



# SMETS1 Consultation on changes to the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements

A consultation on changes to the SMETS1 Supporting  
Requirements relating to the Aclara devices.

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# 1. Introduction and Context

In the initial stages of the smart meter roll-out across Great Britain, a number of energy suppliers are installing first generation smart devices (known as SMETS1 devices), in consumers' premises. SMETS1 devices installed by one energy supplier, however, are not always interoperable with and supported by the systems used by another supplier. The Data Communications Company (DCC) has developed a plan and designed a solution for the incorporation of such devices into its national network. It provides important shared benefits for industry and consumers and intends to offer the ability for SMETS1 consumers to maintain their smart services following a decision to switch suppliers.

The DCC solution relies on a common DCC User interface, defined in the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) for users of both SMETS1 and SMETS2 devices. SMETS1 specific processing or operating requirements are defined in the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements (S1SR) document – Appendix AM of the SEC.

The latest version of the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements was designated on 06 May 2020 and the consultation proposed changes to this designated version of S1SR.

These proposed changes to the S1SR (in this version 4.2) have been made on top of the S1SR (version 4.1) that is concurrently being consulted upon. S1SR Version 4.1 contains the updated provisions relating to the MOC Secure device behaviours.

## 2. Changes to the S1SR

DCC has become aware of three specific issues relating to the Aclara devices that DCC has proposed to add to the Eligible Products Combination List. DCC has analysed these issues and is proposing amendments to the S1SR to make provision for these issues and is now seeking views on them.

The three changes to the S1SR are as follows:

### 2.1. Auxiliary Load (SRV 1.1.1)

Whilst testing the S1SP functionality that formed part of SMETS1 Uplift 1.1, it became apparent to DCC that the functionality designed to enable the setting of the Tariff Switching Table on the Aclara ESME did not have the desired outcome (of setting the Auxiliary Load switching times to align with a two rate tariff). DCC is undertaking further analysis of the Aclara ESME to fully understand the nature of the issue and will consult on solutions when they become known.

It should be noted that the SMETS1 Uplift 1.1 changes to support Auxiliary Load for Itron and Honeywell Elster DMCs have been implemented.

DCC is proposing to amend Clause 18.1(k) in the S1SR. This revised clause describes the device behaviour of the Aclara DMCs should they be added to EPCL and subsequently enrolled. At a point after DCC has concluded on this consultation, BEIS will determine whether to add these Aclara DMCs to the EPCL. DCC understands that BEIS will make that decision having considered any risks and mitigations of adding these DMCs to the EPCL.

Given the relatively small number (understood to be circa 5000) of Aclara installations where Auxiliary Load functionality has been deployed, and the ability of Installing Suppliers (for active installations) and DCC (for dormant installations) to identify these sites (by reference to the type of tariff that is being operated on them) DCC proposes that the Aclara DMCs are added to the EPCL so that the benefits of enrolment can be realised.

**S1SR  
Q1**

Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements Document in Clause 18.1(k) of that document, in respect of Auxiliary Load functionality?

## **2.2. Dual entries in Billing Data Log (SRV 4.4.2)**

During testing, DCC established that when the meter populates the billing data log, snapshots are taken before and after the triggering event. Therefore, when reading the billing data log, two entries will be present for the same triggering event.

DCC is proposing changes to Clause 18.17(d) of the S1SR to make provision for these device specific behaviours.

**S1SR  
Q2**

Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements Document in Section 18 of that document, in respect of the response to SRV4.4.2 Retrieve Change Of Mode / Tariff Triggered Billing Data Log including before and after snapshots?

## **2.3. Availability of profile data (SRV 4.8.1)**

DCC has been made aware of an issue with the Aclara Service Release 5.3.12 relating to a software bug in the Gas Mirror element of the system. This occurs in circumstances where, even though the Gas Meter records the up to date Gas half-hourly consumption data, the Gas Mirror only makes available to the WAN, the first 13 months of profile data recorded after the installation of the device. The effect of this is that a User can only read the initial 13 month data set and cannot access the up to date data on the meter.

