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## Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC)

**TABASC\_71\_0411, 4 November 2021**

09:30 – 16:30, Teleconference

### Draft Minutes

#### Voting Members:

Category	TABASC Members
TABASC Chair	Julian Hughes
Large Suppliers	Emslie Law
	Rochelle Harrison
	Stephen Lovell
	Martin Christie (part - item 5 -16)
Small Suppliers	Terry Underwood
Electricity Networks	Alan Creighton
Other SEC Parties	Alastair Cobb
	Elias Hanna

Representing	Name
DCC	Michael Wallace
	Mannu Rawat
	Steve Hyde (part – item 10)
	Steve Thun (part – item 11)
	Andrew Rabey (part – item 12)
	Clive Hallam (part – item 13)
	Vince Rawal (part – item 14)
	Stuart Scott (part – item 14)
BEIS	Joe Howard
Alt HAN	David Jones (part – item 4)
	David Walsh (part – item 4)

	Andrew Firth ( <i>part – item 4</i> )
SECAS	Laura Delargy
	Rosie Knight
	Robin Healey ( <i>part – items 5 -16</i> )
	Anik Abdullah
	Will Marshall
	Joe Hehir ( <i>part – item 2</i> )
	Mike Fenn ( <i>part – item 3</i> )
	Kev Duddy ( <i>part – item 4</i> )
	Tom Mudryk ( <i>part – item 4</i> )
	Tim Newton ( <i>part – item 4-6</i> )
	Rainer Lischetzki ( <i>part – items 4 -6</i> )
	Louise Evans ( <i>part – item 5</i> )
	Joey Manners ( <i>part – item 9</i> )
	TBC

## Apologies:

Category	TABASC Members
Large Supplier	Alex Hurcombe
Large Supplier	Mark Morrison
Small Supplier	Patrick O'Neill

## 1. Minutes and Actions Outstanding

The TABASC noted that no comments were received on the minutes from the TABASC 70 meeting held on 7 October 2021. The TABASC **APPROVED** the Draft Minutes and confidential minutes as final.

It was noted that the circulated draft minutes for TABASC 70X held on 21 October 2021 would be considered at TABASC72 on 2 December 2021.

All outstanding actions are noted below:

Action ID	Action	Owner
<b>TABASC62/02</b>	SECAS to undertake a gap analysis and return to the TABASC with a view of all the governance mechanisms for all routes of changes to Smart Metering and highlight any areas that are not covered.	SECAS
SECAS noted that for changes made under Transitional governance / LC13/LC13A the process is maturing. The lessons learned from CH&N and DSP procurement indicate that identification of business needs followed by a review once market engagement has completed is the most likely process for future changes of this type. Governance of implementation will follow the Live Services arrangements used during SMETS1 Enrolment and Adoption but modified to reflect the nature of each individual release.		

The Section D Modification process is known and understood for changes only affect the SEC.

Mechanisms for identifying and managing cross-code impacts have only been activated for industry-spanning programmes like Ofgem's Faster Switching programme in the past. The Cross Code Steering Group (CCSG) has been established to coordinate future changes with cross code impacts, including small changes which have wider reaching impacts. It will be up to each Code Body to refer a Modification Proposal to the CCSG for wider consideration and it is likely that the criteria for assessing cross-code impacts will need to be agreed by the CCSG. A further update will be provided at a future TABASC meeting.

