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MP192 ‘Extend Scheduled Services for SMETS1 Devices’

January 2022 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Mike Fenn	SECAS
Tim Newton	SECAS
David Walsh	DCC
Robin Seaby	DCC
Sasha Townsend	DCC
Samuel Manson	DCC
Leigh Hill	DCC
Emma Johnson	British Gas
Lynne Hargrave	Calvin Capital
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Julie Geary	E.ON
Daniel Davis	ESG Global
Terry Jefferson	EUA
Peter Hoare	Kaifa Metering
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
Audrey Smith-Keary	OVO Energy
Emslie Law	OVO Energy
Matthew Alexander	SSEN
Gemma Slaney	WPD

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue and the Proposed Solution identified in [MP192 ‘Extend Scheduled Services for SMETS1 Devices’](#), and the Data Communications Company’s (DCC’s) Preliminary Assessment response.

Issue

Service Reference Variant (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.

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.

Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution is for the DCC to add Data Services Provider (DSP) scheduling support for SRV 4.3 and SRV 4.4.3 for SMETS1 Devices.

Working Group Discussion

DCC solution

SECAS provided an overview of the background to the modification, and a summary of the DCC's Preliminary Assessment response. The DSP will need to amend the processing to enable creation of SRV 4.3 and SRV 4.4.3 for delivery to the SMETS1 Service Providers after they have been scheduled using SRV 5.1. The scheduling capability for SRV 4.3 and SRV 4.4.3 will be applicable only for SMETS1. Therefore, if the DCC receives a request to schedule SRV 4.3 or SRV 4.4.3 for SMETS2+, the request will be rejected with a new error code introduced to notify this validation failure.

Implementation costs

SECAS advised that only DSP and SMETS1 Service Provider System changes were required and the Communications Services Provider (CSP) Systems are not impacted.

The DCC has provided the following implementation costs in the Impacts Assessment:

Breakdown of DCC costs	
Cost up to Pre-Integration Testing (PIT)	Cost for a full Impact Assessment
£350,000 to £550,000	£31,099 (see note below)

SECAS noted the cost to undertake a full Impact Assessment has already been allocated to the DCC SMETS1 programme. Therefore, the cost of the Impact Assessment (£31,099) will not be allocated to this modification.

Working Group views against MP192

A Working Group member (DD) questioned if the SRVs would be rejected if they were scheduled for a SMETS2+ Device. SECAS confirmed they would be rejected and a new error code introduced for this scenario. A member (GS) questioned if SECAS or the DCC were keeping a holistic view on the projects and modifications that have been raised to address DCC infrastructure capacity. Although they agreed there is benefit in MP192, they noted there could be a scenario where due to the number of projects and modifications raised, it may more cost effective to invest in additional DCC infrastructure. The DCC confirmed that the Demand Management Team and the Architecture Team work together to monitor this. The DCC (DW) noted that the DCC would ask the Service Providers to include an estimate of 'doing nothing' in the final Impact Assessment.

When asked what the Working Group's views were on the legal text, members questioned if the modification was looking to address a hypothetical issue or one that has evidence will happen in the future. Specifically, a member questioned what evidence there was to suggest that an additional 2.7 million SRVs could be sent to the DCC everyday without this modification. They suggested that Suppliers could use SRV 4.6.1 'Retrieve Import Daily Read Log' to access the same data from SRV 4.3 or SRV 4.4.3. SECAS agreed it would include a question in the Refinement Consultation seeking views on DCC User behaviour when sending SRV 4.3 and SRV 4.4.3 to SMETS1 Devices. The DCC agreed to provide their modelling and assumptions (performed in collaboration with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)) to be included in the Modification Report.

The Working Group agreed that once the information on the estimated volumes was included in the Modification Report the modification would be ready to proceed to Refinement Consultation.

Benefits, objectives, and implementation approach

SECAS noted the following Party benefits:

- Suppliers will be able to schedule SRVs 4.3 and 4.4.3 for SMETS1 Devices
- The DCC will receive fewer peaks in demand for these SRVs, mitigating against the need for additional capacity

However, consumers are not impacted by this modification.

SECAS noted MP192 would better facilitate SEC Objective (a)¹ by allowing Suppliers to schedule SRVs 4.3 and 4.4.3 for SMETS1 Devices whilst reducing peak demand on the DCC Total System, making for a more efficient process.

The DCC has advised that a solution is needed as soon as possible. As a result, the modification is targeted for the November 2022 SEC Release.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

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

- The DCC to provide the modelling and assumptions made for the estimated volume of SRVs if SRVs 4.3 and 4.4.3 are unable to be sent as a 'Scheduled' service.
 - **Update:** The DCC has since advised The DCC estimate of 2.7 million extra SRVs every day came from projections from the DCC SMETS1 team working with the DCC Demand Management team and are based on current and projected levels of enrolled SMETS1 meters when migration is complete. The projection is based on the following:
 - An average of 16% of meters nationally are prepayment (SMETS1 and SMETS2)
 - There will be 16 million SMETS1 meters nationally (both Prepayment and Credit)
 - Therefore 16% of 16 million is approximately 2.7 million SMETS1 prepayment smart meters, with each one daily read (SRV).
- SECAS to issue a Refinement Consultation, including a question around Supplier behaviour for the sending of SRV 4.3 and SRV 4.4.3 in order to develop a business case (targeted for early-January 2022).
- The DCC will advise the impact of 'doing nothing' in the final Impact Assessment.