

DCC Scope Options

This is a briefing paper to the Data & Communications Expert Group (DCG) on the options to be evaluated as regards the scope of DCC's activities. DCG is invited to comment on the option definitions before they are issued with the Information Request.

From	Smart Metering Programme
To	DCG Members
cc	
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Introduction

1.1. One of the objectives of the DCG is to provide input to Ofgem's cost benefit analysis of proposals for the scope of DCC's activities. Cost and benefit estimates will be collected through an Information Request which will be sent to:

- Systems integrators who are members of the Community of Technical Experts (COTE) and have volunteered to assess the work involved in building and operating the systems required by DCC
- Energy suppliers, network operators and 'central bodies' (i.e. Elexon, xoserve, Electralink) who can assess:
 - the work involved in modifying their systems and processes to interact with DCC
 - the benefits that will arise from the prescribed changes.

1.2. The Information Request in respect of DCC's scope of activities will be issued on 15 October with a response date of 29 October.

1.3. The purpose of this paper is to seek input from DCG members on the definition of the options – and variants – that the parties identified above will be invited to assess. In order that the exercise is manageable, from the viewpoints of respondents and from those assessing the responses, it is proposed that a full assessment is made of only three options. There are however a number of sub-options which could be considered and these will be treated as variants which respondents will be invited to comment on and provide cost information as feasible.

Process Followed and Overview of Options

1.4. The option definition process has been undertaken in conjunction with Sub-Group 1 – DCC Scope and Services (SG1). However it should be noted that as this paper had to be issued in advance of SG1's meeting on 23 September, the sub-group's feedback on Options 2 & 3 is not yet available.

1.5. The starting point for the definition of options was the Prospectus. In preparing the Prospectus, views were sought from a variety of parties and there was broad consensus that a set of core activities should be undertaken by DCC. These core activities were confirmed by SG1: they comprise:

- Secure communications and access control
- Security monitoring and assurance
- Translation services
- Scheduled data retrieval
- Initial smart grid requirements

1.6. There was also strong support for the view that meter registration should be included in the scope of DCC's activities at some stage. However there was no consensus

as to whether registration should be part of DCC's scope from Go Live or should be added at a later point in time.

1.7. Similarly, there was a range of views on whether data processing, aggregation and data storage activities should be brought within the scope of DCC and – if they should – then at what stage. A final set of activities including extra-industry services, consumer value added services and enhanced smart grid services were considered to be subject to further analysis after the core functions have been established.

1.8. SG1 started by considering the implications of the 'initial scope' option (as defined in the Prospectus) on the current arrangements within the electricity and gas industries. This resulted in the drafting of a profile describing Option 1 which was discussed at the SG1 meeting on 16 September – the version attached to this paper reflects these discussions.

1.9. The meeting on 16 September also debated the definition of 'meter registration' as being "the process that maps a physical network exit point (i.e. MPAN or Meter Point Registration Number) to a metering system and to the registered supplier". If DCC's scope includes registration then it will need to maintain the following information and be recognised as being the 'master industry reference' for:

- Spatial reference (i.e. site ID and/or address) and MPAN/MPRN;
- Identification of the registered supplier and its agent;
- Meter device details;
- Settlement details (e.g. HH/NHH/unmetered and profile class);
- WAN unit network address;
- Customer type (e.g. priority customers).

1.10. It should be noted that the points in paragraph 1.9 above have been extracted from the draft minutes of the meeting of 16 September. These minutes have not yet been reviewed by attendees.

1.11. The discussion on meter registration was used to inform the Programme as it drafted the profile of Option 2. Under this option, DCC's scope of activities is expanded to include registration from Go Live. This option was sub-divided into Options 2A and 2B to reflect the differences between:

- 2A: At Go Live the DCC registration database would be 'empty'. Sites would be added to the database only when a smart meter is installed (or when 'early' meters are transferred to DCC's WAN). Sites with traditional meters would continue to be registered with the appropriate legacy registration system until a smart meter is installed (this is often referred to as the 'withering on the vine' option). At a future date – perhaps 2018 – all remaining meter points would be migrated to DCC's registration systems so that DCC becomes the master source of all registration data
- 2B: All sites and meters would be migrated to DCC's registration system at Go Live: legacy registration systems would be decommissioned (at least as the master industry reference source) at this point.

1.12. A draft profile of Option 2 has been circulated to SG1 members for discussion on 23 September.

1.13. A final draft profile – Option 3 – has also been circulated for discussion on 23 September. This option involves extending DCC's scope to include registration after Go Live. Accordingly, there are two stages of industry change:

- Stage 1: Go Live with 'initial scope (i.e Option1)
- Stage 2: add registration and migrate all sites and meters to DCC (i.e. Option 2B)

1.14. The three option profiles (at their different stages of drafting and review) are attached to this paper. In summary they describe:

- Option 1: initial scope as defined in the Prospectus – DCC scope does not cover registration
- Option 2: DCC scope includes registration from Go Live (with options A & B as above)
- Option 3: registration is added to DCC's scope 2-3 years after Go Live.

1.15. The variants that respondents will be invited to comment on, and to produce estimates where possible, are as follows:

- Data processing and aggregation: this variant is only applicable to options where DCC is performing registration for all sites and would represent the transfer of data verification and calculation of EAC/AQ to DCC, plus the transfer to DCC of data aggregation of electricity settlement data
- Data storage: this variant would involve DCC maintaining a database of all the meter readings it receives and acting as a central repository which could be accessed (subject to appropriate authorisation) by all industry parties.

DCG Actions

1.16. DCG members are invited to comment on the option profiles attached to this paper and on the list of variants included at paragraph 1.15 above.