



**FEEDBACK CLOSURE SUMMARY UPDATE  
Test Automation Framework (TAF)**

**01 April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

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**Classification: DCC Controlled**

# 1. Introduction and Context

## 1.1. Background

Customers are central to decision-making at DCC, and we capture all feedback and report back to customers as part of our engagement methodology. Prior to making decisions, we regularly seek customer input through a variety of different forums and consultation approaches. The feedback loop and summary reports were introduced in 2020-21 and enable us to ensure we are delivering what customers want. When creating the feedback summary report, we ensure the engagement objectives were met. You are receiving this summary feedback report as part of our commitment to keep you updated on key engagement activities which have taken place. We hope you find this report useful.

## 1.2. Test Automation Framework (TAF)

The Test Automation Framework (TAF) programme was initiated in response to the growing complexity of the DCC Total System, which increases the scope, complexity and cost of the testing required when any modification to DCC Systems is made. This drives test complexity and expands testing scope, leading to an increase in costs required to complete testing both for the specific changes, but also more significantly for regression testing. The greatest increase in cost is being incurred during regression testing of existing code.

Introducing automation and robotics within testing will enhance the quality of testing, whilst decreasing costs and timescales for regression testing, where a level of maturity and stability should exist. This offers the ability to provide an on-demand regression testing service that can operate, if required, 24x7, with a higher activity throughout than manual tests and the introduction of real devices to any Smart Metering System under test.

DCC has a 6-stage process for delivering change activities. Development of this activity is heading towards Stage 3.

- Stage 3: Design, Build and Test phase

## 1.3. Our engagement in 2021/22

DCC began engaging with Sub Committees on the proposed approach for the TAF Programme in August 21. In September 21, Panel were asked to provide its views on the programme, which DCC then reflected in the Final Business Case (FBC) submitted to BEIS on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. To date we have engaged with the Sub-Committees several times. Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) have been engaged in the evolution of the programme over the past two years. DCC provided further updates to TAG, TABASC, SSC and Panel on the programme and how it will be delivered. TABASC have endorsed the projected outcomes, TAG were supportive but raised a number of issues which we summarised and addressed in the [previous closure report](#). SSC have considered the security implications of the programme and did not object.

As of November 2022, Panel have discussed the Programme and were informed by BEIS that the non objection for TAF has been issued (which DCC have now received). DCC will continue to engage with Panel and sub-committees as we move to Stage 3 (Design, Build and Test) of the programme.

## 2. Conclusion

This concludes the engagement on the Business Case. Following the Contract Award, DCC will update customers & share any changes to the benefits in the Business case with TAG.

Next priorities for YR22/23 will focus on the Design, Build and Test phase of TAF with engagement focused on completion of Project Closure.

Further information on our customer engagement process can be found at [www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-engagement](http://www.smartdcc.co.uk/customer-engagement)

