



The DCG Community of Technical Experts

Promoting choice and value for all gas and electricity customers

Direct Dial: 020 7901 7000
Email: DCG@ofgem.gov.uk
Date: 20 September 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Smart Metering: DCG Community of Technical Experts (CoTEs)

The recently published Smart Metering Implementation Programme Prospectus¹ (the Prospectus) sets out proposals for how smart metering will be delivered in Great Britain. These include proposals on design requirements, central communications, data management and the approach to rollout. The Prospectus also includes a proposal to create a new licensed entity to deliver central data and communications activities referred to as the "DataCommsCo" or "DCC". It is proposed that DCC will be responsible for managing the procurement and contract management of data and communications services that will underpin the smart metering system.

The support of a wide range of stakeholders is critical for the success of the Smart Metering Implementation Programme ('the programme') given the scale and complexity of the changes required to deliver the Programme and associated benefits for consumers. Stakeholder engagement has been, and will continue to be, a vital part of the Programme. As part of this engagement the Programme has set up two Expert Groups ('the Groups'), the Data and Communications Group ('DCG') and the Smart Metering Design Group ('SMDG') to draw on the experience of industry participants and other stakeholders.

DCG was established to:

- provide advice to the Programme team on data and communication issues raised in the Prospectus;
- provide advice to the Programme team on the achievability and implications of relevant consultation proposals set out in the Prospectus, and indicating where consensus can be reached and providing an indication of diverse views where it is not;
- evaluate and analyse a set of robust design and delivery options;
- actively identifying any security and data privacy issues related to each of the aspects covered in the DCG's scope of work; and
- actively identifying risks to the Programme and proposing mitigation measures.

¹ <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=40&refer=e-serve/sm/Documentation>

To support the DCG and to enable informed analysis of the options identified in the Prospectus, it is essential that the DCG has access to timely technical input on issues arising during the course of their proceedings. In order to facilitate this input, the Programme is forming a Community of Technical Experts ('the CoTEs').

It is envisaged that members of the CoTE will have the ability to respond to information requests, which may cover areas such as the following:

- the scope of DCC's activities;
- WAN usage scenarios (e.g. traffic assumptions) and Service levels for the WAN;
- indicative WAN and data management cost assumptions for further cost benefit analysis ("CBA"); and
- timescales for implementation of various options.

We invite expressions of interest from communications and data service providers in particular, and any other suitably qualified parties who wish to receive and respond to information requests from the DCG.

Interested parties should reply in writing, confirming their interest by 29 September 2010 to:

Margaret Coaster
Smart Metering Team, Ofgem E-Serve
9 Millbank, London SW1P 3GE
020 7901 7000
DCG@ofgem.gov.uk

All responses should clearly identify the contact details to ensure the accurate and reliable distribution of information requests. It's envisaged that an information request will be issued in early October.

We will seek to ensure that any published documentation predicated on these responses will be anonymised. The CoTEs will be encouraged to regularly check the DCG area of the Ofgem website to provide on-going feedback as well as responding to specific requests for evidence. Information provided should be clearly labelled as to whether it is personal opinion or that of a company / organisation and whether it is regarded in any way to be "in confidence".

Any questions on this invitation should, in the first instance, be directed to DCG@ofgem.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Dora Guzeleva
Smart Metering
E-Serve