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DP238 ‘Expired TSAT Communication Hubs’

July 2023 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Alison Beard	SECAS
Ben Giblin	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Elizabeth Woods	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Mohammedanwar Sumro	SECAS
Rachel Black (RB)	SECAS
Abhijit Pal	DCC
Christopher Thompson	DCC
David Walsh	DCC
Robin Seaby	DCC
Sharon Armitage	E.ON
Alex Hurcombe	EDF
Amy Cox	EDF
Martin Bell	EUA
Stuart Blair	Northern Power Grid
Joey Manners	Octopus
Ralph Baxter (RBa)	Octopus
Audrey Smith-Keary	OVO Energy
Mahfuzar Rahman	Scottish Power
Jeff Studholme	Smart Meter Assets
Tom Woolley	SMS PLC
Shuba Khatun	SSEN

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, impact, business requirements and the Proposed Solution option.

Current arrangements

- Communication Hubs must be installed before the specified Installation End Date for that version of Communication Hub Technical Specification (CHTS)
- If not installed, it should be returned to the DCC to allow DCC to attempt to refurbish for future use
- If not, a rental charge unit is applied to be paid monthly by the Responsible Party

Issue

- Approximately 139,000 Devices waiting to be returned
- The Installation Validity Period is intended to act as a motivator to Parties to install older versions of stocks, however this does not appear to be working
- Strain on industry for 2G and 3G Communication Hubs
- 4G Communication Hubs will come out which will make the existing 2G and 3G stock outdated
- If not returned before the release of 4G the current 2G and 3G which requires to be returned could be seen as a waste of resources

Working Group Discussion

SECAS (MS) provided an overview of the current arrangements and the issues.

Working Group members agreed that the main concern with this modification is finding the cheapest and best option for not wasting 139,000 Communication Hubs in the supply chain, which may be in stock, broken, lost or otherwise. The Working Group members agreed that the goal is to reduce replacement costs across the industry.

Working Group members acknowledge ongoing challenges with Communication Hubs returns and suggested looking into workshops and ongoing work with Users and the DCC to address and resolve the issue.

A Working Group member (RBa) said that it may be more expensive than keeping them in a warehouse, as refurbishment and return costs can be significant.

SECAS (MS) highlighted the importance to focus on repurposing the stock for environmental reasons, rather than solely considering costs.

The Working Group had no further comments.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- DCC Users to attend a DCC workshop in July to address the issue and potential solutions.