**Status:** Open.

<b>TABASC68/02</b>	SECAS to investigate whether there is any work left to do on Sub-GHz as part of the Strategic Triggers Log and to feedback to the TABASC.	SECAS
SECAS has identified the need to await the outcome of the BEIS-led Home Area Network (HAN) survey tools trial, before taking any action. This is due at the end of the year. <b>Status:</b> Open.		
<b>TABASC68/03</b>	SECAS to provide a further update at TABASC 69 on the TABASC-led SEC Strategic Events linked to net zero, specifically electric vehicles, demand side response, gas decarbonisation and heat electrification.	SECAS
SECAS provided an update on Gas Decarbonisation and Electric Vehicles at TABASC70. A further update will be provided at TABASC 72. <b>Status:</b> Open.		
<b>TABASC68/05</b>	The Working Group to investigate the market impact of implementing DP165 'ESME Voltage Accuracy, and to relay this back, along with the TABASC's feedback, to the Proposer.	SECAS
A Request for Information (RFI) has been issued and responses were received on 3 September. The responses will be analysed to inform the business case and the outcome will be reported to a future TABASC. <b>Status:</b> Open.		
<b>TABASC68/06</b>	SECAS and the DCC to investigate the potential impacts of leaving the SEC in its current form, rather than amending it to reflect current POA/PRA performance, in response to MP096 'DNO Power Outage Alerts	SECAS
This is still under investigation whilst the solution is assessed and undergoes the Refinement process. SECAS will provide an update in due course. <b>Status:</b> Open.		
<b>TABASC69/01</b>	SECAS to scope the business scenarios that need to be addressed by DP169. And to also articulate options to counter the scenarios.	SECAS
SECAS has gained further information regarding draft modification DP169 'Managing SEC Obligations and the Consumer's Right to refuse a Smart Meter' following the modification workshop held on 20 September 2021. This information will help develop the business scenarios as part of the wider work for the modification. <b>Status:</b> Closed.		
<b>TABASC69/04</b>	SECAS to check that both limiting outage time and firmware distribution requests during disaster recovery events have been captured as a business requirement for CH & N.	SECAS
SECAS has reviewed the business requirements for CH & N limiting outage time and firmware distribution requests during disaster recovery events and SECAS has no evidence that these requirements have been captured. SECAS has therefore asked the DCC to confirm and an update will be provided at the TABASC 71 meeting. <b>Status:</b> Open.		

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<b>TABASC70/01</b>	SECAS to move directly from Workstream 1 to Workstream 3 regarding the P375 project.	SECAS
SECAS has moved directly to Workstream 3 on the P375 project as discussed at TABASC 70. <b>Status:</b> Closed.		
<b>TABASC70/02</b>	SECAS to notify TABASC members of the TABASC70X meeting arrangements and for the DCC to provide any other agenda items intend to feature.	SECAS
SECAS made the necessary arrangements to facilitate a TABASC70X meeting for 21 October 2021 and shared these with TABASC members. <b>Status:</b> Closed.		
<b>TABASC70/03</b>	SECAS to speak to the DCC and Operations Group (OPSG) regarding oversight of (and to ascertain which governance group has ultimate responsibility for) the end-to-end delivery of the plan for November 2022 SEC Release. This also extends to all industry change including DCC internal and changes outside of the SEC which may impact the SEC.	SECAS
SEC Releases, to implement approved Modification Proposals, are owned and overseen by the SEC Panel under SEC Section D – the Panel has delegated this responsibility to the CSC. The CSC will review and determine the modifications to be included in scope of each SEC Release, with support from the TABASC and the OPSG. The OPSG and the TAG will review the status of each release against the acceptance criteria in the Release Implementation Document (RID) and provide the CSC with recommendations on whether the release is ready to be implemented. This approach will apply to the November 2022 SEC Release. <b>Status:</b> Closed.		
<b>TABASC70/04</b>	SECAS to speak to BEIS and understand the background to the timeline set out for using Smart Metering infrastructure for EV Charging.	SECAS
SECAS to confirm the outcome of BEIS discussion regarding the timeline set out for Smart Charging Infrastructure implementation. SECAS to provide an update at TABASC 73. <b>Status:</b> Open.		
<b>TABASC70/05</b>	SECAS to contact TABASC members requesting their views on whether a proactive or passive approach should be taken with regards to the Strategic Technical Review next steps.	SECAS
SECAS contacted TABASC members on 11 October 2021 to seek their views on the type of approach they would be supportive of with regards to the Strategic Technical Review next steps. A summary of the responses received will be provided at TABASC 72. <b>Status:</b> Open.		
<b>TABASC70/06</b>	SECAS to prepare slides for the TABASC70X meeting regarding formalising update requirements and their sequencing so that manufacturers do not experience meter failure via updates.	SECAS
SECAS has prepared the relevant slides formalising the update requirements for presentation at the TABASC 70X meeting. <b>Status:</b> Closed.		

