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SEC Panel Meeting 41

Meeting SECP_41_1002, 10th February 2017

10:00 – 13:00, Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Category	SEC Panel Members
SEC Panel Chair	Peter Davies
Large Suppliers	Simon Trivella
	Alex Travell
Small Suppliers	Eric Graham
	Mike Gibson
Electricity Networks	David Lane
Gas Networks	Hilary Chapman
Other SEC Parties	Mike Woodhall
	Hugh Mullens
Consumer Member	Morgan Wild (Observer)
DCC	Paul Hawkins

Representing	Other Participants
BEIS (Secretary of State)	Duncan Stone
	Patrick De Nijs
Ofgem (the Authority)	Michael Walls
	Raymond Elliot
Meeting Secretary	Mertcan Agir
SECAS	Sarah Gratte
	Jill Ashby
	Adam Lattimore
	David Barber

	Alys Garrett
	James Simmonds (part)
	Courtney O'Connor (part)

Apologies:

Category	SEC Panel Members
Large Suppliers	David Ross Scott

1. Minutes and Actions Outstanding - SECP_41_1002_01

The minutes from the January 2017 Panel meeting were approved via ex-committee decision, noting that suggested changes were included in the final minutes.

SECAS provided the Panel with an update on the Actions Outstanding from previous meetings, noting that the majority of the actions had been closed, with the outstanding actions on target for completion and/or updates to be provided under respective agenda items. A brief update was provided on the following actions:

Action reference	Update
SECP39/03	The Panel were informed that SECAS sent the guidance material for the Security Assessment (User CIO) process on 6 th February 2017 to the Small Suppliers. SECAS provided the Panel with a further update under agenda item 15 on general engagement with Small Suppliers.
SECP40/03	SECAS highlighted that further amendments had been made to the Draft Budget to include the handover project for the Technical Specification Maintenance in the Draft Budget 2017 – 2020. The draft budget was sent out for consultation with a closing date on 14 th February 2017.
SECP40/07	The Panel were informed that the initial discussions took place to commence with work to develop the user testing principles. Further discussions between the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee will take place with input from BEIS.

2. User Security Assessment Update - SECP_41_1002_02

The Panel were provided with the report, response, and recommendation of the SSC for the SEC Parties who have undertaken their Full User Security Assessments. This was in order for the SEC Panel to review and set the assurance status of the Parties in relation to their compliance with each of their obligations under SEC Sections G3 - G6 in their relevant User Roles. The User Security Assessment Reports and User Security Assessment Responses are classified as Red, in line with the Panel Information Policy, and were provided to the Panel via Egress. SECAS reiterated that the information provided is strictly confidential and should not be discussed outside of the Panel meetings. The Panel's decision on the three assurance statuses are documented in the confidential minutes. It was noted that the Panel's decision will be communicated to the assessed Parties.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **AGREED** upon an assurance status for the Party following the consideration of the confidential documentation (Confidential Appendix 1, User Security Assessment Report, User Security Assessment Response, and SECAS User Response Validation) provided via Egress;
- **AGREED** upon an assurance status for the Party following the consideration of the confidential documentation (Confidential Appendix 2, User Security Assessment Report, User Security Assessment Response, and SECAS User Response Validation) provided via Egress; and
- **AGREED** upon an assurance status for the Party following the consideration of the confidential documentation (Confidential Appendix 3, User Security Assessment Report, User Security Assessment Response, and SECAS User Response Validation).

3. SEC Panel Governance for R1.3 - SECP_41_1002_03

SECAS provided the Panel with considerations on the approach to governance for Release 1.3 (R1.3). The Panel were informed of their role in the approval of the Systems Integration Testing (SIT).

SMKI and Repository Testing

It was highlighted that the SMKI and Repository Testing (SRT) relating to the recovery functionality needs to be completed as part of Additional SRT Testing as part of the R1.3 testing. SECAS noted that the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) Chair had been in discussion with the DCC with regards to updating the SRT Approach Document and seeking the relevant approval. The Panel will be updated on the outcome of these discussions in due course.

Systems Integration Testing

The Panel were informed of their role in approving SIT completion for R1.3 as set out within the Secretary of State (SoS) letter on the conclusions to the R1.3 replan. SECAS noted that the DCC had informed the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) that the SIT Approach Document (SITAD) will not be updated to reflect the R1.3 arrangements.

