

NOVEMBER 2023

SEC Newsletter



WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER 2023 SEC NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the November 2023 SEC Newsletter!

In this edition, we provide updates on the recently implemented November 2023 SEC Release, the DCC Service Management System (DSMS) User needs, the Programme Assurance report, the SEC Section G publication, consultation on changes to the CH&N SVTAD, SMDA and TABASC election results.

You can also read our usual updates on modifications, recent webinars, meeting dates and key Industry news, and hear our latest Modcast.

We hope you enjoy this edition; please contact us at the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) if there are any topics you would like to see covered in an upcoming newsletter.

Governance

THE NOVEMBER 2023 SEC RELEASE IS LIVE!

The November 2023 SEC Release went live on 2 November 2023. It contained six modifications but no DCC Total System impacting changes. There were two changes that impacted other DCC Systems. MP122B made changes to the DCCs reporting system and MP216 made changes to testing systems.

For a full list of the implemented Modification Proposals and more details about the release, please [click here](#). The redlining can be downloaded [here](#).

You can hear about the changes [here](#) in the October 2023 SEC Modcast. To see which Modification Proposals affect you, please see the table below.

Modification Proposal	Affected SEC Party Types
MP122B 'Operational Metrics – Part 2'	DCC
MP216 'Incorporation of Category 2 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC – Batch 9'	Supplier Parties, DCC and Other SEC Parties
MP226 'Incorporation of Category 3 Issue Resolution Proposals into the SEC - Batch 10'	Supplier Parties, DCC and Other SEC Parties
MP245 'SMKI Document Set Changes 2023'	Supplier Parties, Electricity Network Parties and DCC
MP249 'Housekeeping Changes for the November 2023 SEC Release'	All SEC Parties
MP250 'Correction of an error in GBCS'	Other SEC Parties and DCC



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FUTURE SERVICE MANAGEMENT USER NEEDS

The Operations Group (OPSG) provides input and support to the DCC in the development and delivery of the new Future Service Management (FSM) programme, which replaces the existing DCC Service Management System (DSMS). The FSM is targeted for go live in October 2025 with the immediate focus for the DCC to share the final business needs in December 2023. This will seek endorsement of the outline business case from the SEC Panel as part of the roadmap to issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) in April 2024 once approved by the Department of Energy, Security and Net Zero.

The FSM is using guidance established through the DSMS programme to help prioritise the essential and desirable business requirements via engagement with the OPSG. Another key consideration of this programme will be the option to consider procurement of a new enduring Order Management System (OMS) for 4G Communication Hubs and associated equipment.

If you have any questions, please contact SECAS@gemserv.com.



PROGRAMME ASSURANCE REPORT

Each month, a Programme Assurance Report is published to update the SEC Panel and SEC Parties on the status of the DCC Programmes. It outlines the work done since the last update, key milestones, and planned engagement over the next quarter. It also outlines any changes to the stages of the Programmes and any artefacts received since the last update.

Key Highlights for November include:

- 4G CH&N – The latest customer engagement plan was shared with OPSG and an SVTAD consultation webinar was held with TAG members.
- DSP Data systems – High Level Requirements were shared with TABASC, OPSG, SSC and SMKI PMA. Further requirements were discussed at TABASC 94X.
- PKI Enduring Services – solutions were presented to SSC and SMKI PMA to seek endorsement. SSC and SMKI PMA agreed there were no security concerns with the preferred solution. Panel members requested further detail on the customer costs and benefits for each solution option before providing an endorsement.
- Great Britain Companion Specification 4.1 – Endorsement was received against the Live Service Criteria allowing the pilot to be exited and “mass” manufacture to proceed for a limited number of Toshiba CHs.
- S1 Dual Control Organisation (DCO) – High level kick off updates were provided at TABASC and SSC with the expectation of returning in November to review Customer Needs.
- Continuity of Service – DCC has agreed with DESNZ to tackle CoS risks via three strands of work. CTG was informed that DCC will be extending the VMO2 contract for CSP South and Central regions. DCC is modelling a baseline 10-year demand forecast with the intention to share with customers on a quarterly basis.