## 2. MP129 ‘Allowing the use of CNSA variant for ECDSA’ – Preliminary Assessment

SECAS presented the TABASC with an update on the outputs from the Preliminary Assessment (PA) for [MP129 ‘Allowing the use of Commercial National Security Algorithm \(CNSA\) variant for Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm \(ECDSA\)’](#), which can be found [here](#).

The TABASC considered the DCC's response to the PA and the proposed solution for delivering the business requirements, noting that some Service User (SU) benefits are clear, particularly regarding the proposed investments in Hardware Security Modules (HSM). However, the Chair referenced the increase in capacity and asked who (the Data Service Provider (DSP) or the Service User (SU) would be the beneficiary. The TABASC agreed that as the benefits were not articulated that could not be ascertained however it could be that the DSP would be the beneficiary while the financial burden fell on the SU. SECAS agreed to investigate this further and to report back to the TABASC.

**TABASC71/01:** SECAS to confirm who (Service User or Data Service Provider) is beneficiary of the implementation of MP129.

SECAS noted that there would be a reduction in the DSP charge expected, however a full business case will be required first. The TABASC advised SECAS to seek a clear view of the User benefits and whether this will be seen prior to the end of the existing DSP contract. The Chair also presented the argument for implementing this as part of the future DSP, with the benefit that the functionality could be utilised from day one, with the potential for this to be less costly than introducing this into the current DSP. The TABASC also requested for any Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) impacts to be considered and understand how costs would be impacted.

The TABASC advised that whilst there is some support for MP129 moving forward to IA, further analysis of the User/DSP benefits will be required first. SECAS noted that the SMKI PMA and the MP129 Working Group would address the TABASC's concerns further, particularly regarding the decreased service charge and to understand the net cost benefits for SUs.

The TABASC:

- **NOTED** the update; and
- **PROVIDED** its views and comments on the questions set out in the paper.

### 3. MP152 'Consumption on Smart Polyphase Electricity Meters'

SECAS presented the Request for Information (RFI) Responses received for Modification Proposal [MP152 'Consumption on Smart Polyphase Electricity Meters'](#) and sought the TABASC's initial views on the responses.

A TABASC member noted concern over the use of Polyphase meters and its ability to provide reliable consumption data across all three phases, the member noted that in the past Distribution and Network parties had specifically requested that the proliferation of Polyphase meters be considered, and for evidence to be provided as to why three single phasemeters could not be used. SECAS noted that the Proposer had been clear in their direction to reduce their footprint to one single meter and a move in this direction would enable both innovation and cost saving on their part.

The TABASC discussed the scenarios that would require a three-phase meter, SECAS noted that whilst the Proposer had considered some scenarios it was found that due to the business model of the Proposer, many of their metering and customer locations were located in areas with sparse Wide Area Network (WAN) availability and that this would diminish the business case of utilising the smart metering architecture to deliver benefits for the end consumer.

SECAS highlighted that the technical solution that may apply in this case could be changes to DUIS, SMETS and GBCS. In particular new GBCS use cases would need to be created to support the implementation of functionality.

Of particular note, TABASC members were concerned with the proposals to use each phase for different purposes where DCUSA requirements are to balance load across all phases. SECAS acknowledged that the rules around how loads will need to be balanced across multiple phases needs consideration.

Conversely, a TABASC member noted that a combined view would be welcome, in their opinion, the believe the smart metering industry would benefit if more metering equipment was three phase, particularly for high load requirements such as Electric Vehicle (EV) charging.

The TABASC questioned whether Meter Manufacturers had been adequately consulted as it was noted that manufacturer parties are already considering such metering types and would be best placed to advise on most use cases. SECAS noted that the Proposer had carried out research with multiple meter manufacturers to ensure that polyphase metering devices already had this dormant capability.