SECAS highlighted that the TAG had raised concerns around this approach, specifically in relation to the defect thresholds that are not going to be updated. The Panel discussed the elements of testing that would be taken into consideration as part of the live decision making process. It was noted the TAG and the Panel would look at SIT exit, however BEIS would also take into account other testing elements as part of their decision including: Operational Acceptance Testing (OAT); Operational Confidence Testing (OCT); Testing with Meters (TWM) and Business Acceptance Testing (BAT). The results and records of these test stages would not be seen by TAG, Testing Participants (TPs), or other industry participants. It was further noted it would be beneficial to make the following testing information available to Parties. SECAS advised that TAG were concerned with this approach but had been reassured by BEIS that this would all be considered, and reviewed in great detail, prior to DCC live.

The Panel agreed that due to the SITAD not being updated, the TAG should continue to work with the DCC to determine what evidence they would deem sufficient to establish SIT completion in order for the TAG to make a recommendation to the SEC Panel.

Emulator Assurance

SECAS informed the Panel that the R1.3 Additional SIT will be conducted against emulators rather than meters and the DCC had confirmed that the emulator specification will be provided to the Panel. The TAG advised that DCC only providing the emulator specification would not provide enough assurance that the specification had been met and that the preference was that the assurance report that DCC has commissioned should also be provided. The DCC agreed at the TAG meeting to look further into what assurance can be provided to the Panel.

End-to-End Testing

The Panel discussed their role in ratifying the start date of the End-to-End (E2E) Testing environment for assessing against entry criteria. It was noted that this would be a retrospective decision based on a report provided by the DCC. It was noted that the TAG would also support the Panel in providing a recommendation. The Panel discussed the purpose of the four-week time-boxed period between the start of E2E and R1.3 Live and SECAS also noted TAG concerns that this period would only be beneficial if the environment was 'usable' rather than just 'available'. It was noted that the four-week period of E2E testing would provide an opportunity for issues to be resolved prior to R1.3 Live. BEIS noted that any issues arising out of this testing period would be considered as part of their live decision making activities. It was also noted that the TAG via the Panel would be able to raise concerns to BEIS as part of this decision process, although they would not formally be asked to comment on the Assessment Criteria report.

The Panel noted that BEIS will be consulting on the removal of transitional variations for R1.3 and the Panel requested that there was transparency in the decision making process to allow Parties sight of relevant decision documentation and conclusions.

Timescales for the decision activities were discussed and it was noted that the TAG would meet for a 2-day session once the SIT Exit documentation was made available – current meeting date expected to be 20th and 21st March 2017. The TAG would then meet again to discuss the E2E entry report to provide a recommendation to the Panel. It was noted that due to current expected timescales, a meeting outside of the normal meeting schedule would likely be required around 7th April 2017. SECAS agreed to put placeholder meeting dates in the diary.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of this paper; and
- **AGREED** the approach proposed in this paper for Panel inputs to Release 1.3 for:
 - Additional SIT approval for R1.3, with TAG support as set out in Section 2.1 of the paper;
 - consideration of DCC's E2E readiness and emulator assurance for R1.3 as set out in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the paper; and
 - the SMKI PMA involvement in reviewing DCC's report on how the exit criteria for SRT Part 3 have been met.

4. Panel Information Policy - SECP_41_1002_04

The Panel were provided with an amended version of the Panel Information Policy, with a number of minor amendments being applied following a review by the SECCo legal advisors.

A Panel Member raised a query in relation to Section 7.4, where the suggested amendment would require DCC Controlled information to be circulated via Egress. SECAS noted that that was not the intention and noted that they would amend prior to publication of the amended version.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **APPROVED** the amended version of the Panel Information Policy for publication subject to an amendment to Section 7.4.

ACTION SECP41/01: SECAS to make amendments to the wording of the Panel Information Policy in Section 7.4 prior to publication.

5. SMKI PMA Terms of Reference - SECP_41_1002_05

The Panel were presented with the amended version of the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA) Terms of Reference, which had been updated to reflect changes to the SEC following the implementation of modification SECMP0022 and to be in line with the Panel Information Policy.

SECAS also noted that a nominations and elections process would commence shortly for the additional member seats.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of this paper; and
- **APPROVED** the amended SMKI PMA Terms of Reference in Appendix A of the paper.

6. Egress Switch Secure Web Form - SECP_41_1002_06

The Panel were provided with a request for the procurement of a Secure Web Form due to the need for Parties/DCC to securely notify the Security Sub-Committee (SSC) of various events, including when they become aware of any material security vulnerability. It was noted that the SSC had discussed and recommended the use of the Egress Switch Secure Web Form to fulfil this requirement.

