



Data Service Provider

DCC conclusions on the Device Selection Methodology for Future DSP

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1. Background and context

1. The purpose of this document is to conclude on the Data Communication Company's (DCC's) recent consultation on its approach to a Device Selection Methodology (DSM) to determine which Devices should be used in the Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) and Systems Integration Testing (SIT) phases of the Data Service Provider (DSP) Programme.¹
2. Smart Energy Code (SEC) Appendix BG 'SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for Changes required to support the Future DSP' (DSP SVTAD) Clause 5 requires DCC to consult on the DSM for the DSP Programme before gaining approval for the DSM from the Testing Advisory Group (TAG). This consultation was issued to meet this requirement.

1.1. The DSP Programme

3. The DSP sits right at the heart of the smart metering infrastructure, providing data services that connect DCC Users to devices at consumers' premises. The DSP Data System is a central facility that controls the flow of messages to and from smart metering equipment, with User organisations (e.g. Energy Suppliers, Network Operators, and Other Users) communicating via these central DSP facilities.
4. The contract for the current DSP solution is set to expire in 2028 and encompasses several different capabilities including but not limited to:
 - Provision of **DCC Gateway Connection services** (i.e. network connectivity) to connect DCC Gateway Parties and Service Providers to the DSP in both production and test environments.
 - The maintenance of the **DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS)** which sets out the structure of the messages that can be exchanged with the DSP.
 - The **Core DSP** which provides message routing, anomaly detection, registration services, inventory management, the DCC Key Infrastructure (DCKI),² the Certification Authority (CA), security checking, logging & reporting, and a Smart Metering Key Infrastructure (SMKI) repository.
 - A **DCC Service Management System (DSMS)** which supports DCC's service operation.
 - A **Systems Integrator (SI)**, which manages elements such as change and testing to ensure the system functions optimally.

1.2. GBCS Comparison Testing

5. A key facet of the approach to Device Selection in the integrated Test Phases is the approach to testing of Great Britain Companion Specification (GBCS) Commands within PIT.
6. DCC has committed to a comprehensive, structure-led set of comparison testing, which will compare GBCS Commands generated by both the As-Is and Future DSPs using the same DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) Request inputs. This early proving that the generation of the GBCS Commands by the new system is identical allows integration testing to use Devices as part of the System under test, without them being the subject of functional testing.
7. This approach has been reviewed with industry stakeholders, including the Technical Architecture & Business Architecture Sub Committee (TABASC) who is supportive of the approach and scope of testing around GBCS Commands.

¹ [DSP Consultation on the Device Selection Methodology \(DSM\) for Future DSP | Smart DCC](#)

² This refers to the cryptographic certificates used within the Public Key Infrastructure framework of the DCC.

1.3. Consultation responses and next steps

8. The consultation, which ran from 4 February 2026 to 18 March 2026, sought views on DCC's approach to the selection of Devices for inclusion in the PIT and SIT phases of the DSP Programme, through its Device Selection Methodology.
9. A summary of the comments received and DCC's responses to these are set out in Section 2 of this document. DCC has made some changes to the DSM that it consulted upon, and these are set out in Section 3 of this document. The proposed Device Selection Methodology intended for submission to the TAG for approval is set out in Appendix A of this document.

2. Analysis of responses

10. DCC received four responses to this consultation: one from a Large Supplier, one from a Network Party, one from an industry trade association and one from the SEC Panel.
11. DCC has analysed the feedback provided. This section sets out an overview of the responses received to this consultation and DCC's response.
12. During the consultation window, DCC also consulted with the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) and received an initial view on the position outlined in the consultation. DCC has assessed all comments raised by the TAG as being addressed in one or more of the consultation responses received.

2.1. Question 1

13. DCC sought views on its Device Selection Methodology.

Q1

Do you agree with the proposed DSM for the Future DSP Programme?

Respondent views

14. Three respondents were supportive overall. The fourth respondent did not agree with the proposed DSM as drafted but agreed that the testing focus areas were logical and proposed some clarifications and enhancements.
15. **Inclusion of VWAN:** Two respondents made specific reference to the need to include Virtual Wide Area Network (VWAN) technologies within the DSM.
16. **Specific selection criteria:** Three respondents highlighted the need for the DSM to be more explicit in how specific Devices would be selected, rather than relying on DCC's discretion. One of these respondents specifically suggested ensuring that the Devices selected represented those Devices most prevalent in the GB market.
17. **CH Manufacturer coverage:** In relation to Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS) 2 Devices, two respondents suggested that covering all Manufacturers of Communications Hubs (CHs) within each SMETS2 Communication Service Provider (CSP) should be required.
18. **TSAT:** One respondent believed that the DSM should consider "all Devices extant on the Technical Specification Applicability Table (TSAT)".
19. **Interoperability:** One respondent believed the DSM needed to consider any known behavioural or interoperability differences.

20. **Adaptor handing:** One respondent considered that DCC responds differently to different User adaptors. They believed that if this has the potential to affect the commands and acknowledgements received to and from a metering Device, the combinations of Devices via various adaptor providers also needed to be considered.
21. **TAG approval:** One respondent highlighted the need to make clear the process for TAG approval of the DSM and the Devices selected through its application.

