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Paper Reference:	**TABASC_67_0107_09**
Action:	**For Discussion**

SECMP0024 DCC Impact Assessment

1. Purpose

SECMP0024 'Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management' is currently undergoing the Refinement Process. The Data Communications Company (DCC) has completed its Impact Assessment. We seek the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) input on the following questions before we present the final Modification Report to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC):

- Has the DCC's response materially changed since the Preliminary Assessment? If it has, is this a beneficial or detrimental change?
- Does the updated draft legal text fully and accurately deliver the technical solution?

This paper provides a high-level summary of the key points. The DCC Impact Assessment can be found in Appendix A, the DCC's draft Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' (DUIS) legal text in Appendix B and the business requirements in Appendix C.

2. Summary of the proposal

What is the issue?

The Proposer notes that there is nothing in place to automatically notify Suppliers once firmware updates have been activated on Communications Hubs (CHs). The Proposer also considers there to be a lack of a formalised process for managing firmware updates to CHs between the DCC and Suppliers.

What is the Proposed Solution?

The Proposed Solution is for the DCC to generate an Alert to Responsible Suppliers upon successful activation of CH firmware. This Alert will contain the firmware version of the newly activated firmware. The business requirement for the solution is as follows:

- *The DCC is to generate an Alert to the Service User upon successful activation of Communications Hub firmware, containing the firmware version of the newly activated firmware.*

In addition, the DCC will update its CH Firmware Management Overview document and make this available to the DCC website. The CH Firmware Management Overview is a DCC owned document

and therefore this does not require a change to the Smart Energy Code (SEC). However, this has been monitored via the Working Group. As yet this has not been made public, but the Working Group, Operations Group (OPSG) and the TABASC have been provided with a copy and have been able to offer feedback to the DCC.

Supplier benefits

A DCC Alert notifying successful activation would enable Suppliers to:

- Track progress of CH firmware update pilots;
- Update back-office systems to record the active firmware version on each CH, avoiding the need to query the Inventory periodically to obtain this information; and
- Plan the deployment of firmware updates to other Home Area network (HAN) Devices following activation of the new CH firmware.

3. DCC Impact Assessment

The DCC has now completed its Impact Assessment of the Proposed Solution. Its response can be found in Appendix A, with the DCC's draft DUIS legal text in Appendix B and the business requirements in Appendix C.

DCC solution

The DCC will introduce a new DCC Alert to notify the Service Users of the successful activation of a CH firmware version. DCC Alert N64 will be used for this and will include the version of the activated firmware on the Device. If the Service User uses a version of DUIS that does not support the newly introduced DCC Alert, then the DCC Alert N999 'DUIS Version Mismatch' will be used to notify the firmware activation, including the firmware version.

The scenario under which this DCC Alert is generated, and the applicable recipients are summarised in the table below.

N64 Alert criteria				
Notification Scenario	**Trigger**	**Condition**	**DCC Alert ID**	**Recipients**
Successful CH Firmware Activation	Response from CH to the Activate Firmware request (CS06) sent by the Communications Services Provider (CSP) via CSP Management Gateway.	Response indicates new active firmware version.	N64	All Responsible Suppliers

MP122B crossover

Note, the functionality within SECMP0024 is also part of the scope of CR1423 under MP122B 'Operational Metrics – Part 2'. The changes under SECMP0024 affect the Data Services Provider (DSP) only, whereas the changes under CR1423 have dependencies on the CSPs. If approval is gained for CR1423 to go ahead, the overlap of functionality will be accounted for in the MP122B Impact Assessment.

SEC impacts

The definition of the new DCC Alert will need to be included in Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' (DUIS), but these changes are minor. The DUIS Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema will also need to reflect the new Alert.

Integration impact

The new DCC Alert will require both Systems Integration Testing (SIT) and User Integration Testing (UIT).

DCC implementation costs

Breakdown of DCC costs		
Design, Build & Pre-Integration Testing (PIT)	**Post-PIT**	**Total**
£202,395	£309,608	£512,003

The explicit breakdown per phase can be found in the DCC Impact Assessment **RED** Annex to Appendix A.

4. Implementation approach

This modification is targeted for the June 2022 SEC Release along with other DUIS impacting modifications as well as the implementation of the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) arrangements which will also impact DUIS. This is considering an estimated 11-month DCC lead time including SIT and UIT.

5. DCC Comms Hub Firmware Management Overview

In early 2021, the DCC made updates to its CH Firmware Management Overview document. In February-March 2021, we sought feedback from the OPSG and TABASC members on the changes made and received two responses. The DCC took these responses into account and made further changes as a result.

Although the Working Group suggested this be published on the SECAS website, the DCC has suggested it be published on its website only. This is due to it being a DCC-owned document and the risk that having two copies on different websites could result in one being updated but not the other. Additionally, it would ensure prompt responses to queries on the document as the reader would be inclined to ask the publishers of the document (DCC) rather than SECAS.

The DCC aims to publish this document by the end of July 2021.

6. TABASC input on the Impact Assessment

We seek the TABASC's views on the following questions to feed into the Modification Report before we present the report to the CSC:

- Has the DCC's response materially changed since the Preliminary Assessment? If it has, is this a beneficial or detrimental change?
- Does the updated draft legal text fully and accurately deliver the technical solution?

7. Next steps

The OPSG and the Working Group is also reviewing the Impact Assessment on 6 July and 7 July respectively. Following this, we will present the final Modification Report to the CSC on 27 July before the Change Board votes on it on

Timetable	
Event/Action	**Date**
OPSG feedback	6 Jul 2021
Working Group feedback	7 Jul 2021
CSC considers the final Modification Report	27 Jul 2021
Modification Report Consultation	28 Jul 2021 – 16 Aug 2021
Change Board vote	25 Aug 2021

8. Recommendations

The TABASC is requested to **PROVIDE** views and comments on the questions set out in this paper.

Joe Hehir

SECAS Team

24 June 2021

Attachments

- **Appendix A:** SECMP0024 DCC Impact Assessment
  - **Annex A:** SECMP0024 DCC Impact Assessment (**RED**)
- **Appendix B:** DCC draft SECMP0024 DUIS legal text
- **Appendix C:** SECMP0024 business requirements