Data Communications Company

Data Services Provider

Consultation on the Device Selection Methodology (DSM) for Future DSP

Issued: 4 February 2026
Respond by: 17:00 on 18 March 2026
Contact: consultations@smartdcc.co.uk

Table of Contents

1. Background and context

1.1. The DSP Programme

1. The Data Services Provider (DSP) sits right at the heart of the smart metering infrastructure, providing data services that connect Energy Suppliers to devices at their consumers' premises. The DSP Data System is a central facility that controls the flow of messages to and from smart metering equipment, with Service User organisations (e.g. Energy Suppliers, Network Operators, and Other Users) communicating via these central DSP facilities.

2. The contract for the current DSP solution is set to expire in 2028 and encompasses several different capabilities including but not limited to:

   a. Provision of gateway services (i.e. network connectivity) to connect Service User and Service Providers (SPs) to the DSP in both production and test environments. This will be the first stage of the DSP Programme, however, is not the subject of this Device Selection Methodology (DSM) consultation. This service is currently provided by Gamma. VodafoneThree was selected as the new provider for gateway connections, and the replacement solution is called 'DCC Connect'.

   b. The DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) which sets out the structure of the messages that can be exchanged with the DSP. This is not subject to this DSM consultation as DCC intend to deliver this (modular DUIS) in a future DSP release beyond Release 2.

   c. The Core DSP which provides message routing, anomaly detection, registration services, inventory management, DCC Key Infrastructure (DCCKI – which refers to the cryptographic certificates used within the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) framework of the DCC), Certification Authority (CA), security checking, logging and reporting, and a Smart Metering Key Infrastructure (SMKI) repository, as well as DUIS to GB Companion Specification (GBCS) message transformation. This is the delivery which is subject to the DSM and this consultation.

   d. A DCC Service Management System (DSMS) which supports DCC's service operation. This is not subject to this consultation.

   e. A Systems Integrator (SI), which manages key elements such as change and testing to ensure the system functions optimally. This is not subject to this consultation.

1.2. Requirement to produce the Device Selection Methodology

3. On 3 October 2025, in accordance with SEC Section X11.4, the Secretary of State directed DCC to develop a draft SEC Variation Testing Approach Document (SVTAD) for the variations to the SEC being considered to enable the introduction of the DSP Programme (the 'SVTAD for Future DSP'). On 7 November 2025 DCC published a consultation on the draft SVTAD for Future DSP and the consultation closed on 19 December 2025.[1] DCC has published its conclusion to this consultation on 23 January 2026.[2]

4. Clause 5 of SVTAD for Future DSP requires DCC to prepare a Future DSP DSM setting out the process to be followed to select Device Model Combinations to be used in testing. Any Devices used by the DCC in Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) or Systems Integration Testing (SIT) shall be consistent with the DSM. Following consultation on the DSM, DCC will submit the DSM, including any revisions as a result of the consultation, to the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) for final approval.

[1] DSP Consultation on the SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for Future DSP | Smart DCC
[2] DSP Conclusions on the SEC Variation Testing Approach Document | Smart DCC

5. The revised delivery plan for the DSP Programme includes a Milestone of 10 April 2026 which is the latest date by which DCC will issue a conclusions document following consultation on the proposed DSM.

1.3. Scope and structure of this consultation

6. We have prepared a draft DSM for the Future DSP Programme which we propose be incorporated into the Future DSP Test Approach Document (TAD). This consultation seeks your views on this draft document ahead of its submission to the TAG for approval.

7. This consultation is expected to impact all SEC Parties.

8. This consultation will close at **17:00 on Wednesday 18 March 2026**. Following this, DCC will provide a report to the Department by **10 April 2026** containing its consideration of the responses and its conclusion on the DSM to be included in the TAD. We will publish this conclusions document on the DCC website.

2. Scope, structure and content of the DSM

9. The Future DSP DSM has been produced to support the PIT and SIT phases of the Core DSP delivery. The DSM will address Device requirements in the context of Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS)1) and SMETS2.

10. For the Future DSP Programme, as with previous programmes, the TAG will be required to approve the TAD, including the DSM for both the PIT and SIT phases.

2.1. Device Selection Methodology

11. The DSM must set out the Devices to be used across the PIT and SIT phases of testing. It must consider the changes being made and determine an appropriate mechanism by which to select Devices for testing. In the context of Future DSP, the scope of testing in relation to Device behaviour directly is limited.

