



Conclusion on the SMETS1 Supporting Requirements for the Consultation for Aclara

DCC's conclusion on proposed changes to the
SMETS1 Supporting Requirements document for
Aclara

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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 installed 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 came into effect on 6 May 2020 and the consultation proposed changes to this designated version of S1SR.

The amendments that were proposed to the designated version of S1SR were to accommodate further device specific behaviours that had been identified in respect of Aclara devices, and to define the pre-migration configuration requirements specific to the devices.

2. Consultation

On 5 June 2020, DCC published the consultation proposing further changes to the S1SR on the DCC Website. DCC's Service Desk also emailed stakeholders to notify of the publication.

Stakeholders were invited to respond to the consultation by 16:00 on 3 July 2020.

DCC sought comments on the following questions:

Number	Question
S1SR Question 1	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?
S1SR Question 2	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?
S1SR Question 3	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.
S1SR Question 4	Do you agree with mappings of clauses in Section 18 of S1SR to the relevant Device Models in DMVES?

2.1. Respondents

DCC received six responses to the consultation on the changes to the S1SR.

3. Analysis of Responses

DCC has undertaken an analysis of the feedback provided by each respondent regarding the S1SR which is presented within this section document.

3.1. Comments relating to question 1

Comment	DCC Response
Three respondents commented that they believed that a viable workaround existed and that the drafting should instead reflect the requirements of that workaround, so that the auxiliary load functionality (at change of tariff) could continue to work.	As part of SMETS1 Uplift 1.1 testing that DCC undertook it became apparent that there was an issue with operation of the Update Tariff Service Request where auxiliary load had been deployed. Engagement with installing Suppliers and the Manufacturer produced a workaround, involving the setting of seasons to wildcard values. However subsequent testing of this workaround revealed inconsistent results for Aclara devices and, on that basis, DCC provided the current S1SR clause. DCC will review the current drafting should installing Suppliers and/or manufacturers provide any further evidence on the meter behaviour, the root cause and/or any successfully tested workarounds.
One respondent objected to the proposed approach as they were concerned about, in the absence of a solution to maintain or, in cases where it had been removed, reinstate the Auxiliary Load behaviour at the meter, the impacts on consumers and Suppliers where an inadvertent change of tariff removed the Auxiliary Load capability.	DCC notes these concerns and in approaching this question is mindful that a small number of meters are affected. It is possible to, and indeed DCC has identified those installations where an Auxiliary Load circuit may be present by checking the current tariff arrangements on the meter. Auxiliary Load is reliant on there being more than a single rate tariff, and so DCC proposes that any dormant meters with such a tariff arrangement will not be migrated until a root cause analysis indicates a reliable workaround., which has operated successfully for previous meter types. DCC advise installing Suppliers to follow this same approach where relevant.

3.2. Comments relating to question 2

Respondents were generally supportive of the proposals.

3.3. Comments relating to question 3

Respondents were generally supportive of the changes and did not consider that this issue was significant enough to delay the addition of these devices to the EPCL.

Comment	DCC Response
A respondent noted that this would cause the ability of the PPMID to access data to be significantly reduced.	DCC notes that aggregated consumption data will still be available and of use to consumers.
A respondent noted that there was firmware available to fix this defect, but that it has not been deployed yet. The respondent was looking for assurance from DCC that this firmware could be scheduled for testing and subsequently deployed once it had been added to the CPL.	DCC makes PPCT testing arrangements available to Suppliers wishing to test new Device Models resulting from firmware upgrades prior to their addition to the EPCL. Where a firmware image is available to resolves this issue, would encourage Suppliers to bring forward plans for testing and then deploying the firmware image when the resulting device model has been added to the EPCL.
A Respondent noted a concern that the draft amendment does not recognise that data is available in the GSME but is not available in the GPF.	The DCC Solution is required to provide, amongst other things, access to the gas profile data to all relevant user types over the DUIS interface, including Suppliers, DNOs and Other Users. Testing has revealed that it is not possible to remotely retrieve the gas profile data from these Aclara Gas Smart Metering Systems (GSMS) given the issue with the Gas Mirror (GPF) that forms part of the GSMS, and this is what the S1SR entry seeks to describe.
A Respondent sought details of the DCC timeline to deliver the firmware upgrade on Aclara meters that are not sending Gas half hourly data where the installation has exceeded a 13 month period.	The DCC is aware that a revised firmware is available to Installing Suppliers that addresses this particular issue, and that there is a plan to take this revised DMC through PPCT.

3.4. Comments relating to question 4

Three respondents agreed with the proposed changes while three did not express an opinion on this question.

3.5. Comments relating to question 5

Four respondents agreed with the proposed changes while one did not express an opinion on this question.

One respondent considered that a work around to prevent the event in Question 1 from occurring should be in place or additional information should be distributed to suppliers to allow them to understand how to prevent the behaviour from occurring.

As previously discussed in the response to question 4, DCC is not currently aware of a reliable workaround but encourages Installing Suppliers to progress work in this area with the manufacturer.

4. Summary of Changes to the S1SR

In light of the consultation responses received, DCC is not proposing making any further changes to the S1SR.

5. Conclusions

DCC considers that it has dealt with all comments that arise out of this consultation and will be requesting the Secretary of State to designate this version of the S1SR.

6. Next Steps

DCC will submit the version of S1SR to the Secretary of State on 17 July 2020.

7. Attachments

- Attachment 1: SEC Appendix AM SMETS1 Supporting Requirement - clean
- Attachment 2: SEC Appendix AM SMETS1 Supporting Requirement - redline
- Attachment 3: SEC Appendix AM Annex A Device Model Variations to Equivalent Steps Matrix