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MP143 'Incorporating IRPs into GBCS v3 series'

December 2021 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Joey Manners	SECAS
Charlotte Semp	DCC
David Walsh	DCC
Sarah-Jane Russell	British Gas
Julie Geary	E.ON
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Daniel Davies	ESG Global
Peter Hoare	Kaifa Metering
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Audrey Smith-Keary	OVO Energy
Christina Young	OVO Energy
Emslie Law	OVO Energy
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
Matthew Alexander	SSEN
Gemma Slaney	WPD
Kelly Kinsman	WPD

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the modification, reviewed the Preliminary Assessment and proposed next steps.

Scope

[MP098 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 3'](#) introduced 20 non-DCC System impacting Issue Resolution Proposals (IRPs) into the GB Companion Specification (GBCS) v4.0 and the Smart Metering Equipment Specifications (SMETS) Device Level Versioning of 29 November 2020 in the November 2020 Smart Energy Code (SEC) Release. To ensure certainty for the industry it was agreed that the 18 GBCS impacting IRPs would not be implemented into the

GBCS version 3.x series (to give an uplift to v3.3) as it was deemed not materially beneficial at the time.

However, Device Manufacturers have advised two of these (IRP589 & IRP596) are essential from a Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) / compliance perspective and would like to incorporate these IRPs into the GBCS v3.x series.

In addition, two IRPs that were previously within scope of [MP158 'Incorporation of multiple Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 5'](#) have been added. Finally, IRP642 which has been included for inclusion into the GBCS v3.x series and will also be added to the GBCS v4.x series as part of [DP193 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 6'](#)

Working Group Discussion

Preliminary Assessment

SECAS presented a high-level overview of the Preliminary Assessment, noting the impacts upon Communication Service Providers (CSPs) and the Data Service Provider (DSP). SECAS noted that the DSP has confirmed that any new version of GBCS requires them to make certain changes to accommodate a new version. These include Service Request processing needing to be mapped against GBCS Use Cases for the new version as well as updating the Central Product List (CPL) processing that needs to recognise a new version.

SECAS also stated that the CSPs have noted that their Communications Hubs will not be required to be compliant to GBCS v3.3, nor 4.0 and the upgrade path will be from v3.2 to GBCS v4.1 directly instead. This is because the IRPs will appear in the later versions of GBCS. There will be testing requirements to ensure that those GBCS 3.2 and GBCS 4.0 Communications Hubs are interoperable with GBCS v3.3 and GBCS v4.1 Devices.

SECAS summarised that Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) of the solution will take three months and the costs will be £0 – £150,000. The DCC also noted that post PIT costs are not expected to take the modification outside of this range.

SECAS asked the Working Group whether they had any comments on the legal text that had been provided and had been developed at the Technical Specification Issue Resolution Sub-Group (TSIRS). A Working Group member (MR) noted that a previous modification of a technical nature, [MP093 'Implementing IRP511 and CRP535 to support GBCS v3.2 devices'](#), had issues in deployment where the legal text had been developed by TSIRS and questioned whether lessons had been learned from this. SECAS (AB) confirmed that a new legal text review process was being developed for modifications that impact Technical Specifications. The DCC (DW) also noted that these IRPs are either already in the SEC or due to be implemented in another version so will be tested thoroughly through other streams as well.

SECAS advised that the modification was being targeted for November 2022 and although this was a tight timeframe, the DCC had confirmed it was feasible and was supporting this. SECAS continued to present the case for change, noting a benefit to consumers of otherwise non-compliant Devices not being needed to be removed, the DCC costs being the only major impact, and the modification facilitating SEC Objective (a). The Working Group were asked for any comments that contradicted these views and none were given.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS will distribute the Refinement Consultation for the modification; and
- SECAS will request the Impact Assessment following this Consultation.