The Panel approved the Egress Switch Secure Web Form subject to the approval of the cost drawdown by the Board.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of this paper; and
- **APPROVED** the procurement of the Egress Switch Secure Web Form, pending SECCo Board approval of costs.

7. SEC Panel Risk and Issue Register Update - SECP_41_1002_07

The Panel were provided with the updated Risk Register and Issue(s) log, following the monthly review by SECAS. The Panel were informed that there were no new proposed risks for the Panel Risk Register this month, it was noted that the two new Risks identified as part of the Technical Specification Maintenance handover in January had been added to the risk register.

SECAS highlighted that changes for five risks took place for the Risk Register this month, as seen in Section 3 of the Paper, which included ongoing clarifications provided for R1.3 for Risks 19 and 17. The Panel were also informed that following the discussions at the last month's Panel meeting, two new risks 28 and 29 in relation to the maintenance of the Technical Specification handover have been included in the Risk Register with the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status and impact assessments.

It was also highlighted that a minor update was made for the confidential information relating to the Smart Metering Key Infrastructure (SMKI) Policy Management Authority (PMA) Terms of Reference, in relation to issue 1 relating issue 19 for terminology.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of this paper; and
- **AGREED** the amendments to the SEC Panel Risk Register and SEC Panel Issues Log.

8. SEC Modification – DCC Assessments - SECP_41_1002_08

The DCC provided the Panel with an update on the progress with the production of Preliminary Assessments (PAs) and Impact Assessments (IAs) (together 'DCC assessments') for SEC Modification Proposals currently in the Refinement Process.

It was highlighted that PA and IA delivery dates had changed and have been influenced by the Communication Service Providers (CSPs). It was noted that DCC Service Providers were processing over 50 changes (many impacting multiple Service Providers), including those required for R1.3, R1.4 and to enhance End to End Testing. The Panel expressed a concern over the delays, with the DCC member indicating that work is ongoing to improve the consideration of change and to improve the certainty of timescales for responses.

The Panel were informed that DCC had been directed by the Secretary of State to prepare plans for the enrolment of SMETS1 meters and Release 2.0 (Dual Band Communications Hubs and Technical Specification Group 2). The Panel noted this activity may impact Modification timescales. SECAS highlighted ongoing concerns raised at the Implementation Managers Forum (IMF) meeting held in January 2017 around the timescales for delivery of PAs and IAs on Modifications and that Parties are expected to input and to respond to consultations in much shorter timescales, however the DCC is failing to respond in a timely manner. A Panel Member questioned whether Ofgem's Operation Performance Regime (OPR), would be used to actively monitor delays of DCC input into Modification Proposals. However, it was unclear at this time what degree of granularity that monitoring and reporting would take. A Panel Member suggested that any reporting provided to the Panel on timescales and delays could help inform the OPR monitoring.

Following the discussions between Panel Members, it was agreed that the DCC going forward should provide greater transparency on the progress of modifications with the DCC and provide greater detail on the causes of any delays. The DCC confirmed that it would work on ensuring greater transparency on this matter.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

9. Modification Progression Timetable Review - SECP_41_1002_09

The Panel were provided with an updated review of the Modification Progression timescales based on progress to date including any delays arising from delays to the delivery of DCC PAs and IAs

It was highlighted that SECMP0023 - Correct Units of Measure for Uncontrolled Gas Flow Rate - progression timetable had been reviewed and required revision due to the delivery date of the DCC PA moving to the end of March 2017. SECAS highlighted that the Working Group activities and obtaining Security Sub-Committee (SSC) input was done as quickly as possible with the DCC PA request being sent on 21st December 2016. The review timetable also continues to squeeze the Working group elements where possible, but the DCC timescales were more challenging to predict.

A Panel Member raised concerns around the timescales of SECMP0023 and the need for the modification to ensure that a key piece of functionality remains usable. The Panel Member further highlighted that the Parties who had raised modifications were concerned with the process time, and whether it should be taken forward by BEIS as a defect. The BEIS representative indicated that the same challenges around DCC PAs and IAs would likely occur if BEIS took over due to the need for the DCC analysis to be completed. It was further noted that the Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG) had assessed this and concluded that the urgency was not necessarily as high as it was indicated.

The Panel agreed that due to the importance of SECMP0023 that the DCC should take all steps to ensure the delivery date for the DCC PA does not move again.

