

A Consultation on Additional SEC Content Response from SMDA Company Limited

31 December 2014

About SMDA Company Ltd

SMDA Ltd is jointly and equally owned by Energy UK, the EUA and BEAMA. 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 from SMETS2 roll-out onwards. The SMDA Scheme is being set up to provide industry with a mechanism to collectively offer a single assurance framework of which 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.

Executive Summary

SMDA Ltd is responding specifically to content on establishing and using Gateway Connections for testing purposes and question 13 of the Consultation on the additional SEC content.

It is the understanding of SMDA Ltd from the DCC publication of the End to End Testing Approach document that in contradiction to the statement in paragraph 288 of this consultation that the DCC are looking at an alternative Test Service (Service User Emulator) instead of accessing the DCC Test Environments via the DCC Gateway Connection. SMDA Ltd welcome this concept as an alternative option but would seek assurance this actually is achievable in the timescales, can be adequately supported and is cost efficient. SMDA Ltd is looking to work with the DCC to understand that the proposed approach and solution would fulfil the SMDA requirements.

SMDA Ltd would also highlight that there may be parties with the potential to provide test house services to the SMDA Scheme Operator who will establish a DCC Gateway Connection themselves and therefore could utilise this to provide testing services. SMDA Ltd would not want such parties to be precluded from providing testing services to the SMDA Scheme Operator for device interoperability using this means of connection.

Should you wish to discuss any element of this response in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact
by telephone

Responses to the individual consultation questions:

Our response to question 13 of the consultation is provided below.

Q13 Based on our understanding of the DCC's remote testing offering, it may be that a DCC Gateway Connection is required, which would mean that remote testing would only be available to SEC Parties. We welcome views from prospective testing participants on the impact this may have on their plans.

Answer: As stated in the consultation a means of connection via a DCC Gateway is only open to SEC Parties; however, it is not clear if a party were to use this means of connection for testing purposes only, whether or not they would be obliged to undertake UEPT/SREPT as they would not be intending to use the live production environment and we would appreciate a view from DECC on this matter.

With regard to the impact on our plans for the SMDA Scheme the means of connection and access to DCC Test Environments is a key dependency and carries the greatest risk to the scheme. The cost of developing or procuring a DCC Service User interface and DCC Gateway Connection and adhering to the terms under which it would be provided has the potential to outweigh the benefits of the scheme but until such costs are known we are unable to assess if this is a viable option. As previously stated the intent to provide an alternative testing service for non-parties without a DCC Gateway Connection is welcomed by SMDA Ltd and its founding organisations, as without this service the cost of testing device interoperability could become excessive and runs the risk of becoming a barrier to market entry. We welcome any opportunity to collaborate with the DCC and DECC to understand what the service can offer and develop requirements.