12. The introduction of the Future DSP does not change the following key elements of Device interaction:

    1. SMETS2 Devices handling of GB Companion Specification (GBCS) Messages
    2. SMETS1 Devices handling of messaging received from and sent to the SMETS1 Service Provider (S1SP).

2.1.1. SMETS2 Context

13. In relation to SMETS2, the Future DSP must deal with GBCS Messages, being one of,

    - "a Command to a Device or a corresponding Response"; or
    - "an Alert from a Device"

14. In the context of GBCS Commands, the Future DSP will create these Commands.

15. In the context of GBCS Responses and Device Alerts, the Future DSP is a recipient of these Messages, using information within them to direct the Messages on to appropriate Service Users via DUIS Response Messages, and where appropriate, to undertake further processing within the Future DSP. This further processing is specific to the received Message, but not the Device.

16. The introduction of Future DSP does not introduce changes to the GBCS. Validating that the Future DSP produces messages compliant with the GBCS, and in line with those produced by the

current DSP gives a high level of confidence, without relying on the use of real Devices as to the correct implementation of GBCS Message creation and handling within the Future DSP.

17. Similarly, testing of the DSP's processing of GBCS Responses and Device Alerts does not rely on the use of real Devices, as the source of these Messages remain unchanged.

18. As such, the approach to testing here is to validate through coverage of requirements and specifications, as well as comparative testing against the incumbent DSP that Messages comply with specifications, and match those produced by the incumbent DSP. The mechanism of this validation will be confirmed within the Future DSP TAD.

2.1.2. SMETS1 Context

19. In relation to SMETS1 Messages, the DSP plays a more limited role in the interaction with Devices.

20. The actual messaging sent to Devices is handled by the S1SP, with the DSP managing the sending of message requests, in DUIS format to the DSP, or onwards to a Service User.

21. The interfaces between the DSP and S1SPs are being developed in line with the existing specifications, and the interaction between S1SPs and associated Devices is not changing.

22. As such, the item under test here is interface level messaging between DSP and each S1SP, rather than direct Device interaction or behaviours.

2.2. Pre-Integration Testing

2.2.1. SMETS2

23. Given the scope of the Future DSP change, should there be an opportunity to test with real Devices, the proposal for SMETS2 Devices to be included in the PIT phase is as follows,

- DCC may choose to use real Devices at its discretion.

2.2.2. SMETS1

24. Given the scope of the Future DSP change, should there be an opportunity to test with real Devices, the proposal for SMETS1 Devices to be included in the PIT phase is as follows,

- DCC may choose to use real Devices at its discretion.

2.3. Systems Integration Testing

2.3.1. SMETS2

25. The proposal for SMETS2 Devices to be included within the SIT phase is as follows,

- At DCC's discretion, any one Device Model representing a Communications Hub from each of the Communications Service Providers (CSPs) (VMO2 and Arqiva), as well as for the 4G Solution (Toshiba). Where required to achieve test coverage, additional Device Models will be utilised, with the selection made at DCC's discretion.
- At DCC's discretion, Home Area Network (HAN) Devices from any Manufacturer, on GBCS versions appropriate to execute the defined SIT scope shall be included in the scope of testing.
- At DCC's discretion, HAN Devices shall be required to ensure coverage of all GBCS Messages included in the scope of testing.
- Where a real Device is not available to meet the required testing scope, emulators may be used.

2.3.2. SMETS1

26. The proposal for SMETS1 Devices within SIT is as follows,

- At DCC's discretion, any one Device Model Combination per each of the three S1SPs.

3. Next steps

27. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will assess respondents' views, and amend the draft DSM as required. DCC will then submit an amended version of this document to the TAG for approval.

28. DCC is aiming to provide a report to the Department by no later than **10 April 2026**. This report will contain DCC's consideration of the responses to this consultation as well as the proposed updated version of the DSM. DCC will publish its conclusions document on its website.

4. Consultation questions and how to respond

29. We are seeking your views on the following question:

Q1	Do you agree with the proposed DSM for the Future DSP Programme? *Please indicate any areas of disagreement and your rationale for this*

30. Please provide responses using the attached response form by **17:00 on Wednesday 18 March 2026** to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

31. Consultation responses may be published on our website (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 and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to the Department 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 the Department 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.

32. If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact us at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

5. Attachments

33. This consultation includes one attachment:

- Attachment 1: Consultation response template