safety data which shows an increase on 2020 figures for safety indicators. Data shows gas escapes for 2021 to date is significantly higher than previous years. The data covers all reported escapes irrespective of whether they are proven to be actual escapes. Three of the seven actions which were agreed at Smart Metering Operations Group (SMOG) relating to gas escapes, are relevant to Suppliers:
 1. Training by Suppliers/Meter Operator (MOP) – training is important to ensure that key messages on gas issues are learnt, particularly important for those installers returning from furlough.
 2. Appropriate call centre referrals – the SMOG advised that calls have been inappropriately transferred to Gas Distribution Network (GDNs) and noted that Suppliers should consider call centre scripts/training.

3. Use of GDN reporting - Suppliers are recommended to make use of incident insights from GDNs. BEIS requested that SMDG members discussed internally use of these reports and to address gaps in distribution lists that GDNs use.

- **Consumer Experience Project**

Suppliers were thanked for their responses to the Request For Information (RFI) on issues that affect In Home Devices (IHDs)/PrePayment Meter Interface Devices (PPMIDs) and consumer impacts. BEIS will discuss these further with Suppliers, as well as sharing examples of good practice, during bilaterals with Suppliers in the coming months and will also explore the opportunity of sharing examples of good practice. BEIS will widen industry engagement to non-SMDG suppliers with another RFI to smaller Suppliers to ascertain details of issues they might be having.

- **CPA Triage Process for re-use of SMETS2 meters**

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has raised concerns on some aspects of triage use cases. It is highly likely that changes to Technical Specifications, Commercial Product Assurance (CPA), security characteristics or guidance documents may be required. A roadmap of changes will go out for consultation with various industry forums as soon as the NCSC has completed its actions on changes required. BEIS and the Security Sub-Committee fully understand SEC Party frustrations and concerns and have escalated these to the highest levels in the NCSC. The intent is to implement business objectives to enable triage of SMETS2 Devices in a secure manner.

2.2 Test Design and Execution Group (TDEG)

The TDEG met on 13 April 2021 and discussed:

- **User testing update:** The DCC provided updates on the following areas of User testing:
 - Six Testing Participants are carrying out User testing of SMETS2 Dual Band Communications Hubs (DBCH) EDMI 2.13.2. No issues have been identified so far. Operational Acceptance has been granted.
 - Device and User System Test (DUST) and Migration DUST is underway for SMETS1 FOC with seven Testing Participants.
- **SMETS1 Testing Update:** The DCC provided updates on the following areas of SMETS1 testing:
 - FOC Release 2.0 is now live with no implementation issues.
 - FOC Uplift Release 2.1 is underway. A slightly revised Systems Integration Testing (SIT) approach is required to support an amended approach to uplifting the code into the SIT environment. The Testing Advisory Group (TAG) has reviewed and agreed this change.
- **Trusted Service Provider (TSP) Re-platforming Update:** The DCC TSP project has been mobilised to oversee the migration from BT's existing DigiCert Semantic platform, which is due to be retired in April 2022, to a new private cloud-based BT DigiCert platform. This will be an infrastructure change with no User facing changes to existing Smart Meter Key Infrastructure (SMKI) workflows. The TAG has reviewed and endorsed the proposed approach to testing.

2.3 Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)

The TSIRS met on 8 April 2021 and discussed:

- **Home Area Network (HAN) stability:**

- Data provided by the DCC shows a continued reduction of the number of stability issues occurring. The main contributing factors to this reduction are the upgrade of Communications Hubs (CH) in the Communication Service Provider (CSP) North Region reaching 92%, along with electricity meters moving to robust firmware versions.
- The DCC has investigated the creation of Alert 819D 'Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) Command Not Retrieved' across six meter models with a minimum of 1,000 installed Devices each. The observed level of 819D Alerts can be attributed to between 1% and 5% of the total number of installations.
- **Nuisance alerts:**
 - The DCC has investigated the increase of 8F3E Alerts 'Unauthorised Communication Access' between September and November 2020 in the CSP North Region. The DCC expects the number to drop significantly in the CSP South Region once the roll-out of existing CH stock is complete and the affected CHs have received a firmware update.
 - The DCC is in the process of analysing the data collected for the period from Quarter 1 2019 to Quarter 4 2020 regarding the Alert 8F72 'Firmware Verification Successful'; results are expected for the May TSIRS meeting.
 - The DCC advised that multiple instances of the Alert 8F84 'Failure to Deliver Remote Party Message to Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME)' may indicate possible HAN issues. Telefonica CHs will send this Alert if the neighbour table contains a valid entry or an active tunnel is present, whereas the Arqiva CHs will not. The DCC highlighted that a Modification Proposal will be required to bring the two CHs into alignment.
- **Issue Resolution Proposals (IRP)**

The following IRPs were discussed:

| IRP No. | Title | Status |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| CRP630 | CRP535 clarification for binding on re-join | Open |
| IRP613 | CRP535 clarification for binding on re-join' | Open |
| IRP634 | Future start date-time on Limit APC [n] Level & ECS47e' | Open |
| IRP644 | CH energy scan if GSME is in PPM with credit out | Open |

2.4 Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG)

The TBDG met on 21 April 2021 and discussed:

- **ECoS SEC changes and security provisions** – BEIS provided an update on its consultation on proposed changes to the SEC to support Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) and to make certain security related changes. The consultation can be found [here](#). The deadline for responses is 20 May 2021. The key proposals are:
 - New SEC provisions which will require greater separation of the Change of Supplier (CoS) Party from the Access Control Broker (ACB).
 - New SEC provisions which will permit BEIS to designate an ECoS Transition document to govern the ECoS migration process. Once designated this may be amended, however any changes would need to be subject to a Security Impact Assessment and agreed by the Security Sub-Committee (SSC).