The TABASC noted that the current level of clarity in the modification would not be enough to accommodate the tripling volume of data. TABASC requested that further investigation is needed to determine the requirements is for a polyphase meter to provide the same information as three separate single-phase meters. A TABASC member challenged whether there should be two modes of operation, one as a polyphase meter providing combined readings as now, and one as a polyphase meter effectively able to supply data as if it was three single phase meters, this query in particular was requested to be passed onto the WG for further consideration.

The TABASC acknowledged that the level of guidance required was probably already defined and embedded within other industry guidance. However, any existing guidance would still require some adjusting in order to direct Suppliers on how to accurately configure devices in order to fully benefit from the increased granularity of consumption data. A TABASC member (AC) noted that he would be happy to work with the WG and the ENA to determine the use cases and to assist in defining the solution and approach to be taken forward based on the TABASC's discussion.

SECAS was directed to gather use cases from the WG and to invite the TABASC member (AC) and the ENA to comment on these use cases.

**TABASC71/02:** SECAS to consult the MP152 Working Group, DNOs and the ENA to consider other use cases for inclusion in the Impact Assessment for MP152.

The TABASC:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper;
- **CONSIDERED** the responses to the request for information; and
- **AGREED** that SECAS should seek further guidance on the additional use cases required for MP152 from the relevant industry party categories and the working group.

#### 4. MP170 'Firmware updates to Point to Point Alt HAN Devices' Preliminary Assessment

SECAS informed the TABASC that [MP170 'Firmware updates to Point to Point Alt HAN Devices'](#) was currently undergoing the Refinement Process and that the DCC had completed its Preliminary Assessment (PA).

SECAS presented both technical options arising from the PA.

When considering Option 1 (treating Alt HAN P2P Devices in the same way as PPMIDs by the Communications Hubs – avoiding the need to change CH firmware), the TABASC observed that the



technical change was a minor one. However, the PA costs for the design, build and Pre-Integration Testing were quite high coming in at £635K. The TABASC challenged why the cost of this change is high given the lack of complexity of the solution. The DCC confirmed that out of the two options, this is the least disruptive and quickest to implement and that through these aspects some net benefit can be realised.

The TABASC considered Option 2 (Alt HAN P2P Devices continue to join the HAN as CADs). To support this solution the DCC also noted that some changes would be required to the processing of applicable Service Requests. It was noted in the PA that Option 2 would require CH firmware changes as well as a new SR and DCC alert being required. The TABASC noted that the Central Products List (CPL) would also require changes as well as an extension to the existing ACB certificate management system, changes to SMWAN Gateway and CSP internal systems to support the firmware download to Type 2 devices. The DCC noted that the PA costs were not included but that these would be considerably high for solution 2.

A TABASC member referenced the Working Group Meeting on 3 November 2021, noting that the group had considered the PA to be sound, but that a clearer understanding of the development of the technical solutions was required. The WG had also raised uncertainty around how BEIS may plan to define the PPMID going forward and that the consideration of the development costs would be vital. Furthermore, SECAS noted that certain synergies between the work of MP170 and previously approved SECMP007, should have been aligned so that the Impact Assessment could have covered any crossover between the technical solutions.

The TABASC agreed that although the technical merits of Option 1 do meet the ask of the business requirements, however it does not meet the architectural principles for smart metering. Therefore, it was the view of the TABASC that although Option 1 is technically likely to deliver the business requirement, it falls short in its architectural considerations for the end to end impact on Service Users and therefore is not endorsed by the TABASC. However, the Chair also acknowledged that due to the time constraints of the rollout of Alt HAN Devices, Option 1 did provide a short term solution. The Chair also reiterated that the costs for Option 1 are high and asked why it is so high considering there should be no CSP changes. The Proposer (Alt HAN Co) confirmed that all costs will be strongly challenged in the IA.

The Chair acknowledged that further long-term thinking needed to take place between SECAS, DCC and the Alt HAN Co in regard to a resilient long-term solution based upon sound architectural principles in conjunction with DSP re-procurement and CH&N 4G Comms Hub development. The solution should ideally identify the Alt HAN devices separately from both CAD and PPMID devices .

