Data Communications Company

Consultation – clarification

November 2019 SEC Release Test Approach Document

Date: 5 August 2019

Classification: DCC Public

1 Background

On 21 May 2019 DCC issued a consultation on its draft November 2019 SEC Release Testing Approach Document (SRTAD).

The draft SRTAD defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants, and will be used to develop the SEC Release Implementation Document for the November 2019 release in accordance with Section D of the SEC.

The November 2019 SRTAD set out:

- the testing objectives for that release, including the assurance to be achieved;
- the testing strategy that will be followed;
- the consequences of the testing strategy, including costs and risks in business terms; and
- any requirement to undertake User testing, along with how the DCC shall support Users to undertake testing.

2 Correction to the SRTAD

The November 2019 SRTAD also included the scope of the changes that DCC would be making, categorised by the SEC Modification with which each change is associated, and/or the Change Request reference where changes were not associated with a SEC Change.

In setting out the scope, DCC included details of Change Request 1056 (CR1056), which was described as 'non-system impacting'.

The functionality to which CR1056 relates sets device retry intervals to 5 minutes during GSME Install and Commission (I&C) events and was introduced via a maintenance release in September 2018 following testing prior to that change. CR1056 formalises this specific I&C retry configuration as an enduring separate configuration, which enables DSP to revert to the standard "Business as Usual" 30 minute retry interval after I&C is complete.

The intent of this description was to highlight that the introduction of CR1056 did not require further customer testing, but we recognise that by being described as non-system impacting we did not describe CR1056 correctly. Following discussion with the SEC Panel's Testing Advisory Group (TAG) we have appended to the TAD a high-level summary of the testing that will be undertaken. An update has been made in the main body of the TAD to the description of CR1056 within Section 2 Table 4. The wording has changed to remove 'non-system impacting' and add in '- Separate I&C Retry Configuration Parameter – see appendix for details'.

DCC has additionally removed references in the SRTAD to the use of an independent auditor for emulator functionality. It is DCC's view that it is not economic or efficient to make use of an auditor to assure emulators, having undertaken this process for previous testing where no major issued have been found. DCC has discussed this with TAG, who have accepted this position as long as a detailed report is created by DCC at the end of SIT.

It is DCC's view that, due to the fact that no further customer testing is required for this CR, this incorrect description does not invalidate the consultation, and that DCC should proceed with its preparations for the November 2019 release. However, we wanted to flag this clarification to our stakeholders, and would be happy to consider any further comments they wish to provide in relation to CR1056.

> If you do have any further comments in relation to the revision description of CR1056, please provide them to consultations@smartdcc.co.uk by 17:00 on Friday 16 August 2019.