Following discussion on SECMP0023, the Panel discussed whether there would be any benefit to implement specific timescales for the delivery of analysis by the DCC. SECAS agreed to discuss the matter further and look at potential modification solutions with the DCC and Large Supplier Panel Members.

The Panel:

- **NOTED** the contents of this paper; and
- **AGREED** the proposed revisions to each Modification Proposal progression timetable.

10. Modifications Status Report – February 2017 - SECP_41_1002_10

The Panel were provided with a monthly update on the status and progress of Modification Proposals going through the Modification Process.

SECAS highlighted that there are 24 active Modification Proposals, including 22 modifications undergoing the Refinement Process. It was highlighted that the first Path 2 Modification Proposal that had undergone the Refinement Process (SECMP0016 “Consideration of maximum credit value in credit cover calculation”) had been approved by the Authority, and will be implemented on 1st April 2017.

SECAS informed the Panel that the progression timelines at the back of the Modification Status Report now reflect the timelines contained in the enhance Modification register that is on the SEC Website.

Following a query raised by the Panel Chair SECAS confirmed that it would include narrative changes Section 4– Release Contents – in order to highlight any changes between Panel meetings. A Panel Member noted that the Modification Status Report has been used to provide Parties with guidance for Modification Release Contents, but no other changes within releases. SECAS clarified that the detail

on other release content was available on the About Releases page of the SEC Website, including greater details on BEIS executed changes. This also contains any DCC Internal changes, subject to the information being shared for inclusion. SECAS agreed to make sure this information was clearly signposted to SEC Parties.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

ACTION SECP41/02: SECAS to provide narrative change on Modification Status Report - Section 4 – Release Contents.

11. DCC Update

The DCC presented The Panel with an operational update on the activities undertaken by the DCC since the last Panel meeting. It was highlighted that the need for three-weeks of contingency for R1.3 had been presented at the IMF meeting (including the required User Interface Testing (UIT) and Production outages). It was noted that this use of contingency was accepted and the DCC is working with BEIS to determine the Live Criteria that the DCC will have to report against prior to DCC Live. The Panel asked the DCC to confirm whether the Live Criteria Report would be circulated to Parties as was the process for R1.2.

The Panel were informed that the R1.3 weekly test reports for Central & South and North Regions will continue to be circulated. The DCC provided an update on the progress of User Entry Process Testing (UEPT) and stated that those Users who have completed UEPT for R1.2 will not have to go through UEPT again for R1.3.

The DCC provided the Panel with an update for R1.4 in November 2017, noting that the Self-Service Interface (SSI) changes which currently have a release date in June 2017, may need to be delivered in November 2017. It was noted that this will be further assessed as progress towards R1.3 continues. The Panel were informed that the DCC are determining the User Testing approach for R1.4, and working with SECAS and BEIS on the reporting required to the Panel and BEIS leading up to November 2017. The DCC also highlighted that workshops on the Initial Enrolment Project Feasibility Report (IEPFR) will take place in the coming months. The DCC informed the Panel that it is in the process of refreshing the Consultation Planner to ensure it is up to date and this will be included in the next update.

The Panel discussed the timescales for Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification 1 (SMETS1) enrolment and the costs thereof. It was further noted that the current commercial arrangements could be used with Smart Meter System Operators (SMSOs) to ensure cost efficiency.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the update.

12. DCC Reporting - SECP_41_1002_12

The Panel was provided with the DCC reports as required by the SEC. It was highlighted this month's paper included Service Request Variance Report.

SECAS circulated an additional report from the DCC as required by SEC Section F1.9 including information on the return of Communications Hubs.

A Panel Member highlighted that although the DCC Performance Management Report was accurate in relation to Communications Hub returns based on the reporting categories, the report does not provide the complete picture as parties have been not accepting deliveries due to reasons not specified within the SEC. The DCC noted that they would look at the report to see if any further information could be provided.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of this paper.

13. BEIS Update

BEIS presented the Panel with an update on their recent publications. These included the consultation on incorporating the Technical Specification Applicability Tables and SMETS1 V1.2 into the SEC which concluded on 24th January 2017 and the 2016 Annual Progress update published on 1st February 2017. BEIS also highlighted the key upcoming publications. These included the Local Consumer Access Device (CAD) Pairing conclusion expected in February 2017 and Smart Meter Statistics to be published on 30th March 2017.

