



26 October 2018

The Authority (Ofgem), the SEC Panel, SEC Parties and other interested parties

Decision on DCC Release 2 Live for All Regions

DCC Release 2 (R2) Live has three components:

1. A new release of core code including Data Service Provider (DSP) code and Parse & Correlate which supports DCC User Interface Services (DUIS) 2.0, Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) v2.0 and GBCS v2.1, Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS2) v3.0 and Comms Hub Technical Specification (CHTS) v1.1
2. New Single Band Communications Hub (SBCH) firmware which complies with new CHTS v1.1 and GBCS v2.0 specifications and will work on existing Comms Hub hardware.
3. New Dual Band Communications Hub (DBCH) hardware and firmware compliant with CHTS v1.1, which will provide a bigger radio footprint in homes.

DCC has indicated that it will deploy the first two components of this release on 28 October 2018, with DBCH expected to follow in April 2019. The deployment of DBCH is dependent on the availability of 868MHz meters to test with; it is the responsibility of energy suppliers to ensure this happens in a timely manner.

In determining whether to activate the relevant SEC provisions allowing DCC to make this functionality available, I have sought to gain sufficient confidence that the additional functionality has been adequately tested and that appropriate operational support arrangements are in place, including the ability to support the upgrade of the production environment with R2 code. I have received a range of evidence on these matters according to the approvals process previously communicated to SEC Parties including:

- Documentation from the DCC confirming the accomplishment of testing activities for R2:
 - R2 Systems Integration Test (SIT) Completion Report
 - R2 SIT Auditor's report
 - R2 Device Integration Test (DIT) Completion Report
 - R2 User Integration Test (UIT) Regression Exit Report
 - R2 Transition To Operations (TTO) Completion Report

- Documentation from the DCC recommending that we proceed with activating the relevant provisions of the SEC and upgrading the production environment with R2 functionality and services, in the form of the DCC Live Services Criteria Report, including an assurance letter on readiness from the Managing Director and Chair of Smart DCC Ltd.
- A confirmation from the SEC Panel that we proceed with activating the relevant provisions of the SEC and upgrading the production environment with R2 code drawing on advice from the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and the SEC Operations Group; and
- Advice from my own Programme team in BEIS.

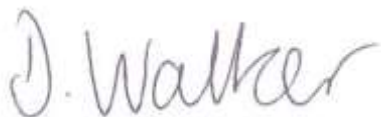
Having considered the range of evidence and opinions I see no reason not to proceed and have therefore **decided to activate the relevant parts for the SEC requiring the DCC to provide the R2 services.**

The legal activation of the relevant provisions of the Smart Energy Code is included in a separate letter.

Based on the evidence and recommendations of this governance process and the residual risks, I ask that DCC brings the results of testing of DBCH back to the SEC Panel for approval before deploying to the live environment.

Thank you to all parties who have engaged with and supported this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "D. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

DARON WALKER
Senior Responsible Owner
Smart Metering Implementation Programme