The Report can be found on the SEC website [here](#).



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SEC SECTION G AGREED INTERPRETATIONS V2.4 PUBLISHED

The SSC has agreed updates to the SEC Section G Agreed Interpretations. Both tracked-changed and clean versions of the Agreed Interpretations v2.4 have been published to the SEC [website](#).

Updates include:

- Update to Section 3.8 to clarify the notification process for a material change;
- Update to Section 5 to clarify the obligations in SEC Sections G3.23 and G3.25 (Supply Sensitive Checks); and
- Update to correct an error in Figure 3 in Section 7.

If you have any questions on the above, please contact SSC@gemserv.com.



CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO CH&N SVTAD UPDATE

The DCC 'Consultation on changes to the CH&N SVTAD' ran from 25 September to 3 November 2023, and asked DCC Users to provide feedback on proposed amendments to [SEC Appendix AQ](#) (SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for the CH&N Arrangements). Four SEC Parties responded to the consultation, all of which were Large Suppliers.

The Testing Advisory Group (TAG) also reviewed the proposed amendments, and provided a [consultation response](#) alongside SECAS to the DCC, confirming the Sub-Committee collectively has no objection to the proposed amendments.

If you have any queries relating to this consultation or the testing for CH&N, please contact SECAS@gemserv.com.



SMDA SUB-COMMITTEE 2023 ELECTIONS UPDATE

SECAS initiated an election for half of the Smart Meter Device Assurance Sub-Committee (SMDASC) seats (five seats) to split the term duration of members. Following this election, we are pleased to announce that the following members retain their existing seats:

- Other SEC Party GSME Manufacturer representative seat - Martin Bell (EUA)
- Other SEC Party ESME Manufacturer representative seat - Andrew Willman (BEAMA)
- Other SEC Party Meter Asset Provider representative seat - Adam Cooke (Macquarie)
- Network Party representative seat – Matthew Alexander (SSEN)

No nominations were received for the Large Supplier or Network Party representative seats. If you want to learn more about these seats or the SMDASC, please contact SMDASO@gemserv.com.

The new term will begin on 5 December 2023 for 24 months.



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TABASC SUB-COMMITTEE ELECTION UPDATES

The 2023 TABASC election has now concluded, and we'd like to thank all Parties who participated in the nominations process. Congratulations to the following candidates:

- Large Supplier Parties: Joey Manners, Alastair Cobb, Emslie Law and Sumathi Elumalai
- Small Supplier Parties: Daniel Davies
- Other SEC Parties: Ian Lovatt and Matthew Hallchurch.
- Electricity Network Operators: Alan Creighton

No nomination was received for the Gas Network Operators seat.

The new term begins on 30 November 2023, therefore the first TABASC meeting with new and returning members will take place on Thursday 7 December 2023.



LATEST SEC MODCAST

In this [November SECAS Modcast](#) episode, the Change Team discussed DP255 'WAN issues during Smart Meter installations'. The modification has been raised as the Proposer experienced cases where the Communications Hub successfully 'births', but there is insufficient WAN to enrol all the other Devices with the DCC. If you want to know more about any of the above, please email SEC.Change@gemserv.com or call us on 020 7090 7755.



RECENT WEBINARS

If you couldn't join the webinars held by SECAS in November, you can catch up with the slides and recording:

CTG Webinar

SECAS and the Communications Transition Group (CTG) Chair, Jason Stevens, hosted a Transition to 4G webinar on **7 November 2023** to introduce the CTG and present an overview of the plan to transition to a 4G solution, what this means for SEC Parties and how to get involved. You can find the meeting materials [here](#) and the recording [here](#).

SEC Change Webinar MP253 'Traffic Management - User Actions Required'

SEC Change ran a webinar on **15 November 2023** to present an overview of the newly raised Modification Proposal MP253 'Traffic Management - User Actions Required'. You can find the materials [here](#) and the link to the recording [here](#).

Security and Privacy Webinar

SECAS and the User CIO hosted a Security and Privacy webinar on **23 November 2023** where an overview of the assessment process was presented and tips to help SEC Parties prepare for their assessment were shared. You can find the meeting materials [here](#) and the recording [here](#).



