



SEC Release Consultation on the June 2023 Testing Approach Document

Your chance to comment on the draft Testing Approach
Document for the June 2023 SEC Release

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Author: consultations@smartdcc.co.uk

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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 which defines the approach to testing changes to DCC Systems arising from a SEC Release. The draft June 2023 DCC Testing Approach Document published alongside this document has been produced to satisfy the requirements set out in SEC Sections D10.18 – D10.20.
3. The draft June 2023 DCC Testing Approach Document (TAD) defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants. It sets out:
 - The testing objective 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 June 2023 TAD.
5. This consultation is expected to impact the following the following Parties:
 - Large Suppliers;
 - Small Suppliers;
 - Electricity Network Operators;
 - Gas 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 10 November 2022.

2. Scope of Release

2.1. Approved Modification Proposals (DCC Systems impacting)

7. The following modifications have been approved for inclusion in the June 2023 SEC Release:
 - MP102B 'Power Outage Alerts triggered by an OTA firmware upgrade – enduring solution' (CR4483);
 - MP125 'Correcting Device Information for the ESME Variant' (CR4425); and
 - MP128A 'Gas Network Operators SMKI Requirements' (CR4382).

2.2. Non-System Impacting Modification Proposals

8. Any further modifications that do not impact DCC Systems will be added to the scope of this Release by the Change Sub-Committee.

2.3. DCC Change Requests

9. The following DCC Change Requests (CR) are to be implemented in the June 2023 SEC Release:
 - CR4427 'Implementation of Additional XML Signing Credentials (Enduring Scope) Part 2';
 - CR4703 'SMKI Improvements'; and
 - CR4805 'Parse and Correlate (in alignment with DUIS v5.2; MMC v5.2; GBCS v4.2)'.

3. Overall Testing Approach

10. The approach to testing of the June 2023 SEC Release will include several defined Test Phases which will be conducted sequentially. Test Phases will be undertaken in appropriate test environments.
11. The Pre-Integration Test (PIT) phase covers individual testing by DCC Service Providers and includes Factory Acceptance Testing (FAT). The DCC Service Providers in scope for the June 2023 SEC Release are the:
 - Data Service Provider (DSP);
 - Communication Service Provider North (CSPN);
 - Communication Service Provider Central & South (CSP C&S);
 - Final Operating Capability SMETS1 Service Provider (FOC S1SP);
 - Middle Operating Capability SMETS1 Service Provider (MOC S1SP); and
 - Dual Control Organisation (DCO).
12. 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.
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 June 2023 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide rationale for your views.

Q2

Do you have any other comments on the draft June 2023 DCC Testing Approach Document? Please provide details and rationales for your views.

4. Next Steps

15. This consultation will close at 17:00 on 10 November 2022.
16. DCC notes that consultation periods are usually 3 to 4 weeks, however as there is expected not to be a TAG meeting in December, DCC considers it necessary to undertake a ten-day consultation period.

17. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will take into account respondents' views. DCC will amend the June 2023 TAD as appropriate and will submit an amended version of the June 2023 TAD to the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) for its review and explicit approval during its meeting on 30 November 2022.

5. How to Respond

Please provide responses by 17:00 on 10 November 2022 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: Draft June 2023 Testing Approach Document v1.0
- Attachment 2: June 2023 TAD Response template