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MP202 ‘Enduring Solution for SMETS1 and SMETS2+ PPMIDs’

December 2022 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard (AB)	SECAS
Rachel Black (RB)	SECAS
Mike Fenn (MF)	SECAS
Ben Giblin (BG)	SECAS
Joey Manners (JM)	SECAS
Elizabeth Woods (EW)	SECAS
Mark Pitchford (MP)	DCC
Christopher Thompson (CT)	DCC
David Walsh (DW)	DCC
Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
Eleanor Taylor (ET)	BEIS
Julie Brown (JB)	British Gas
Emma Johnson (EJ)	Centrica
Steve Blackler (SBlac)	E Gas & Electricity
Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
Daniel Davies (DD)	ESG Global
Martin Bell (MB)	EUA
Craig Biffen (CB)	EUA
Stuart Blair (SB)	Northern Power Grid
Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus
Jamie Flaherty (JF)	Ofgem
Audrey Smith-Keary (ASK)	Ovo Energy
Mahfuzar Rahman (MR)	Scottish Power
Shuba Khatun (SK)	SSE Networks

Overview

Issue

The SEC currently differentiates between SMETS1 and SMETS2+ Devices and is drafted so a Device can be SMETS1 or SMETS2+, but not both. Some models of PPMID can work as both a SMETS1 Device and a SMETS2+ Device, however the SEC does not make provisions for these Devices. This means PPMIDs cannot be treated as both SMETS1 and SMETS2+, even if they can behave as such.

Solution

Currently, the Primary Key (comprising of Firmware Version, Device Model, Device Type and the Manufacturer ID) held in the table can only accept one record for each firmware version. The proposed solution involves having two versions of the same firmware version for a Device Model included in the CPL, one for SMETS1 and one for SMETS2+. Devices can then be pre-notified as a SMETS1 or a SMETS2+ plus, with the Data Service Provider needing to change the SMETS version recorded in the SMI when the PPMID is installed.

Working Group Discussion

SECAS (BG) provided an explanation about the exiting arrangements and what this modification seeks to change.

(JB) enquired about whether this modification would require Suppliers to continue updating the SMI using the existing method via SR8.4. SECAS (AB) confirmed that Suppliers will be able to pre-notify the PPMID as SMETS1 or SMETS2+. (DD) agreed and added to this by saying the DSP will make any necessary amendments automatically. SECAS (AB) confirmed to members that they need to continue as they currently do when pre-notifying a PPMID.

(DD) highlighted the discussions at the TABASC and asked whether they would be included in the Refinement Consultation. SECAS (AB) confirmed this. (DD) highlighted that the existing temporary solution to this issue is not the most efficient solution and given the costs of the Preliminary Assessment was this change worth the money.

SECAS (AB) said that SECAS are in talks with the DCC about finding more accurate figures regarding how many PPMIDs are impacted by this. (DW) suggested logistical issues were the driving force for this modification being raised. (DD) noted that in the Modification Report there are six million PPMID's said to be impacted and that at the TABASC several members said the current tactical solution does not work. The member repeated their earlier statement about whether this change is worth the money or can industry live with the existing tactical solution. Since the Preliminary Assessment identified that this change would cost between £350,000 and £750,000, SECAS (AB) suggested requesting a full Impact Assessment from the DCC to establish the exact cost. Then, once the Impact Assessment has been returned, the business case can be more accurately assessed by the Working Group.

Another member (MP) highlighted that this change would help when a PPMID is broken, or a new PPMID is required because the customer is changing to pre-payment mode. They said that it's very difficult to predict exactly how many PPMID's will be impacted, but because energy prices are high this is likely to lead to an increase in the number of pre-payment customers, and in turn an increase in the number of PPMID's impacted.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS (BG) to work with DCC to collate data about the number of PPMID's impacted by this change.