

Smart Energy Code

Communications Hub Forecasting and Ordering

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Communication Hubs

Communications Hubs (CH) will be installed into the home by Suppliers to form the interface between the Smart Meter **Wide Area Network** (WAN) and the devices on the Smart Metering **Home Area Networks** (HAN).

The DCC is required to make available Communications Hub Device Models that provide for each and every combination of HAN Variant and WAN Variant to any SEC Party.

Communications Hub Support Materials

The **Communications Hub Support Materials** have been produced by the DCC and cover the processes for handover, installations, maintenance and returns. They comprise two documents: the Handover Support Materials document which has been designated as part of the SEC (Appendix H) and the Installation & Maintenance Support Materials.

The DCC have also drafted the CH Support Materials Information providing further technical detail not required in the formal regulatory framework.

Communications Hub Forecasting

Each Party that wishes to receive Communications Hubs is required to submit a Forecast to the DCC, which provides an estimate of the number of Communications Hubs it will require to be delivered each month over a 24 month period.

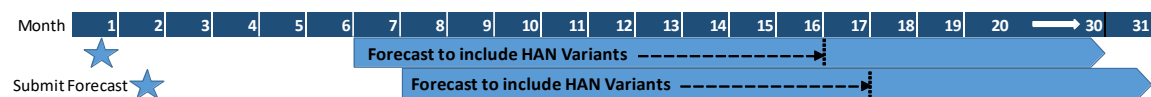
The DCC provide a **Communications Hub Ordering System** (CHOS) by which Parties are required to submit their Forecasts. Parties may also submit CH Forecasts via the DCC Service Desk in accordance with the transitional arrangements set out in Section X until 1st April 2016.

The Forecast will detail:

- the aggregate number of Communications Hubs;
- Region specific Forecasts; and
- Specific amounts of each HAN Variant required in each region (for the first 10 months of the 24 months to which the Forecast relates).

The schedule for providing Forecasts is provided below.

Forecasting Schedule



- Each Forecast is required to be sent by no later than 5 Working Days before the last Working Day of the month.
- The Forecasting period will begin in the sixth month following the end of the month in which the Forecast was submitted.

This document is classified as **White** in accordance with the Panel Information Policy.

Disclaimer

These guides are intended to provide a simple overview of the SEC and any supporting or related arrangements and do not replace or supersede the SEC or these related arrangements in any way. The author does not accept any liability for error, omission or inconsistency with the SEC.

Communications Hub Ordering

Parties use the CHOS to place Orders for Communications Hubs on a monthly basis. Each Party may submit one CH Order in any month for each CSP Region.

The Order must identify the **Region** to which the Order relates and include:

- a preferred Delivery Date (which must fall in the fifth month after the end of the month in which the Order is submitted);
- the Delivery Location (which is not required to be in the CSP Region identified);
- the number of Communications Hubs required of each Device Model (to include HAN Variant type when available) to be delivered to each Delivery Location; and
- specify any Auxiliary Equipment such as external aerials and packaging.

Further information on CH Orders can be found at the Communications Hub Handover Support Materials – SEC Annex H.

Tolerance Levels

For each Order the aggregate of the Delivery Quantities of each HAN Variant must be:

- within +/- 20% of the Forecast submitted seven months prior to the delivery month;
- within +/- 50% of the Forecast submitted ten months prior to the delivery month; and
- equal to or greater than the **minimum delivery quantity**, which is set at the number of Communications Hubs contained in a complete standard pallet (this number varies depending on the CSP Region).

Communications Hub Orders Policy

The DCC are obliged to fulfil all CH Orders within the SEC prescribed tolerances and to take all reasonable steps to accommodate Orders that fall outside such tolerances but respect the minimum delivery quantity. The **Communications Hub Orders Policy** sets the rules according to which the DCC will accommodate such noncompliant CH Orders.

This document also emphasises Parties should submit CH Orders which reflect genuine need and should not be

Initial Delivery Date

The **Initial Delivery Date** for Communications Hubs was the 1st March 2016 for Parties who submitted their first Forecast before the end of May 2015 for a 24-month period commencing in November 2015.

If a Forecast was not submitted in May 2015, then the Forecast will be deemed to be zero for each of the months that should have been covered by that Forecast.

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Communications Hub for Testing

Although the legal text on Test Communications Hubs is yet to be concluded on, the **DCC Guide for Testing Participants** Working Document provides the following guidance:

- only SEC Parties may Order Prototype Communications Hubs for Testing;
- Parties who wish to do so must place a firm Order via the DCC Desk five months before the required delivery date;
- Prototype Communications Hubs are to be used in a DCC Test Environment only; and
- the first point at which Parties may use them is at the start of End-to-End Testing stage.

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