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# DP192

## ‘Extend Scheduled Services for SMETS1 Devices’

### Modification Report

Version 0.1

23 November 2021



## About this document

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This document is a draft Modification Report. It currently sets out the background, issue, and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions. This document will be updated as this modification progresses.

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## 1. Summary

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This proposal has been raised by David Walsh from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

Smart Energy Code (SEC) Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification' (DUIS) defines the individual Service Reference Variants (SRVs) that are eligible for sending as Scheduled Services by Users.

SRV 4.3 'Read Instantaneous Prepay Values' and SRV 4.4.3 'Retrieve Billing Calendar Triggered Billing Data Log', can only be requested on an 'On-Demand' service basis or as a 'Future Dated' service. Eligible Users must send one of these SRVs to the DCC each time the associated data is required. These SRVs are not currently defined in the SEC as eligible for Scheduled Services so Users cannot use SRV 5.1 'Create Schedule' to schedule SRVs 4.3 and 4.4.3 on a repeating frequency. With a Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 2+ Device operating in prepayment mode, Users have access to the Prepayment Daily Read Log and can schedule daily retrieval of this data. There is no equivalent log in SMETS1 Devices.

Running these SRVs using either the 'On-Demand' or 'Future-Dated' service is not practicable or efficient for either the DCC or many Users.

## 2. Issue

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### What are the current arrangements?

DCC Services are defined by the SEC. These services are split into different Categories of Service, and Scheduled Services is one of these.

Scheduled Services are defined in SEC Section H 'DCC Services' section 3.11 'Categories of Service':

*Services identified in the DCC User Interface Services Schedule to be available as 'scheduled' services, and which a User requests on such basis specifying the initial time and date for execution as well as the frequency at which execution is to recur ("Scheduled Services").*

For the purposes of Section H3.11, Scheduled Services, On-Demand Services and Future Dated Services are identified in the DCC User Gateway Interface Specification (DUGIDS).

The DUIS defines the individual SRVs that are eligible for sending by Users as Scheduled Services.

### What is the issue?

SRV 4.3 and SRV 4.4.3, can only be requested on an 'On-Demand' service basis or as a 'Future Dated' service. Eligible Users must send one of these SRVs to the DCC each time the associated data is required. These SRVs are not currently defined in the SEC as eligible for Scheduled Services so Users cannot use SRV 5.1 'Create Schedule' to schedule SRVs 4.3 and 4.4.3 on a repeating frequency.

Running these SRVs using either the “On-Demand” or “Future-Dated” service is not practicable or efficient for either the DCC or many Users. To enable the DCC to ‘schedule’ these additional SRVs, a Modification Proposal is needed to amend the ‘Service Request Matrix’ contained within the DUIS to define these two SRVs as being able to be DCC Scheduled.

With a SMETS2+ Device operating in prepayment mode, Users have access to the Prepayment Daily Read Log and can schedule daily retrieval of this data (there is no equivalent log for SMETS1 Devices). Therefore, to get accurate prepayment SMETS1 data on a regular basis, most Suppliers would need to send SRVs 4.3 and 4.4.3 as On Demand Service Requests on a frequent, repeat basis.

If all Suppliers were to submit these requests On Demand, high volumes of up to around 2.7 million additional SRVs would be expected. These would likely be requested around midnight each day, at the same time as the highest peak demand is on the DCC Total System. This will create inefficiencies within the DCC Total System processing as using the existing On Demand mode of operation creates large peaks in demand. Without change, supporting these large demand spikes over a relatively short time period, will require additional DCC spend on infrastructure capacity upgrades. This is due to existing infrastructure capacity which will not allow for the DCC to smooth the peaks in demand. However, this proposal would allow this to be achieved by using DCC Scheduled Services over a longer defined time period for the given SRVs.

### What is the impact this is having?

If these SRVs cannot be changed to run as Scheduled Services, then the DCC will need to invest in additional infrastructure capacity to fulfil an extra around 2.7m SRVs being sent to the DCC Total System by Users every day at midnight.

Without a change, Users would also have to create their own scheduling mechanism for these SRVs within their own systems.

### Impact on consumers

This issue does not impact consumers.

## Appendix 1: Progression timetable

This proposal will be presented to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) for initial comment 30 November 2021 before being presented to the Operations Group (OPSG) and the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) in January 2022.

The DCC has established a solution to the issue highlighted in this proposal and has already carried out a Preliminary Assessment and is currently carrying out an Impact Assessment. We will ask the OPSG and the TABASC to validate the DCC’s requirements which it has assessed against.

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Draft Proposal raised	23 Nov 2021

Timetable	
Event/Action	Date
Presented to CSC for initial comment	30 Nov 2021
Presented to Panel Sub-Committees	Jan 2022
Presented to CSC for conversion to a Modification Proposal	26 Jan 2022

## Appendix 2: Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	Full term
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communications Company
DUGIDS	DCC User Gateway Interface Specification
DUIS	DCC User Interface Specification
OPSG	Operations Group
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SMETS	Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications
SRV	Service Reference Variant
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee