

Smart Meters Implementation Programme

Delivery Plan

21 December 2011

Smart Meters Implementation Programme Delivery Plan

Background

1. On 30 March 2011, the Government with Ofgem jointly published the Government's Response to the Smart Meter Prospectus. This set out a number of key dates relating to the rollout of smart meters in Great Britain.
2. DECC has since worked with industry and a wide range of external stakeholders to deliver the programme, with a number of early milestones having been successfully achieved. This has included the publication of the Industry Draft Technical Specifications for smart meters in August 2011.
3. Over recent months, DECC has engaged with delivery partners to refine the approach and timescales set out in the Response to Prospectus, informed by recent consultations. These factors have resulted in some revisions to activities and milestones over the period 2012 to 2014. The revised Delivery Plan for the period 2012 to 2014 is illustrated in Figure 1 below.
4. There are two main areas where revisions have been made to the Delivery Plan: the Data and Communications Service Provider Procurement and the development of Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specifications.

Service Provider Procurement

5. The plan published in March 2011 was based on the assumption that a single procurement process would be undertaken to select a single national Telecommunications and Data Service Provider. Following consultation, the Government has decided to undertake separate procurements for the Data and Telecommunications Services, and to organise the Telecommunications procurement into three lots. This has driven additional activity and impacted the timescales for the award of Service Provider contracts, and the subsequent establishment of the Data and Communications Company (DCC).

Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specifications

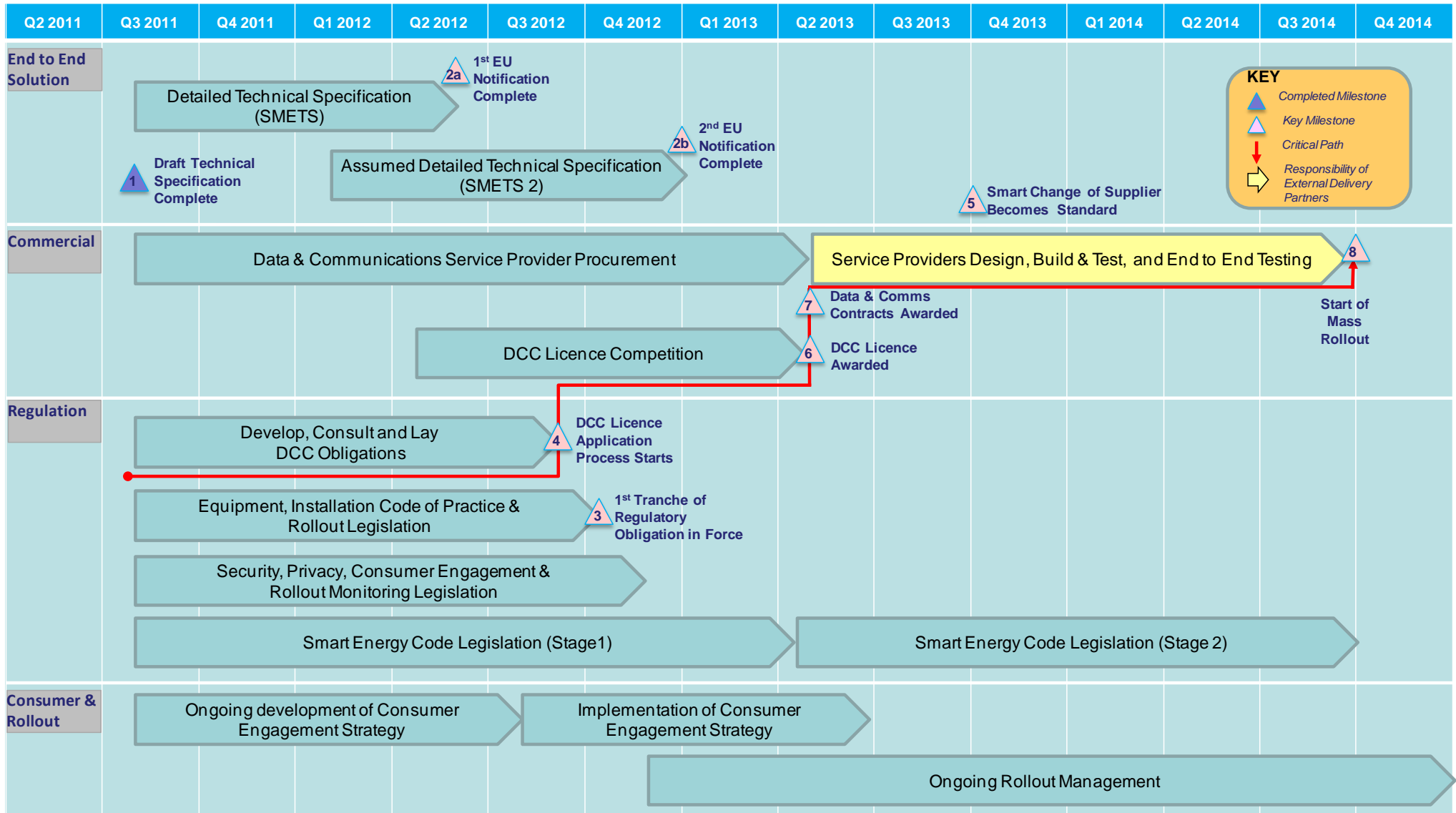
6. As stated in March 2011, Government intends to specify in licence amendments the Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS), helping to ensure that meters rolled out under the mandate are fully interoperable and deliver the required functionality. The Government intends to notify a draft of the regulations required to implement such licence amendments to the European Commission under the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC).
7. In August 2011, the Industry Draft Technical Specifications (IDTS) for smart meters were published. This was an important milestone. However, there were a number of technical issues that were unresolved at the time, as described in the Government's consultation document published in August 2011. Government is currently considering responses to this consultation in detail. However, as a result of stakeholder consultations and additional work required to resolve the technical issues, the timescales and approach for developing the technical specifications have been revised.

8. The Government plans to notify the SMETS to the European Commission in March 2012. This submission will be based on the IDTS, adopting recommendations where appropriate and taking account of comments from subsequent consultations.
9. Government will also undertake additional work in 2012 on other technical aspects. For example, respondents to the roll-out consultation expressed support for a mandated standard for the Home Area Network (HAN). The Government will undertake a series of HAN trials to inform any future decision, commencing in early 2012. The outcomes of this additional work may result in a second notification to the European Commission (SMETS 2 in Figure 1).

Further information

10. This revised Delivery Plan represents the Government's current view of the approach and timescales for delivery of the GB Smart Metering Programme.
11. For further information, please contact smartmeterspmo@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Figure 1: Smart Metering Implementation Programme Delivery Plan (version dated 21 December 2011)



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