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MP179 ‘DCC Boxed’

December 2021 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Khaleda Hussain	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Joey Manners	SECAS
Chris Barlow	DCC
Tom Rothery	DCC
David Walsh	DCC
Eleanor Taylor	BEIS
Sarah-Jane Russell	British Gas
Steven Bull	CGI
Mark Lenton	Drax
Julie Geary	E.ON
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Daniel Davis	ESG Global
Terry Jefferson	EUA
Carmen Strickland	Foresight Metering
Chris Brown	Haven Power
Alastair Cobb	Landis + Gyr
Stuart Blair	Northern Powergrid
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Sharon Broadley	Scottish Power
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
John Heyburn	SGN
Jeff Studholme	Smart Meter Assets
Audrey Smith-Keary	SSE - OVO
Emslie Law	SSE - OVO
Matthew Alexander	SSEN
Gemma Slaney	WPD
Kelly Kinsman	WPD

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, the Proposed Solution, the Refinement Consultation responses, the draft legal text, and the implementation approach.

Issue

- DCC Boxed is a testing tool developed by the DCC for internal use as an expansion of the existing GFI toolset.
- The DCC received feedback from some of its customers that they would greatly benefit from having access to the tool for testing and development; the DCC subsequently conducted industry surveys and the conclusion was reached that the tool should be made commercially available.

Proposed Solution

- MP179 seeks to amend the SEC to provide a commercial vehicle for DCC Boxed, so that it can be made available via an Explicit Charging model to those Parties that wish to purchase it.
- The Explicit Charge will be a one-off cost of approximately £5.5k
- MP179 is a text-only change; the product already exists, the modification is only seeking to make provisions under the SEC and to align with the Enduring Testing Approach Document and Good Industry Practice.

Refinement Consultation responses

- There were two respondents, a Networks Party and a Large Supplier.
- Both responses were positive; respondents agreed with the implementation approach, the legal text changes, that the modification would be beneficial to industry and consumers, and that it better facilitates the SEC Objectives (a) and (b).
- The Large Supplier noted one impact to their business, which is that they will have to ensure their existing test equipment is configured to work with the DCC Boxed tool.
- The Large Supplier also requested a demonstration of the tool; SECAS will liaise with the DCC to discuss this.
- One respondent rightly pointed out that there is no specific section for 'Views against the General SEC Objectives' under 'Support for Change' in the current version of the modification report; instead this is only mentioned in the 'Impacts' section.
- The modification report will be amended accordingly prior to moving to Report Phase.

Draft legal text

- During the Refinement Consultation window, SECAS was contacted by a Device Manufacturer who noted that the draft legal text definition of DCC Boxed described it as replicating the ‘end-to-end DCC Systems’.
- This would be incorrect, as DCC Boxed doesn’t replicate DCC User systems.
- The term ‘DCC Systems’ has also been changed to ‘DCC Total Systems’ to account for the inclusion of SMETS2+ Communications Hubs.
- Following a review by SECAS lawyers, part of the drafting under Section H14.57 which referred to Testing Participants’ obligations was removed, as it will be covered in the ‘DCC Boxed policy document’ referred to in the Enduring Test Approach Document; drafted to be consistent with the approach taken to GFI testing.
- Other than that, the legal text is unchanged from the last time it was agreed by the Working Group in November 2021.

Implementation approach

- SECAS is targeting the February 2022 SEC Release for implementation, if the Change Sub-Committee vote to progress to Report Phase at the December 2021 meeting.
- Dependent on responses to the Modification Report Consultation, the Change Board will be asked to approve MP179 for implementation on 26 January 2022.
- Following implementation, the DCC will coordinate with Ofgem on the Charging Statement which is a three-month process, meaning the tool itself will be commercially available in May 2022

Working Group Discussion

SECAS (MF) provided an overview of the meeting objectives, the issue, Proposed Solution, Refinement Consultation responses, the draft legal text, and the implementation approach.

Proposed Solution

A member (MR) questioned why this requires a SEC modification, as previously the DCC have provided charged services that are not referenced in the SEC. The Proposer (TR) advised that the DCC consulted its customers on their preferred route to delivery, and there was a consensus that the SEC modification route would be best as the scope of DCC Boxed cannot fit into the existing governance framework.

SECAS (MF) asked the Working Group to comment on whether implementing MP179 would have negative impacts on Consumers, to which there was no comment. SECAS (MF) also asked the

Working Group if MP179 better facilitates SEC Objective (a)¹, and whether MP179 was ready to proceed to the Report Phase. The Working Group agreed to both questions.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS to present MP179 to the Change Sub-Committee on 21 December 2021 under the recommendation it proceeds to the Report Phase; and
- Issue the Modification Report Consultation.

¹ To facilitate the efficient provision, installation, and operation, as well as interoperability, of Smart Metering Systems at Energy Consumers' premises within Great Britain.