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Transitional Governance Update

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform the TABASC and SEC Parties of the activities occurring in the Smart Metering Implementation Programme (SMIP). The update covers a high-level overview of the following:

- **Transitional Work Groups** (Section 2) - updates will cover the meetings attended by the Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) and on behalf of the Panel Chair in the last month.
- **Publications** (Section 3) - relevant publications, responses and consultations issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Data Communications Company (DCC) and Ofgem (the Authority) in relation to Smart Metering, whilst highlighting areas that may be of interest to the SEC Panel and/or SEC Parties.

2. Transitional Work Group Updates

2.1 Smart Meter Delivery Group (SMDG)

The SMDG met on 14 October 2021 and discussed:

- **DCC Update**
 - A Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 1 programme update was given, where Final Operating Capacity (FOC) 2.2 was delayed from 12 October 2021. The DCC is currently revising its plans with input from BEIS and SEC Parties. The DCC provided an estimated timeline to close the FOC actions:
 - Initial Operating Capacity (IOC) – March 2022
 - Middle Operating Capacity (MOC) – January 2023
 - FOC – September 2023
 - A total of 5.91 million operational SMETS1 meters are being used by Energy Suppliers.
- **Consumer Engagement Updates**
 - A government Smart Metering leaflet has been produced, for those experiencing, or close to, fuel poverty. The main aim is to raise awareness of the cost saving benefits of Smart Meters and support these vulnerable consumers.

- BEIS research reconfirmed the importance of communicating the benefits of Smart Metering (and the smart energy system), in addition to personal benefits messages. It identified, even as awareness of net zero is increasing, it does not appear to be understood by consumers, or associated to Smart Meters. BEIS will continue to gather evidence throughout the research project.
- Smart Energy GB's "Einstein campaign" is showing success and signs of suitable engagement to be viable in the long term to the end of the roll out. Smart Energy GB believes that the positives currently experienced in the domestic rollout can be transferred to the non-domestic area with similar success. This is supported by the polling of acceptance rates overtaking rejection for the first time since 2021.

2.2 Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)

The TSIRS met on 14 October 2021 and discussed:

- **Home Area Network (HAN) stability update:**

The DCC reported a slight increase in the number of ESME with HAN stability issues.

- Up by 3.5% from 46,217 to 44,670; and
- Rollout of new firmware to some ESME models is required.

- **Nuisance alerts update:**

- The DCC is continuing their investigations into issues with Over The Air (OTA) upgrade processing, which led to raising questions with Suppliers on experiences with the following:
 - Spurious OTA Alerts such as the 11.2.6 'Construction of Firmware Distribution Receipt' Alert 0x8F72 (success) or 0x8F1C (failure) and:
 - Cases of firmware activation not taking place as expected.
- Additionally, it has been noted that in some cases up to five rounds of OTA upgrades to the same target Devices are required to achieve a high level of success.

- **CRP535 Lessons Learned:**

- CRP535 'Restoring removed Devices from the HAN' was raised in April 2017 which looked at allowing a User to access the Device Log, which provides a log of previously removed Devices from the HAN and that could be restored if needed. This was approved in September 2017. However, the design decisions were based on invalid assumptions about meter behaviour and Supplier operational practices.
- The DCC plans to work alongside Suppliers to find a solution to an issue that was discovered in the User Integration Testing (UIT) which results in Devices being removed from the HAN. It has been suggested that a guidance document should be created to support Users, with TSIRS confirming that they will review the guidance and fix this issue before the guidance is published.

- **UK Metering Forum (UKMF) update:**

- The UKMF update on work to minimise interference from a new type of non-linear load on certified meters that leads to inaccuracies, even if they display as correctly measuring voltages and currents show the following:
 - The Meter EMI project led by the European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR) is looking at improving and establishing better test standards, a project the UKMF is following closely.

- Whilst there has been a positive uptake of Electric Vehicles (EVs, EV Chargers and EV Charger models in the UK, it has been noted that the chargers cause significant distortion to electricity meters.
 - The British Standards Institute (BSI), which includes BEAMA members, will investigate this issue and update TSIRS.

2.3 Test Design and Execution Group (TDEG)

The TDEG met on 12 October 2021 and discussed:

- **November 2021 SIT Update:** The DCC provided updates on the Systems Integration Testing (SIT) ahead of the November 2021 SEC Release:
 - SIT testing has completed with a 98% pass rate recorded. All outstanding Testing Issues are within the tolerances agreed with the TAG.
 - The Testing Advisory Group (TAG) approval for SIT exit was agreed on 29 September 2021.
- **November 2021 User Testing Update:** The DCC provided updates on User testing ahead of the November 2021 SEC Release:
 - User Testing in the User Integration Testing (UIT) B environment started on 22 September and is currently in progress.
 - Two Test Participants have started testing in the UIT-B environment.
 - Pre-User Testing readiness checks are underway in the UIT A environment.
- **TSP Project Update:** The DCC provided an update for the Trusted Service Provider (TSP) Project and stated:
 - BT's Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) commenced in October 2021.
 - SIT will take place during December 2021 and January 2022.
 - User testing will take place in March 2022 and April 2022 with implementation in production expected during May 2022; and
 - Communications around the Internet Protocol (IP) address for both UIT and production environments will be delayed from September 2021 to November 2021.

2.4 Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG)

The TBDG met on 20 October 2021, where BEIS and the DCC presented an update on SMETS1 Enrolment and Adoption.