Aclara has developed a firmware fix for this and where deployed this would resolve the issue. Estimates around the timescale to roll-out this firmware indicate that it would take between 6 and 12 months.

Where this device behaviour is recorded in the designated S1SR as a Device Specific Behaviour, firmware updates to resolve the issue pre-migration will not be mandated.

DCC notes that BEIS has previously indicated its intent to review requirements for post enrolment firmware upgrades where issues have been identified with the operation of SMETS 1 devices.

DCC is proposing changes to Clause 18.22(a) of the S1SR to make provision for these device specific behaviours.

### S1SR Q3

Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements Document in Section 18 of that document, that have been proposed so that in effect Gas Profile Data will not be available from these devices? Where you consider that the absence of this functionality in respect of these Aclara devices will have an impact, please explain the nature of any such impact.

## 2.4. DMVES

DCC has updated Device Model Variations to Equivalent Steps Matrix (DMVES) to align with the proposed Aclara EPCL entries with the relevant S1SR drafting.

### S1SR Q4

Do you agree with mappings of clauses in Section 18 of S1SR to the relevant Device Models in DMVES?

## 3. Next Steps

Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will take into account respondents' views, and, subject to the consultation responses received, submit to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) an amended version of the S1SR that it considers suitable for re-designation into the SEC by the Secretary of State.

DCC is aiming to providing a report to BEIS no later than 17 July 2020. DCC has discussed the re-designation of the S1SR with BEIS and it is proposed that, subject to timely receipt of DCC's report and copies of relevant stakeholder responses to this consultation, BEIS will re-designate the S1SR on 26 July 2020 or as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter.

In order to expedite the re-designation of the S1SR, DCC is also seeking views on behalf of BEIS on the proposed date for re-designation of the S1SR as well as the draft direction which is presented in Attachment 1 of this consultation document for stakeholder consideration.

### S1SR Q5

Do you agree with the proposed re-designation date of 26 July 2020?

## 4. How to Respond

Please provide responses in the attached template by 1600 on 03 July 2020 to DCC at [consultations@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:consultations@smartdcc.co.uk).

Consultation responses may be published on our website [www.smartdcc.co.uk](http://www.smartdcc.co.uk). Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department of 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 2018 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.

If you have any questions about the consultation documents, please contact DCC via [consultations@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:consultations@smartdcc.co.uk).

## **5. Attachments**

- Attachment 1 – Draft designation
- Attachment 2 – SEC Appendix AM – SMETS1 Supporting Requirements (clean)
- Attachment 3 – SEC Appendix AM – SMETS1 Supporting Requirements (marked up)
  
- Attachment 4 – Annex to SEC Appendix AM – Device Model Variations to Equivalent Steps Matrix (DMVES)

## **Attachment 1**

This attachment contains the text that BEIS plans to use for direction of changes to the S1SR.

### **S1SR Draft Direction Text**

*This direction is made for the purposes of the smart meter communication licences granted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Gas Act 1986 (such licences being the "DCC Licence") and the Smart Energy Code designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the DCC Licence (such code being the "SEC").*

*Words and expressions used in this direction shall be interpreted in accordance with Section A (Definitions and Interpretation) of the SEC.*

*Pursuant to Condition 22 of the DCC Licence and Section X5 (Incorporation of Certain Documents into this Code) of the SEC, the Secretary of State directs that, with effect from [DD MMM YYYY], the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements previously designated and incorporated into the SEC as Appendix AM is hereby re-designated and incorporated in the form set out in Annex [XX] to this direction.*

*For the avoidance of doubt such re-designation of the SMETS1 Transition and Migration Approach Document shall be without prejudice to anything done under the DCC Licence or the SEC on or after this document first being designated, or to the continuing effectiveness of anything done this document prior to its re-designation (which shall have effect as if done under the re-designated document).*

*This direction is also being notified to the SEC Administrator.*