



SMETS1 Consultation DMCT Process - RFI Removal

A SMETS1 consultation to amend the SMETS1 SVTAD to
remove the bi-monthly RFI from the DMCT Process

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1. Introduction and Context

The vast majority of Energy Suppliers have installed first generation smart devices (known as SMETS1 devices) in consumers' premises across Great Britain. The Data Communications Company (DCC) has designed a solution for the enrolment of SMETS1 devices into its network. Part of DCC's plan to deliver SMETS1 Services involves a detailed approach for Migrating SMETS1 Installations into DCC's systems. Appendix AK of the Smart Energy Code¹ (SEC) is the SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for SMETS1 Services (SMETS1 SVTAD) and captures the testing requirements for SMETS1 including the requirement for DCC to provide the Migration Test Approach Document (MTAD).

In this document DCC proposes changes to the SMETS1 SVTAD in support of SMETS1 service delivery. This consultation covers changes to the SMETS1 SVTAD to replace the bi-monthly process in the SMETS1 SVTAD whereby DCC requests information from energy suppliers on SMETS1 Device Model Combinations (DMCs) that they are planning to enrol / Migrate, with the option for energy suppliers to bring forward proposed DMCs should any arise.

2. Amendment to the DMCT Process

The SMETS1 SVTAD sets out the regime for testing SMETS1 related services at the initial implementation for each cohort. It also sets out the criteria for assessing whether any DMCs, which had not been tested by DCC after the initial Go Live decision for each cohort, are suitable for Migration and operation within DCC. Clause 20 of the SMETS1 SVTAD sets out the DMCT Process that provides a route for DCC to assess the SMETS1 Installations that energy suppliers are planning to Migrate to determine whether further DMCs can be proposed for addition to the list of SMETS1 Eligible Product Combinations (EPCL).

As per current Clause 20.2B of the SMETS1 SVTAD, the DMCT Process also sets out a routine bimonthly procedure for initiating such an assessment. This procedure is started by DCC issuing a mass communication email via DCC's service centre to all energy suppliers to seek details on SMETS1 Installations planned for Migration. This is colloquially referred to as the request for information or 'RFI'. When first established, this proved an efficient route to assessing data provided by energy suppliers and has led to a multitude of further EPCL entries.

This RFI process was used extensively to enable enrolment. However, DCC has received very limited responses to these RFIs during 2023 given that three cohorts are closed, and the remaining cohorts have made significant progress towards completing Migrations. Thus, almost all DMCs are known to DCC at this point. Moving forward DCC doesn't envisaged new DMCs will need to be added to the EPCL. On the grounds of economic efficiency, it is considered prudent to remove the administrative burden from the RFI as it impacts DCC and industry.

Thus, DCC is proposing to remove the routine element; moving forward, the trigger for any further assessment of DMCs by DCC would be via energy suppliers notifying DCC of the intent via an email to SMETS1DMCT@smartdcc.co.uk. DCC would then reply (within 10 working days) to set out the details it requires from the energy suppliers to assess if a further EPCL entry is required under the DMCT Process. The remaining elements of the DMCT Process remain unchanged.

DCC issued the most recent RFI w/c Monday 11 December 2023 with responses due in January 2024. If these proposed changes are accepted, then this would be the last such request.

¹ The current version of the SEC is available from <https://smartenergycodecompany.co.uk/the-smart-energy-code-2/>.

DCC is proposing an amendment to Clause 20.2 and 20.2B to remove the bimonthly element and move to an ad hoc arrangement. There are also minor consequential drafting amendments to Clause 20.25.

**RFI
Removal
Q1**

Do you agree with DCC's proposal to modify the SMETS1 SVTAD to amend the DMCT Process to replace the bimonthly RFI with an ad-hoc arrangement triggered by an energy supplier? Do you have any detailed comments on the relevant changes to the legal drafting? Please provide a rationale for your views.

3. Next Steps

The SMETS1 SVTAD allows DCC to modify the SMETS1 SVTAD directly following stakeholder consultation and provision of a conclusion report to the Secretary of State. DCC can then amend the SMETS1 SVTAD so long as the Secretary of State does not direct DCC otherwise.

DCC is proposing to modify the SMETS1 SVTAD to amend the DMCT Process using the procedure set out in Clause 4.2 of the SMETS1 SVTAD. At this point the bimonthly RFI process will cease to apply and DCC will only process DMC data upon request by an energy supplier.

Following this consultation, DCC will provide the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (the Department) with a summary of responses received and detail on how DCC has addressed any concerns raised. DCC will then ensure it builds in sufficient time for the Secretary of State to take a view on the merit of the proposed changes to the SMETS1 SVTAD.

DCC expects to issue its conclusion to this consultation, along with any necessary amendments to the SMETS1 SVTAD on or before 31 January 2024. Unless the Secretary of State directs otherwise, DCC proposes to modify the SMETS1 SVTAD through the draft direction at Attachment 1, on 14 February 2024 (or, if necessary, as soon as reasonably practicable within one month thereafter if delays to closure arise).

**RFI
Removal
Q2**

Do you agree with the proposed modification date of 14 February 2024 (or within one month thereafter i.e. in the period between 14 February 2024 and 14 March 2024) for the update to the SMETS1 SVTAD within the scope of this consultation? Please provide a rationale for your views.

4. How to Respond

Please provide responses in the attached template by noon on 25 January 2024 to DCC at consultations@smartdcc.co.uk. This template may be submitted in PDF or similar format rather than Microsoft Word format if preferred.

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 Energy Security and Net Zero (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.

If you have any questions about the consultation, please contact DCC via consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

5. Attachments

Attachment / Title
1. Draft Modification Text for SMETS1 SVTAD
2. Response Template
3. SMETS1 SVTAD v11.RFI Draft Redlined against V11.0

Table 1 – Attachments

Attachment 1

This attachment contains the text that DCC plans to use for direction of changes to the SMETS1 SVTAD.

SMETS1 SVTAD Draft Modification Text

Words and expressions used in this direction shall be interpreted in accordance with Section A (Definitions and Interpretation) of the SEC.

Pursuant to Clause 4.2 of Appendix AK of the SEC (the SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for SMETS1 Services), DCC directs that, with effect from [DD MM YYYY], the SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for SMETS1 Services) is hereby modified in the form set out in Annex [TBC] of this direction.

For the avoidance of doubt such modification of the SEC Variation Testing Approach Document for SMETS1 Services shall be without prejudice to anything done under the DCC Licence or the SEC on or after this first being established, or to the continuing effectiveness of anything done under this document prior to its modification (which shall have effect as if done under the modified document).

This direction is also being notified to the SEC Administrator.