- A change to Section L to allow a new XML signing Certificate for the CoS Party.
- A new provision placing an obligation on the DCC to develop an ECoS Interface Specification. This will be subject to a Security Impact Assessment and agreed by the SSC prior to designation.
- Changes to Section L to allow the Data Services Provider (DSP), ACB and Wide Area Network (WAN) providers to have access to XML Signing Certificates.

2.5 Implementation Managers Forum (IMF)

The IMF met on 29 April 2021 and discussed:

- **IMF Dashboard Overview** – Users have now installed over 7.4 million SMETS2 Meters, with just under 1.5 million installed in the CSP North Region. Average daily installation volumes are increasing following changes to Covid regulations, with an average of over 16,500 meters installed per day during the week commencing 12 April 2021.
- **SMETS1 update** – Over 3.9 million SMETS1 Meters have been migrated into the DCC Services, with approximately three million of these being operated¹ as Smart Meters by energy suppliers.
- **Fylingdales Communication Hubs** – A Joint Implementation Plan (JIP) Change Request (CR) consultation closed on 16 April 2021 and a re-baseline of the plan is expected as a result. The DCC is engaging with IMF members on the implementation approach with a questionnaire and workshops throughout May and June 2021.
- **Dual Band Communication Hubs (DBCHs)** – Over 1000 DBCH Devices have been installed since September 2020, with over 250 of these in CSP North Region. Weekly installs have increased at low volumes.
- **Firmware fixes for CSP C&S DBCHs:** Pilot schemes to prove firmware updates intended to address the N25 Issue (INC000000659127) are planned to take place by Quarter 4 2021.
- **Network Evolution CH & Network – LC13b Consultation** – The DCC is consulting on the CH & Network and Data Service Provider (DSP) aspects of the Network Evolution programme during May and June 2021. The JIP will be updated once the consultation concludes.

2.6 May 2021 Transitional Group meetings

| Transitional Group | Meeting date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Test Design and Execution Group (TDEG) | 11 May 2021 |
| Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG) | 13 May 2021 |
| Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS) | 13 May 2021 |
| Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG) | 19 May 2021 |
| Implementation Managers Forum (IMF) | 27 May 2021 |

Table 2: Transitional Group meetings

3. Publications

Please click the following links for current [BEIS](#), [DCC](#) and [Ofgem](#) consultations. Open Industry consultations can also be found on the SECAS [Open Industry Consultations webpage](#).

¹ The criteria for the status of 'operated' is due to be considered at an upcoming SMDG.

3.1 DCC Publications

The DCC has published the following:

- [Date for re-designation of the SMETS1 Transitions and Migration Approach Document \(TMAD\) covering SMETS1 Final Operating Capability \(FOC\) Uplift 2.1 and one housekeeping change](#) - FOC Uplift 2.1 is expected to go live on 20 July 2021. This consultation seeks views on the proposed new TMAD re-designation date of **20 July 2021**. The DCC also seeks views to implement one housekeeping change at an earlier date of **28 May 2021**. This consultation closes on **10 May 2021**.
- [Draft SEC Variation Testing Approach Document \(SVTAD\) for the Enduring Change of Supplier \(ECoS\) Arrangements](#) - The DCC is drafting a SEC Variation Testing Approach Document (SVTAD) in respect of variations to the SEC to deliver the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) Arrangements. This consultation closes on **14 May 2021**.
- The responses to closed DCC consultations can be found [here](#).

3.2 Ofgem Publications

Ofgem has published the following:

- [Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement \(MHHS\): Consultation on Implementation and Governance Arrangements](#) - This consultation describes the range of processes required to secure implementation of MHHS, in particular covering the obligations that Ofgem intends to place on Parties to ensure that all parts of the industry move forward together, and the proposed governance arrangements for the implementation process. This consultation closes on **25 June 2021**.
- Responses to closed Ofgem consultations can be found [here](#).

3.3 BEIS Publications

BEIS has published the following:

- [SEC changes for the Enduring Change of Supplier \(ECoS\) Arrangements and Certain Security Provisions](#) - BEIS is consulting on changes related to the ECoS arrangements and security changes that will affect SEC Section G, Section L and the Smart Meter Key Infrastructure (SMKI) Interface Design Specification. This consultation closes on **20 May 2021**.

4. Recommendation

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

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SECAS Team

7 May 2021