DCC response

22. DCC welcomes the broadly supportive feedback on the technical reasoning underpinning the Future DSP DSM in terms of the breadth of Device Types required and recognises the areas of improvement suggested by respondents.
23. **Inclusion of VWAN:** Whilst not explicit in the text issued for consultation, DCC has always intended to utilise a breadth of Device Types sufficient to meet the requirements of the required testing scope. For SIT, this would already cover the comments around VWAN Devices, as these will be required to test some of the impacted interfaces. Alternative Home Area Network (Alt-HAN) Devices will also be included in the scope of testing to ensure representation of this Device Type. The proposed DSM text has been made more explicit in calling out the coverage of Device Types.
24. **Specific selection criteria:** DCC notes the comments around having a clearer set of criteria for the selection of specific Devices meeting the testing scope criteria. It will provide logic in the revised DSM text to ensure Devices prevalent on the production estate are utilised.
25. **CH Manufacturer coverage:** DCC recognises two respondents' views that all CH Manufacturers should be utilised for SMETS2. DCC is ensuring that all CH Manufacturers are included in the scope of testing within the DSM. This position is adopted on the basis that it only introduces one additional Manufacturer compared to those already proposed, which DCC considers can be accommodated within the scope of testing as a pragmatic approach to addressing industry comments.
26. **TSAT and interoperability:** Regarding comments around the DSM considering Devices "extant on the TSAT", DCC notes that the inclusion of specific DUIS and GBCS versions is addressed as a key area of focus for the PIT phase. This phase of testing will prove the correctness of GBCS Commands, taking account of the DUIS and GBCS Versions and in turn proving interoperability.
27. Regarding SIT, DCC does not expect to repeat testing on multiple DUIS/GBCS combinations, as this will be proven in PIT. As an example, taking Service Request Variant (SRV) 1.1.1 'Update Import Tariff (Primary Element)', the same GBCS Use Case applies to all DUIS and GBCS Versions (and has not changed in any version of DUIS or GBCS), and so any DUIS/GBCS Version combination can be used to undertake the testing of SRV 1.1.1. This needs only be done on one DUIS Version / GBCS Version combination, per applicable Device Type in terms of the SIT scope.
28. Where an SRV supports different GBCS Use Cases, appropriate combinations of DUIS and GBCS Version will be leveraged to ensure the testing scope is completed, and this will be addressed in the DSM.
29. **Adaptor handling:** Regarding comments suggesting the DCC responds differently to different User adaptors, DCC does not agree with the point being made here. However, we do recognise the need to provide assurance that behaviours between the As-Is and Future DSPs are aligned. As described in the Future DSP Testing Approach Document (TAD), comparative testing is the approach taken to achieve this. Our disagreement with the comment made in the consultation response is based on the fact that all adaptor providers must comply with the DUIS specification, and any two adaptors creating a DUIS Request with the same inputs would see identical handling within the As-Is or Future DSP. Similarly, DUIS Responses are pre-defined and implemented per the DUIS specification, and do not differ based on different adaptors.

30. Regarding SMETS1, this is a simple passthrough of the DUIS Request to the SMETS1 Service Provider (S1SP), where the interaction with the Device occurs and is unchanged. Whilst DCC recognises one respondent's concerns around the use of "DCC's discretion" in selecting Devices to represent an S1SP, DCC notes that Device availability is limited for SMETS1 and it may not be possible to obtain prevalent Devices. Due to the nature of DSP interaction with S1SPs and the Dual Control Organisation (DCO), with no change to the Systems creating Device-bound messaging, DCC considers this an acceptable approach, which was mostly supported by the responses received.
31. Regarding SMETS2, DCC recognises the importance of comprehensive testing of the DUIS-to-GBCS transformation. It has ensured the approach to testing within the PIT phase includes comparative testing between a trusted source representative of GBCS Commands generated by both the As-Is and Future DSP, proving that given the same DUIS inputs, both DSPs will produce the same GBCS output. No changes to Devices are being made as part of this change, and so a Device's handling of GBCS is not impacted.
32. **TAG approval:** The DSM will make clear that the DSM will be approved by the TAG in line with the provisions of the DSP SVTAD, as well as committing to taking the DSM output (the list of Devices included in testing) to the TAG for approval.

3. Summary of changes to the DSM

33. After reviewing the responses received, DCC has made the following changes to the proposed Device Selection Methodology that was consulted on:
 - Selection of Device Model Combinations (SMETS1) or Device Models (SMETS2) is no longer "at DCC's discretion", with the complete logic for selection set out in the DSM.
 - The DSM confirms that all SMETS2 Communications Hub Manufacturers will be represented in SIT testing.
 - The DSM explains how "Required GBCS Versions" are determined, and how selection of Device Models for these GBCS Versions occurs.
 - The DSM confirms the Device Types in scope of testing, confirming that VWAN and Alt-HAN Devices (as explicitly queried in the consultation responses are included).
34. The final version of the Device Selection Methodology that will be presented to the TAG for approval can be found in Attachment 1 to this document.

4. Next steps

35. DCC is of the view that it has had appropriate engagement and consultation with industry on its proposed Device Selection Methodology for Future DSP testing.
36. DCC has, where necessary, addressed the comments that have been received from industry. DCC does not believe that the views expressed result in fundamental amendments to the proposed Device Selection Methodology but provide greater clarity on how Devices will be selected. DCC considers this to be an extension of the detail supporting how specific Devices will be selected, but does not extend to a different breadth of proposed Device Types. As such, DCC considers further consultation to not be necessary.
37. DCC will now proceed to seek approval for the Future DSP Device Selection Methodology with the TAG, in line with the requirements of the DSP SVTAD.

5. Attachments

38. This document includes one attachment:

- **Attachment 1:** Future DSP Device Selection Methodology (post-consultation)