

Consultation

On the changes to the proposed date for the commencement of Pending Product Combination Testing Services and Device and User Testing Services for SMETS1

Date: 27 July 2018

Classification: DCC Public

Consultation opens: 31 July 2018
Consultation closes: 15 August 2018

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Background	3
3	Proposal	4
4	Rationale	4
5	Consultation question.....	4
6	How to respond	5

1 Introduction

In the initial stages of the smart meter roll-out across Great Britain, several Energy Suppliers installed first generation smart devices (known as SMETS1 devices) in consumers' homes. These meters are, or will be, SMETS1 compliant and currently operate outside of the Data Communications Company (DCC). While this approach has driven out early learnings and benefits, SMETS1 meters installed by one energy supplier are not always supported by another's systems. This sometimes results in consumers losing their smart functionality when they switch energy suppliers.

DCC considers that there are important shared benefits for industry and consumers from the enrolment of SMETS1 meters into a DCC Service; particularly the ability for all SMETS1 customers to maintain their smart services following a decision to switch suppliers. DCC is therefore developing SMETS1 Services to facilitate testing and the incorporation of such devices into its data and communications service to ensure these shared benefits for industry and consumers continue.

On 3 July 2018, BEIS consulted on a revised, final date by which energy supplier could install SMETS1 meters, along with proposals to modify the smart metering regulatory framework to allow this SMETS1 end date to be split, depending on the meter type being replaced. This proposal has implications for DCC's delivery.

2 Background

As part of the changes to the regulatory framework being made by BEIS in order to enable DCC's provision of SMETS1 Services, changes to activate provisions H14.31 & H14.36A of the SEC took effect on 18 July 2018. These provisions state that the DCC shall make available both SMETS1 Device and User System Tests and Pending Product Combination Testing for SMETS1 from 31 August "or any such later date as the Secretary of State may direct further to a recommendation from the DCC to the Secretary of State following a consultation on a proposed date by the DCC with all SEC Parties and the SEC Panel".

The SMETS1 Pending Products Combination Testing Services (PPCT), relate to testing one or more combinations of SMETS1 Device Models, and DCC is planning to set out the detailed proposals in relation to these services as part of a forthcoming consultation, covering the User Testing Services Approach Document for SMETS1 Services and the revised Common Test Scenarios Document and the Enduring Test Approach Document which have been amended to provide for SMETS1 Services.

PPCT is a new user-initiated enduring service that will be provided by DCC where Testing Participants can bring their own Device Model Combinations to be tested when User Testing Services commence for each of the SMETS1 Service capabilities (IOC, MOC and FOC). The service allows new Device Model Combinations (DMC) to be tested and added to the Eligible Products Combination List (EPCL) once they pass testing.

A Testing Participant must provide a minimum of 30 Working Days' notice to DCC before they can expect to start testing. When the start date is confirmed, DCC will add the submitted Device Model Combination to a 'Pending Products Combination List'. There are no specific entry or exit criteria for PPCT; a Device Model Combination will either exit the testing with a pass or a fail. Where a

DMC passes the Pending Products Combination Testing Services, DCC will add the Device Model Combination to the Eligible Products Combination List and the tested Device Models to the Common Products List. DCC will also inform SEC Panel of the changes to those lists.

3 Proposal

DCC is currently unable to meet the date of the 31 August to provide both Device and User System Testing and the Pending Product Combination Testing Service, which would result in DCC being in breach of its obligations under the Smart Energy Code. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions in Section H14.31 and H14.36A of the SEC, DCC is consulting with SEC Panel and SEC Parties' to seek their support on its proposed recommendation to the Secretary of State that the start of the Pending Products Combination Testing Service and Device and User System Testing commences on the **30 November 2018**.

This document is DCC's formal consultation on a proposed change to the dates on which the Pending Product Combination Testing Service and Device and User System Testing for SMETS Services will begin.

4 Rationale

The current DCC SMETS1 plan approved on 17 October 2017 targets Initial Operating Capability (IOC) going live at the end of November 2018, and the Middle Operating Capability (MOC) at end March 2019. As presented at the BEIS Implementation Managers Forum on 28 June 2018 and subsequently discussed between the DCC BEIS, there are several issues what have impacted DCC's ability to delivery IOC and MOC to these target dates. These include the risk of environment contention with R2.0 and the risk of a delayed to the integration testing of DCO software (in the SIT environment). DCC also anticipates that migration testing, which is still in the process of being defined, procured and planned for, may compound delay beyond SIT. It is DCC's view that in light of these issues the current plan approved on 17 October 2017 can no longer be maintained.

In addition to the reason set out above, DCC considers that, until the DCC interface is proven fit for production through Interface Testing (which will be necessary following its amendment to incorporate SMETS1 Services), no new Device Model Combination should be tested as part of the Pending Products Combination Testing Service. This will ensure that any new Device Model Combination introduced into that customer's estate will be subject to testing against a successful baseline. This in turn should ensure that SMETS1 Services are able to be delivered in a way which provides maximum confidence to our customers.

5 Consultation question

In light of these changes, DCC is seeking views on the following consultation question:

Do you agree with the proposed revised date of the 30 November 2018 for the commencement of the Pending Product Combination Testing Service and Device and User System Testing Services for SMETS1?

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 15 August 2018.

6 How to respond

Please provide responses by 17:00 15 August 2018 to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk. If you have any questions about the consultation documents, please contact Ofordi Nabokei at ofordi.nabokei@smartdcc.co.uk.

Consultation responses may be published on our website www.smartdcc.co.uk. Please state whether all, or any part, of your consultation response is confidential. Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to BEIS [or the Authority], including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If BEIS [or the Authority] receive a request for disclosure of the information [we/they] will take full account of your explanation (to the extent provided to them), but [we/they] cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.