MP085A ‘Synchronisation of smart meter voltage measurement periods’

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July 2021 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

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| **Attendee** | **Organisation** |
| Ali Beard | SECAS |
| Holly Burton | SECAS |
| Mike Fenn | SECAS |
| Bradley Baker | SECAS |
| Joe Hehir | SECAS |
| Kev Duddy | SECAS |
| Piers Garton | SECAS |
| Joey Manners  | SECAS |
| Anik Abdullah | SECAS |
| Graeme Liggett | DCC |
| Remi Oluwabamise | DCC |
| David Walsh | DCC |
| Abhijit Pal | DCC |
| Sarah-Jane Russell | British Gas |
| Lynne Hargrave | Calvin Capital |
| Julie Geary | E.ON |
| Robert Williams | E.ON |
| Alex Hurcombe | EDF Energy |
| Daniel Davis | ESG Global |
| Terry Jefferson | EUA |
| Alastair Cobb  | Landis + Gyr |
| Alan Creighton | Northern Powergrid |
| Ralph Baxter | Octopus Energy |
| Andy MacFaul | Ofgem |
| Emslie Law | OVO Energy |
| Mafs Rahman | Scottish Power |
| Elias Hanna | Smart ADSL |
| Matthew Alexander | SSEN |
| Simon Wilcox | Stark |
| Julian Hughes | TABASC Chair |
| Naeem Saleem | UK Power Networks |
| Rachel Norberg | Utilita |
| Gemma Slaney | WPD |
| Kelly Kinsman | WPD |

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, the current business requirements and proposed next steps.

Issue

* RMS voltage readings do not start at consistent times as per Half-Hourly consumption data
* There is no requirement explicitly codified in the Technical Specifications and so varying functionality has been implemented by different Manufacturers.
* Synchronised data must therefore be recreated via setting a more granular recording period (1 min), downloading the data, and then calculating the required synchronised data. This requires transmitting 30x more data.
* As a result, conservative, less efficient network investment decisions are being made due to a lack of data alignment.

Proposed Solution

* ESME to commence calculating average Root Mean Square (RMS) voltage reading at 00:00 or 00:30
* Measurement period to have a maximum duration of 1,800 seconds (11 values in total) *this is proposed to be updated to 16 values with the minimum period being 60 seconds.*
* Normal operation will be resumed following an outage/firmware update/software reboot.

DCC Preliminary Assessment highlights

* Data Service Provider (DSP) change only (no impact on Communication Service Providers (CSPs).
* SEC Appendix AD updated DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) Schema to be provided in the delivery of the DCC Impact Assessment.
* Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing: £100,000 - £200,000 with a DCC Impact Assessment costed at £8,645.12

Working Group Discussion

SECAS informed the Working Group that following recent discussions held with the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC), the legal text has been re-drafted and is with the Proposer for review. Once approved, this will be discussed with the TABASC Chair and SECAS Technical Operations team ahead of the Refinement Consultation.

The Working Group discussed a potential change in the Proposed Solution whereby the RMS voltage measurement period would be aligned to the hour (00:00) only, as opposed to on the hourly and half-hourly (00:30) which is currently proposed, with the idea that this would remove the dependency on the DUIS Schema change. An action had been taken from a previous TABASC session (TABASC\_67\_0107) to discuss this option with the Proposer but it was communicated to the Working Group that this had been rejected due to the amount of time that the average RMS voltage reading would not be recorded after a power outage, or software reboot of the ESME. It also did not remove the need for the DUIS change as the possible values would still need to be aligned to be a factor of 3600s as opposed to 1800s.

The Working Group noted that the DCC Preliminary Assessment states that the current Proposed Solution requires changes to the DUIS Schema, which would be provided as part of the DCC Impact Assessment. This would be to facilitate business requirement 4[[1]](#footnote-1) within the business requirements document. The values that the Proposed Solution allows the DNOs to choose from are currently 11 factors of 1,800 seconds (30 minutes). Prior to the Working Group meeting, it was suggested that this changes to 16 values with a minimum duration of 60 seconds.

The TABASC Chair revisited why a change was needed to the DUIS Schema at all given that the DNO is both responsible for configuring these parameters and is also the User of the data that is produced as a result of that configuration. The onus for configuring a time period that aligns to the half-hour, to make the data sensible and usable, can therefore be placed on the DNO without the need for a DUIS Schema change. The Proposer stated that he was happy to consider this approach and SECAS agreed to reword the legal draft along these lines with a view to arrange a follow-on call with both the sponsor and TABASC Chair.

The SEC Technical Operations team raised that the above did not align with previous feedback from meter Manufacturers that the expected time period values should be defined as part of this modification to reduce the amount of testing of their products. The TABASC Chair pointed out that providing input for test scenarios is not generally done and that the ESME Manufacturers must already be doing this today without any such guidance, so the point was dismissed.

It was agreed that further discussions shall take place to ensure that the Proposed Solution addresses the issue identified, while causing a minimal impact for Device Manufacturers. This will occur before proceeding to the Refinement Consultation.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

* SECAS to hold a meeting between the Proposer, the TABASC Chair and the SECAS Technical Operations team.
* Following the agreement of the intent of the Proposed Solution, SECAS will issue the Refinement Consultation.
1. Average RMS voltage measurement period is to be a minimum duration of 60 seconds with alternative periods being factors of 1,800 seconds. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)