The DCC provided an update on the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) programme. The DCC highlighted activity they are undertaking to de-risk the Transitional Change of Supplier (TCoS) to ECoS Migration and limit negative impacts on Suppliers. These activities include:

- Completing a full review of the SMETS1 Migration Lessons Learnt with BEIS to understand potential risks for the ECOS Migration;
- Progressing independent programme assurance which will focus on ensuring robustness and a successful execution of the TCoS to ECoS Migration; and
- Ensuring testing will be aligned with the DCC delivery approach, where the output will inform on the five expected failure.

Suppliers will be invited to complete User Integration Testing (UIT).

The DCC also highlighted a consultation with a targeted date of Friday 4 February 2022. This consultation concerns the Enduring Change of Supplier Transition and Migration Approach Document (ETMAD) and will be open for a minimum of four weeks. The DCC will engage Suppliers via drop-in sessions which are dated below:

- 6 December 2021
- 14 December 2021
- 20 December 2021
- 11 January 2022
- 17 January 2022
- 25 January 2022

Industry members are encouraged to attend and engage with these sessions as they will play a vital role in shaping the content of the resulting ETMAD consultation. Any queries regarding the ETMAD consultation should be sent to the ECoS programme mailbox – SMB-EcoS@smartdcc.co.uk.

2.5 Implementation Managers Forum (IMF)

The IMF met on 28 October 2021 and discussed:

- **IMF Dashboard Overview:**

- Users have installed over 9.42 million SMETS2 Meters, with over 2.04 million installed in the Communication Service Provider (CSP) North Region. Average daily installation volumes have been consistent from end of August 2021 to end September 2021, averaging between 16,200 to 17,400 meters installed per day.

- **SMETS1 Update:**

- Over 5.96 million SMETS1 Meters have been migrated onto the DCC Service, with approximately 5.58 million of these being operated as Smart Meters by Energy Suppliers.
- Three Eligible Product Combinations List (EPCL) reports (Reports 9, 14 and 16) are being scheduled for approval before 11 November 2021, and EPCL Report 23 is scheduled for approval by 12 December 2021.

- **Fylingdales Communication Hubs:**

- The status of the Fylingdales Communication Hub (CH) overall milestone has improved from the previous month as five Suppliers are now testing as of week 4 of UIT. A revised Central Products List (CPL) date of 19 November 2021 has been given, with the first pallet pilots starting from 3 January 2022 and supply chain from 31 March 2022.

- **Dual Band Communication Hubs (DBCH):**

- Over 16,700 DBCHs have been installed since October 2020, with over 8,700 installed with SubGhz capable Devices. This shows a 55% increase from the previous month.
- The Wistron NeWeb Corp (WNC) firmware v2.0.0.6 received Operational Acceptance (OA) on 17 August 2021, Central Products List (CPL) completion on 23 August 2021 and the OTA pilot has concluded.
- The Toshiba firmware release 13.3 has completed a mass OTA upgrade, with the first pallet delivered on 3 November 2021 as originally scheduled.

- **Joint Industry Plan (JIP):**

- Latest draft version (JIP v7.10) has been shared with the IMF for comment. This version as of 28 October 2021 reflects the changes since the last version shared on 30 September 2021, and currently has all milestones as either green (on track) or blue (completed) except JIP Milestone 2253 'GBCS v3.2 Compliant CH FW available Single Band (C&S)' which is set to amber (noting a defect which requires resolution).

2.6 Upcoming 2021 Transitional Group meetings

Transitional Group	Meeting date
Test Design and Execution Group (TDEG)	9 November 2021
Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG)	11 November 2021
Technical Specification Issue Resolution Subgroup (TSIRS)	11 November 2021
Technical and Business Design Group (TBDG)	17 November 2021
Implementation Managers Forum (IMF)	25 November 2021

Table 2: Transitional Group meetings

3. Publications

Please click the following links for current [BEIS](#), [DCC](#) and [Ofgem](#) consultations. Open Industry consultations can also be found on the SECAS [Open Industry Consultations webpage](#).

3.1 DCC Publications

The DCC has published the following:

- [DCC regulatory consultation on various SMETS1 matters](#) - The DCC is proposing to exclude / unblock certain categories of SMETS1 Installations from migration, extend the expiry date for the Transition and Migration Approach Document (TMAD), and propose that specified Device Model Combinations (DMCs) are not economic to test under the Device Model Combination Testing (DMCT) process in the SMETS1 SEC Variation Testing Approach Document (SVTAD). This consultation closes at **4pm on 12 November 2021**.
- [SMETS1 Cryptographic Key Management Policy consultation](#) - The DCC is consulting on a proposed SMETS1 Cryptographic Key Management Policy for [Device Language Message Specification](#) (DLMS) Devices as well as proposed changes to the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements document. This consultation closes at **4pm on 19 November 2021**
- [Parse and Correlation Consultation](#) - Due to the approaching end of support of a Parse and Correlate software component, the DCC asked for views on uplifting the software component (Oracle Java) to a newer version. This consultation closed on 5 November 2021.
- [SEC Subsidiary Document Changes for Enduring Change of Supplier Arrangements](#) - This consultation asked for stakeholder views on proposed changes to five SEC Subsidiary Documents required for the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) arrangements. This consultation closed on 5 November 2021.

3.2 Ofgem Publications

Ofgem has published the following:

- [DCC Price Control: Regulatory Year 2020/21 consultation](#) - Following each regulatory year, the DCC is required to report price control information in accordance with the Regulatory Instructions and Guidance (RIGS). Ofgem reviews the DCC costs and sets out their proposals. On 27 October 2021, Ofgem published their proposals on DCC price control for the Regulatory Year 2020/21. Ofgem are now seeking feedback on their proposals via this consultation. This consultation closes on **22 December 2021**.

4. Recommendation

The TABASC is requested to **NOTE** the contents of this paper.

Harry Jones

SECAS Team

25 November 2021