



Consultation on Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement SEC Release Testing Approach Document (June 24) Approach Document

Your chance to comment on the draft Testing Approach
Document for the MP162 Release

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1. Introduction and Context

1. The Data Communications Company (DCC) is Britain's digital energy spine, supporting the transformation of the energy system. DCC is licensed by the Government and regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem to connect smart meters in homes and small businesses across Great Britain to a single secure, digital network. DCC supports the roll-out of second-generation (SMETS2) smart meters, as well as the migration of existing first-generation (SMETS1) meters onto our network.

1.1. Background

2. Under SEC Section D10.18, DCC has an obligation to produce a SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) which defines the approach to testing changes to DCC Systems arising from a SEC Release. The draft Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) SEC Release TAD (June 2024) published alongside this document has been produced to satisfy the requirements set out in SEC Sections D10.18 – D10.20.
3. The draft MHHS SEC Release DCC TAD defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants. Any other modifications allocated to the June 2024 release will be independently consulted upon. This consultation sets 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 risk in business terms; and
 - any requirements to undertake DCC User testing, along with how DCC shall support Users to undertake testing.

1.2. Purpose of the consultation

4. The purpose of this consultation is to invite views on the draft MHHS SEC Release TAD (June 2024 release).
5. This consultation may impact the following the following Parties:
 - Large Suppliers;
 - Small Suppliers;
 - Electricity Network Operators; and
 - Other SEC Parties.If you believe a Party category is impacted which isn't listed above, please let us know.
6. Parties can respond to this consultation by emailing consultations@smartdcc.co.uk. This consultation will close at 17:00 on 02 May 2023.

2. Scope of Release

2.1. Approved Modification Proposals (DCC Systems impacting) and DCC Change Requests

7. The MHHS SEC release is made up of a single modification, which itself has a single DCC Change Request. These are:
 - MP162 'SEC changes required to deliver MHHS', and;
 - CR4813 – Functionality Changes to Support the new MDR (Agent) User Role in MHHS.

3. Overall Testing Approach

8. The approach to testing of the MHHS SEC Release TAD will include several defined Test Phases which will be conducted sequentially. Test Phases will be undertaken in appropriate test environments.
9. The DCC Service Providers in scope for this release are the:
 - Data Service Provider (DSP);
 - SMETS2 Parse & Correlate Service;
 - SMETS1 Service Providers;
 - Communication Service Provider North (CSP N);
 - Communication Service Provider Central & South (CSP C&S);
 - Dual Control Organisation (DCO); and,
 - Central Switching Service (CSS).

Note: (DCO, CSS and CSPs are to be involved in a supporting role for purposes of testing in the scope of this release only.)

10. The Pre-Integration Test (PIT) phase covers individual testing by DCC Service Providers and includes Factory Acceptance Testing (FAT).
11. The Systems Integration Testing (SIT) phase covers the end-to-end functionality with Devices (or emulators where not available) and will include Solution Testing by DCC Service Providers collectively.
12. User Entry Process Testing (UEPT) will be undertaken for the new MDR role either by new DCC Users or for existing Users that wish to add MDR to existing roles.
13. DCC will provide a User Integration Testing (UIT) service that allows each User to test the interoperability of its User Systems with the Modified DCC Total Systems and to simultaneously test the interoperability of User Systems and Devices with the Modified DCC Total Systems. The UIT environment shall be made available in accordance with the Enduring Test Approach Document (ETAD) – Appendix J of the SEC.
14. Each Test Phase will be subject to defined test scenarios where appropriate, with business scenarios to be used as the basis of testing. The documentation supporting each Test Phase will specify the detailed testing to be employed during that Test Phase. Test scenarios may, within the context of the individual Test Phases, be represented by defined sequences of Service Requests or other relevant activities.

Q1

Do you support the overall approach and scope of the draft MHHS SEC Release Testing Approach Document? Please provide rationale for your views.

Q2

Do you have any other comments on the draft MHHS SEC Release Testing Approach Document? Please provide details and rationales for your views.

4. Next Steps

15. This consultation will close at 17:00 on 02 May 2023.
16. DCC notes that consultation periods are usually 3 to 4 weeks, however in order to meet the required Elexon led MHHS Programme timescales, DCC considers it necessary to undertake a ten-day consultation period. Specifically, the new Meter Data Retriever (MDR) User must be available to participate in MHHS Programme SIT in February 2024 and therefore DCC is required to commence testing earlier than would normally be the case for a SEC Release.
17. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will take into account respondents' views. DCC will amend the MHHS TAD as appropriate and will submit an amended version of the MHHS TAD to the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) for its review and explicit approval during its meeting on 31 May 23.

5. How to Respond

Please provide responses by 17:00 on 02 May 2023 to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

Consultation responses may be published on our website 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 for 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.

6. Attachments

- Attachment 1: MHHS SEC Release Testing Approach Document v1.0
- Attachment 2: MHHS TAD Response Template