The Panel discussed the milestone in the Joint Industry Plan (JIP) regarding non-domestic opt-out. The Panel raised that the industry would like clarification on the non-domestic opt-out and when a user mandate would be set if the conclusion were that the opt-out be removed.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the update.

14. DCC CIO Final Report - SECP_41_1002_14

The Panel were provided with a confidential update from the DCC on their Competent Independent Organisation (CIO) security assessment as required by the DCC Licence – Schedule 5, Annex 2. The confidential discussion by the Panel and further information is documented in the confidential minutes.

15. Small Supplier Engagement

SECAS informed The Panel of the ongoing efforts to engage with Small Suppliers, to ensure they are prepared for the User Mandate date of 25th November 2017. The Panel noted that a Request For Information (RFI) was sent out on 20th January 2017, which asked Parties to provide information on when they were likely to undertake their security assessment. It also asked whether Parties had read the Security Controls Framework V1.6 (SCF) and whether they would be interested in attending education sessions on the user entry and security assessment processes. A total of 49 responses had been received which included a number of 'Supplier in the Box' categories of Parties. 31 Small Suppliers had either already scheduled a booking or provided an indicative timescale.

The Panel were informed that five Parties have already booked their Security Assessments. Four respondents to the RFI did not provide an indicative timescale.

SECAS noted that they had been provided the registration data by the DCC, who provide information on those Supplier Parties that are not active within the market, and those active Suppliers who have not yet acceded to the SEC. SECAS noted that further work needs to be carried out to engage with more Parties and highlighted that there are now more than five non-SEC Parties that are active in the market.

SECAS highlighted further engagement activities including the Small Supplier User Entry Process engagement sessions which the DCC are participating in. An introduction to the SEC education

seminar is also take place in March 2017. Managed Shared Resource service providers are also receiving one on one workshops with the User CIO and SECAS will discuss their individual solutions in detail. These workshops are expected to benefit all Parties that will use managed Shared Resource service providers and the SEC Seminar are taking place in March 2017. A Panel Member noted that it would useful for the DCC to also provide an insight to small supplier parties on the defect resolution process in testing. SECAS noted that the SEC engagement seminars will provide Parties with an introduction to the SEC to provide an overview of the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP). The SPOT Seminar which will focus on recent events and individual areas importance.

A Panel Member raised a concern and stated that the security requirements are onerous for smaller parties and may be seen as a barrier to entry. SECAS highlighted that the SSC does not highlight any such concerns with the Security Assessments and noted that the appropriate steps were followed according to the SEC Code.

In relation to a query raised by a Panel Member in relation to the User CIO Security assessments, SECAS highlighted that these sessions will be a shared cost across all Parties. The Panel highlighted that the User mandate for Electricity Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) on 10th October 2017 and Small Supplier User Mandate of 25th November 2017 will need to be the focus. It was also recommended for the DCC to provide Parties with further information on the User mandates in relation to the requirements for the User Entry Process Testing (UEPT) purposes.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the update.

16. Operations Report – January 2017- SECP_41_1002_16

SECAS presented the Panel with the Operations Report for January 2017. The report provided an outline of SECAS activities undertaken in support of the SEC and includes a breakdown of days by driver, product, and grade.

SECAS informed the Panel that the total number of resource days in January 2017 was 509.68, returning to normal levels following Christmas and annual leave taken in December. SECAS informed the Panel that it had reviewed the Panel Agenda and taken action to reduce the number of items. This included the sub-committee and configuration management papers which have been included in this month's Operations Report. It was highlighted that the User Testing Process (UEP) and Testing Updates have been included in the SEC Party Update paper. The Panel were also informed that feedback on the Operations Report continues to be welcomed.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

17. Release Management Update

The Panel were provided with an update in relation to the continuing management of enduring releases. This included a focus on the release testing environments and interactions with release frequency, types and the Technical Specifications.

SECAS informed the Panel of the timescales for the production of the high level analysis that would inform potential changes to the frequency of DCC System impacting releases, and associated changes to the Panel Release Management Policy. It was noted that the DCC are continuing analysis on the risks, costs and impacts of putting in place additional testing environments to support enduring releases.

For R1.4 – November 2017, it was noted there were two expected DCC internal changes, including Change Request (CR) 183 and CR205. SECAS further highlighted that for November 2017, BEIS will not be involved in the release and will not be directing the Panel to be involved in this release. Following this, the Panel agreed that the processes for release oversight, reporting and sign-off needs to be developed. SECAS indicated that while the November 2017 release (release 1.4) does not contain any modifications, it could be a working example to help inform the approach and structure of how enduring releases are monitored and reported on. The outputs of such an approach could then form an annex or part of the Panel Release Management Policy going forwards.