The TABASC:

- **NOTED** the update; and

**TABASC71/03:** SECAS to liaise with the DCC and Alt HAN to consider longer-term solutions beyond Options 1 & 2 remembering to meet the smart metering architectural principles whilst doing so.

- **ADVISED** that the WG be informed that although the solutions may deliver the basic functionality to update firmware, they did not provide a suitable end to end solution and as such the TABASC **REQUESTED** that a longer-term option is developed based on the architectural principles of smart metering, recognising the opportunities present in the re-procurement of both DSP and CSP solutions.

## 5. Q2 2021 Lookback Report (Jul - Sept) (AMBER)

The TABASC was provided with a review of the resource and cost of activity carried out in the last quarter, which can be found [here](#).

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the Lookback Report against the Q2 2021-22 Work Package.

## 6. Effectiveness Review Survey Update (AMBER)

SECAS provided an update on the proposed next steps for addressing the Effectiveness Review Survey analysis and feedback via a targeted project which can be found [here](#).

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC:

- **NOTED** the contents of the paper; and
- **AGREED** that SECAS develop a Project Brief to review message compression techniques and effects for recommendation to the SEC Panel and SECCo Board.

## 7. TABASC Risk Register (AMBER)

SECAS provided the Quarterly Risk Update which can be found [here](#).

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC:

- **AGREED** the amendments to the Risk Register;
- **REQUESTED** that the Severity rating and BRAG status be amended for Risk 017; and
- **APPROVED** for SECAS to update the existing Risk Register in the proposed style.

## 8. New CPL tool launch (GREEN)

SECAS informed the TABASC of the launch of the new CPL tool which launched in 19 October 2021, further information can be found [here](#).

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 9. Sub-Committee and Transitional Update

*Security Sub-Committee (SSC)*

The Chair advised that there are no items requiring TABASC attention from the SSC this month.

*Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority (SMKI PMA)*

The TABASC Chair advised that the SMKI PMA had discussed the Technical Service Provider (TSP) replacement.

*Operations Group (OPSG)*

SECAS provided an update on the OPSG58 meeting, which can be found [here](#).



The Chair enquired about the driver behind CPM2 having such low response times and SECAS confirmed that this had been caused by Service Provider Measure (SPM) 3.1 for CSP North due to Communication Hub Mass Over the Air (OTA) activity causing issues in the queues meaning job became stuck. It was noted that a configuration fix had been applied and that this impact would continue to be seen in the reporting for September however it would not be seen again going forward.

A TABASC Member referenced the significant drop in SR4.10 performance and asked if it was clear who had been actioned to carry out what mitigations in what areas. SECAS noted that this was in relation to evidenced device and design issues, but that it would also include improvements to infrastructure and devices and that a collaborative view is required. SECAS also confirmed that the DCC was engaging with Meter Manufacturers and Distribution Network Operator (DNO) on these issues via DCC's DIG Forum but was exploring whether a workshop should be arranged to discuss these issues with relevant stakeholders. A TABASC member agreed with this approach, noting there was often confusion for DNOs in this area, particularly in identifying the first steps to resolution. SECAS agreed that it is the intention to get this view from DNOs to better understand the regions and device types and to identify any correlations of underperformance via some root cause analysis exercises.

A TABASC member highlighted the issue where the DCC failed to identify SMETS 2 Prepayment (PP) Top Ups were failing, even though this was something the DCC had assured Suppliers was being actively monitoring. The OPSG have requested the DCC provide further information on why they failed to identify the CH unresponsive issue that affected PP top ups and whether there are any additional data or monitoring requirements to be considered as part of the DSP re-procurement. SECAS noted it would check what is recorded in the DSP requirements and whether there is any additional level of monitoring expected from the DCC.

