

A Consultation on New Smart Energy Code Content and Related Supply Licence Amendments – July 2015

About the SMDA Scheme

SMDA Company Ltd (SMDA Co) is jointly and equally owned by Energy UK, the Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA), BEAMA and the Community of Meter Asset Providers (CMAP). The company was set up in 2014 to provide overall governance and accountability of the assurance process for Smart Metering Equipment entering the Great Britain market for the rollout of SMETS2 smart metering equipment. The SMDA Scheme is being set up to provide industry with a mechanism to collectively, offer a single assurance framework managed by our appointed SMDA Scheme Operator (SMDA SO). Individual parties can become members, with the purpose of providing assurance to the industry, mitigating the risk of the forced replacement of devices when a customer changes their energy supply contract and therefore avoiding any disruption to the customer.

Response to Consultation

The SMDA SO is specifically responding to question 10 in the consultation: Clarifications Relating to Device and User System Testing:

Do you intend to test only Devices (and not User Systems) against the DCC Systems? If so, how and when do you intend to do this? Is it your intention to: become a SEC Party and establish a DCC Gateway Connection; rely on other parties to interact with the DCC for the purposes of testing Devices; or another means (e.g. direct connection without being a SEC Party)?

SMDA's intention has always been to utilise the testing services that the DCC is obliged to make available to non-SEC parties, including the DCC User Emulator that DCC had indicated would be provided as a means of fulfilling that requirement. We have consistently maintained that position, included in our response to the DCC's recent consultation on the End-to-End Testing Approach. However, it has become clear since May 2015 that the DCC was no longer necessarily intending to provide such a service. We have engaged bi-laterally with DCC on a regular basis, and continued to explore the implications of this intention for SMDA.

From discussions with both DCC and DECC it is apparent that, even if the relevant SEC requirement is enforced, it is unlikely that the facility would be available in the timescales required by SMDA (i.e. in time for the beginning of DCC End to End testing phase, from early February 2016). Therefore, SMDA has had no choice but to explore alternative options. We know that either SMDA and/or test houses would need to become SEC parties. Remote test houses will need to secure a means of connection to the DCC gateway, and to put in place facilities for generating and sending DUIS Service Requests across that gateway in order to conduct device testing. Either of these might be provided centrally by SMDA or alternatively made the responsibility of the test houses themselves. Either way, costs will now be incurred to secure the gateway connection ancillary equipment (at the

rates indicated by DCC), and to develop or procure software to generate, send, receive and interpret the test messages (possibly a six-figure sum). These costs will ultimately be borne by users of the SMDA testing service, i.e. manufacturers, though of course if they render testing charges prohibitively high then manufacturers may decide to pursue alternative testing mechanisms.

If DCC were to provide the intended facilities after all, it would have the potential to reduce the costs and risks associated with the above solutions, large elements of which might no longer be required. However, if such a DCC service were to be unavailable / unproven at February 2016 (unless industry timescales change) then SMDA would either need to invest in its own facilities anyway, or delay the availability of testing until the DCC solution was ready.