It was also highlighted that the Technical Specifications and the GB Companion Specification that are expected to take effect as part of Release 2.0 (February 2018 Release) were baselined and published on the SEC Website on 31st January 2017. It was noted that the baselined version of the Communications Hub Technical Specification (CHTS) was version 1.1, and that, when implemented, the changes introduced will need to be applied to all deployed Communications Hubs. The Panel Member queried how this would affect the Installation and Maintenance validity periods, with SECAS explaining that the CHTS v1.0 maintenance period would be end dated and replaced with the CHTS v1.1 Maintenance Validity Period. It was noted that management of the Installation and maintenance Validity Periods will need careful management especially as the number of versions of the technical Specifications and GBCS increase over time.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the update.

18. Smarter Markets Project Update - SECP_41_1002_18

SECAS provided the Panel with the monthly overview on activities undertaken in support of the Smarter Markets project. This included an update of ongoing efforts from the Regulatory Design Team (RDT) to prepare material for the planned Detail Level Specification (DLS) outputs.

The Panel were informed that there is ongoing commitment to develop the Casewise model, with Ofgem, to consider if an alternative modelling tool will be selected going forward. SECAS will keep The Panel informed of the progress. It was also noted that SECAS resource are providing input for activities relating to the drafting of the regulatory framework for the CRS. It was noted that this is currently at an early stage of development and draft provisions would be shared with User groups when available. SECAS highlighted that the framework as a stand-alone product is being developed because the home of regulation is yet to be determined e.g. in an existing code or a new framework.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper.

19. Transitional Governance Update - SECP_41_1002_19

The Panel were provided with an update on the transition governance entities and other smart metering related meetings and workshops attended by SECAS and the Panel Chair in the last month.

This included a verbal update, provided by the Panel Chair, on the Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG) meeting held on 9th February 2017, which will be included in the March 2017 Transitional Governance Update Paper.

It was highlighted that the date for Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to become DCC Users, remains on track for 28th April 2017. It was highlighted that the Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG) has undertaken the operational role to address Health and Safety issues. The Panel were further informed of the SMDG's evolving role in the operational stage as the programme is moved

beyond the roll-out stages and as the progress by Suppliers in the E2E testing is currently behind schedule.

SECAS noted the concerns raised in the IMF meeting for the End-to-End (E2E) testing for Release 1.3. It was further highlighted that the Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 1 validity end date is expected to take place on April 2018, with the Release 2.0 scheduled for April 2017.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper

20. SEC Panel Activity Planner - SECP_41_1002_20

The Panel were provided with the SEC Activity Planner as a standing agenda item providing a high level overview of the forthcoming SEC Panel activities and a forward look at Panel agenda items for the next three months, based on the latest information available.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the two appendices to this paper.

21. SEC Party Update - SECP_41_1002_21

SECAS informed the Panel of the Parties who have officially completed the User Entry Process as described in SEC Section H1.10 and confirmation of Parties that have completed various testing activities as required by the SEC. The Panel requested SECAS to confirm the document classification that should be applied to this type of update.

The Panel **NOTED** that the following organisations would be admitted as Parties to the SEC following countersignature of their Accession Agreement by the SECCo Board:

- Utiliteam (GB) Limited (Other SEC Parties);
- WPD Smart Metering Limited (Other SEC Parties);
- Great Western Energy Ltd (Small Supplier); and
- CNG (Group) Limited (Small Supplier).

The Panel were also informed that Easy Energy Supply Limited have withdrawn from the SEC after their Electricity and Gas licences were revoked by Ofgem. This will be documented in next month's paper.

The Panel **NOTED** the contents of the paper

22. Any Other Business (AOB)

The Panel Chair noted that the Panel may need to meet outside of their normal schedule in order to review a Parties' Assurance Status following further work as part of their User Security Assessment in March.

The Panel were informed that the SMDG held discussions on the portrayal of the SMIP in the media and noted that the industry should work together to ensure that the positive messages and benefits of the programme are also publicised.

A Panel Member requested to close off a discussion held at the previous Panel meeting where the Panel were informed of the SSC determination that User Security Assessments provisions do not

apply for those Network Operators, including Independent Gas Transporters, who have chosen not to become DCC Users, but have obtained SMKI Organisation Certificates through the SMKI Portal Over The Internet (SPOTI), as stated under SSC_23_1101.