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MP143 'Incorporating IRPs into GBCS v3 series'

July 2021 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Holly Burton	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Khaleda Hussain	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Piers Garton	SECAS
Mike Fenn	SECAS
Anik Abdullah	SECAS
Joey Manners	SECAS
Remi Oluwabamise	DCC
David Walsh	DCC
Sarah-Jane Russell	British Gas
Lynne Hargrave	Calvin Capital
Julie Geary	E.ON
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Daniel Davies	ESG Global
Terry Jefferson (Proposer)	EUA
Alastair Cobb	Landis + Gyr
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Emslie Law	OVO Energy
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
Elias Hanna	Smart ADSL
Matthew Alexander	SSEN
Julian Hughes	TABASC Chair
Gemma Slaney	WPD
Kelly Kinsman	WPD
Rachel Norberg	Utilita

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

[MP098 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 3'](#) introduced 20 non-DCC System impacting Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) into the GB Companion Specification (GBCS) v4.0 and the Smart Metering Equipment Specifications (SMETS) Device Level Versioning of 29 November 2020 in the November 2020 SEC Release. To ensure certainty for the industry it was agreed that the 18 GBCS impacting IRPs would not be implemented into the GBCS version 3.x series (to give an uplift to v3.3) as it was deemed not materially beneficial at the time.

Solution

Device Manufacturers now would like to incorporate these IRPs into the GBCS v3.x series as and when a material change necessitates an uplift to the next GBCS v3.x. MP143 has been raised to take this forward.

Working Group Discussion

Impacts of uplifting the GBCS v3.x series

SECAS the DCC had raised impacts of continuing to maintain the GBCS v3.x series:

- Greater complexity for the DCC to implement and manage GBCS compatibility for GBCS v3.3 alongside a GBCS v4.x
- Significant increase in testing permutations for the DCC and Device Manufacturers (and therefore cost across the industry)
- Increased document maintenance, with the GBCS v3.3 effectively containing different specifications to the proposed GBCS v4.x
- Increased complexity for industry in facilitating parallel versions of the GBCS, each implementing sub-sets of functionality.

The Proposer and a Device manufacturer did not agree that the impacts listed would have a material impact on the DCC or Parties and were strongly opposed to no longer maintaining the GBCS v3.x series. They advised that two of the IRPs in question were essential from a Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) / compliance perspective:

- IRP589 'CS02b authentication sequence'
- IRP596 'TRANSCOS execution counters'

SECAS advised that all 18 of the non-DCC System impacting IRPs from MP098 were in scope of MP143. They added that the DCC had advised that the number of non-DCC System impacting IRPs had little impact on them. Therefore, SECAS asked the Working Group to consider whether the non-

DCC System impacting IRPs within [MP158 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 5'](#), which is targeted for implementation in the GBCS v4.x series in the November 2021 SEC Release, should be added as well.

The Proposer and a Device Manufacturer questioned the benefit in including all of the non-DCC System impacting IRPs from MP098 and MP158, noting that some of them could have Device Manufacturer impacts. They clarified that they only sought IRP589 and IRP596 to be implemented in the GBCS v3.x series considering feedback from other Device manufacturers.

SECAS highlighted the issue of having a divergence between the GBCS v3.x and GBCS v4.x series, each containing different sets of functionalities.

A Device manufacturer advised that Electricity Smart Metering Equipment (ESME) manufacturers will likely all move to GBCS v4.x in the future. However, they added that Gas Smart Metering Equipment (GSME) manufacturers probably don't need to go to GBCS v4.x. The Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) Chair highlighted that there was no real change from GBCS v3.x to v4.x for gas manufacturers. They suggested the manufacturers undertake an exercise to assess whether they are already compliant to GBCS v4.x and if so, then they could migrate to it.

The Proposer and a Device manufacturer confirmed that they would not expect any further uplifts to the GBCS v3.x series following the implementation of the two IRPs in question. They added that this modification could be used in part to end-date previous versions of the GBCS v3.x series if a new Sub Version is added to include the IRPs in question. These include GBCS v3.0, v3.1 and v3.2.

SECAS advised it will request a Preliminary Assessment to understand the impact on the DCC for uplifting the GBCS v3.x series in order to develop the business case. Following this, it will present the Preliminary Assessment to the Working Group and issue a Refinement Consultation.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will discuss the business requirements at the next requirements workshop and then request a Preliminary Assessment; and
- Once the Preliminary Assessment is completed SECAS will present it to the Working Group.