**TABASC71/04:** SECAS noted it would check what is recorded in the DSP re-procurement requirements and whether there is any additional level of monitoring expected from the DCC

#### Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)

The TABASC discussed the TSIRS update, noting that IRP647 'Additional Clarify on Emergency Credit & Supply Enablement' is still on hold and that the DCC will be holding back the guidance until a final decision on the IRP is made.

The TABASC discussed devices effecting consumption readings and asked if it would be clear if its specific to the meter or the Supplier.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 10. DSP Tech Refresh discussion (AMBER)

The DCC presented the DSP Tech refresh which can be found [here](#) and explained to the TABASC why it is needed and the opportunities that industry would have to feed in to the work going forward.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 11. DCC Update

The DCC provided a verbal update on its latest activities, noting that the Testing Scenarios for SMETS1 DMT Transition were undergoing end to end testing and that all is going to plan.

It was noted that DMT had completed on 15 October 2021 and Ofgem had approved the completion of the milestone.

The DCC noted that End to End testing was ongoing and expected to wrap up on 10 December 2021.

The DCC referenced that a solution had been developed to the Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) problem for the ECoS design.

The DCC noted that the SMETS 1 (S1) Communications SEC Release had gone live, and that the S1 uplift had successfully unblocked 5000 meters for migration.

The DCC provided an update on the Technical Service Provider (TSP) BT Procurement activity, which is expected in April 2022, noting that work is currently underway, and that Product Integration Testing (PIT) is due to complete on 5 November 2021.

The Chair asked if the DCC would be providing an industry communication regarding the SMKI IP address change and requested for the TABASC to have a preview of the communication as early as possible in order to ensure that it covers the necessary guidance for DCC Users. The DCC agreed to return to a future TABASC meeting and provide an update.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 12. NEP CH&N Procurement Update (**AMBER**)

The DCC provided an NEP CH&N update, which can be found [here](#).

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 13. GBT Success Rates (**AMBER**)

The DCC provided an update on the GBT Success rates, which can be found [here](#).

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 14. Arqiva Technical Infrastructure (**AMBER**)

The DCC provided an update on the Arqiva Technical Infrastructure.

This item is classified as **AMBER** and is therefore recorded in the Confidential minutes.

The TABASC **NOTED** the update.

## 15. Any Other Business (AOB)

### MP185 'Additional controls to support the SoLR process'

SECAS provided an information only update to make the TABASC aware that this modification had been raised.

## **BAM Usage Request for Information (RFI)**

SECAS noted that a Request for Information (RFI) would be circulated to industry regarding the current usage of the Business Advisory Document (BAD) and the Technical Advisory Document (TAD) in the form of the Business Architecture Model (BAM).

The TABASC was advised that the support contract for the BAM document is coming to an end and that there is currently no clear indication whether the BAM is still useful to the industry. Therefore, SECAS advised that options of what to do with the BAM would be outlined in the RFI and for TABASC members to feedback on how they use it. The RFI will be provided to TABASC members via email correspondence.

## **Ofgem Price Control**

SECAS notified TABASC members that all SEC sub-committees would be asked to feedback on Ofgem's DCC Price Control Review and that SECAS will be providing information and the materials on how members can respond.

## **TABASC X Meeting and December Meeting Arrangements**

The TABASC discussed if there was any requirement for a TABASC X meeting for November, however SECAS noted to discuss this with the DCC and to notify the TABASC if necessary.

The TABASC Chair asked members on their plans regarding attending the planned face to face meeting scheduled for the TABASC 72 (02/12) Meeting. Three members by show of hands indicated they would be willing to travel to the meeting in person. Given the lack of respondents, the TABASC Chair asked SECAS to send out a poll to engage the TABASC on preferences to attend, so that an informed decision can be taken based on the majority view of members.

There were no further items of business and the TABASC Chair closed the meeting.

## **Items for Information**

### **16. Transitional Governance Update (GREEN)**

SECAS provided the TABASC with an update paper setting out an overview of the activities occurring at the transitional governance for the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP) related meetings and workshops attended by SECAS in the last month for its information. The paper also covers relevant industry publications, responses and consultations.

**Next Meeting: 2 December (TABASC 72)**