DCC PRICE CONTROL CONSULTATION: REGULATORY YEAR 2022/23

Ofgem is running a consultation on the Data Communications Company’s (DCC) price control information. You can find the consultation [here](#).

The DCC must report its price control information in accordance with the Regulatory Instructions and Guidance (RIGS) that the DCC publish. In this document, Ofgem reviews whether the costs the DCC have reported for Regulatory Year 2022/23 are economic, efficient and sets out Ofgem’s proposals.

The SEC Panel will be drafting a response to this consultation. If you have any views for consideration, please contact us at SECAS@gemserv.com for consideration.

If you have any questions or wish to submit a response, please send it to DCCregulation@ofgem.gov.uk by **29 December 2023**.



DCC CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED DELIVERY PLAN FOR CONTINUATION OF DATA SERVICES (DSP)

The DCC is seeking views against its plan and approach to re procure the DSP and delivery of core DSP services. A copy of the consultation can be found [here](#).

On 24 July 2023, DCC was directed by the Secretary of State to produce a new implementation plan for continuity in the provision of data services with respect to Smart Metering Systems pursuant to condition 13B.2 of the DCC Licence, and this document is the DCC’s consultation on the implementation plan.

If you have any questions or wish to submit a response, please send it to consultations@smartdcc.co.uk by **15 December 2023**.



Modifications

NEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

There has been one new Draft Proposal raised since the last newsletter. You are invited to provide feedback to the [Change Team](#) to help us understand whether these issues affect you.

[DP255 'WAN issues during Smart Meter installations'](#)

Currently, the SEC is drafted on the assumption that if the Communications Hub is commissioned, all other associated Devices are connected to the Smart Meter Wide Area Network (SMWAN) and can be commissioned. The Proposer has experienced cases where only the Communications Hub connects to the SMWAN and there is insufficient SMWAN for all the other Install and Commission activities to take place. This means that although only the Communications Hub is connected to the SMWAN, the installation is still seen as successful. This draft proposal will explore solutions to this problem.



REFINEMENT CONSULTATIONS

As a SEC Party, you can help influence the Proposed Solution, help determine the business case for the change, and comment on how the proposal will affect your organisation. For more information and to respond to the consultation, download the consultation pack linked below and send your response to the [Change Team](#).

MP241 'Interoperability Checker Update' Download here.	Closing Date: Wednesday 6 December 2023	Impacted Parties: DCC, Suppliers
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Publications

OPEN INDUSTRY CONSULTATIONS WEBPAGE

Please visit our [Open Industry Consultations webpage](#) for details of consultations that may be of interest to SEC Parties. If you are aware of a consultation that should be added, please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#).

SECAS HELPDESK

Please contact the [SECAS Helpdesk](#) with any questions and a member of the team will be happy to help. Helpdesk hours are **Monday-Friday 9-5pm (excluding bank holidays)**.



Key Upcoming Governance Meeting Dates

Key Meeting Dates Industry Events Calendar

SECAS now hosts a collated calendar of industry events, consultations and publications on the SEC website. This is in response to industry feedback that a joint calendar would add value to SEC Parties.

This includes events from SECAS, DCC, DESNZ and Ofgem looking one month ahead. It will be a snapshot at the time of publication and will be updated monthly. The Industry Events Calendar is available [here](#).

4 December 2023 - [Strategic Working Group 18](#)

6 December 2023 - [SEC Monthly Working Group Meeting - December 2023](#)

7 December 2023 - [TABASC Meeting 96](#)

11 December 2023 - [Communications Transition Group 10](#)

12 December 2023 - [Operations Group 108](#)

13 December 2023 - [SECPMA Meeting 112](#)

13 December 2023 - [SSC Meeting 183](#)

15 December 2023 - [Other SEC Party Monthly Engagement Call – December 2023](#)

19 December 2023 - [SEC Panel Meeting 123](#)

19 December 2023 - [Change Sub-Committee Meeting 58](#)

20 December 2023 - [Change Board Meeting 85](#)

You can view all upcoming and previous event / meeting dates in the [online calendar](#).