ERA SRSM Interim Interoperability – Solution Options

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Introduction

At an SRSM Project Workshop on 23 August, the topic of interim interoperability was discussed. As a result of correspondence prior to the session, feedback received on the draft Discussion Paper issued by the project team, and the changes arising as a result of the publication of the Prospectus it was agreed that the project team should review their approach to the subject.

This paper forms part of the renewed approach, and presents a view of potential solution options for Interim Interoperability Arrangements (IIA).

This paper should be read in accordance with the "ERA SRSM Interim Interoperability – Principles & Issues" and "Requirements" papers. The initial draft has been based on the same input materials referenced therein.

Solution Assumptions

In order to place the Options in context, a number of assumptions about the IIA are suggested below:

1. Suppliers will be notified of meters within the scope of IIA during the registration process – possibly through changes to ECOES/SCOGES
2. Individual Suppliers are responsible for informing their agents of IIA meters and how they are interacting with them. May need to include agents acting as agents for each other where there are technical issues – e.g. MOP is providing communications
3. Suppliers will not be required to pass all readings into Settlements, but will continue to comply with existing applicable requirements.
4. Customer data will continue to be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act
5. Where there are no existing industry formats/flows for data exchanges between Suppliers and Head End Providers, a new format/approach will be agreed. This could be either using existing formats (DTC/UKlink) or other approaches that do not require a catalogue (XML, possibly using an agreed schema for data naming and conventions)
6. Where there is a requirement for a central IIA role, Suppliers will inform the incumbent of meter installations and exchanges.
7. Suppliers will inform central (or individual) IIA service providers of new meter types or communications services which require IIA support

Solution Options

The project team has reviewed the input materials in order to present a consolidated view below. These are not necessarily separate approaches, and may be constituent parts of IIA. For example, achieving interoperable data exchanges through head ends will not resolve the Access Control or notification of smart meter requirements.

| Ref	Option
1	Central translation of all head end data into standard industry data formats (where applicable)
2	Standardised Head End Output – for interface with Suppliers
3	Consolidated Head End – either directly to meters, or to individual head ends, providing interface to Supplier
4	Suppliers interact with individual head ends and provide translations to their systems (and agents) themselves
5	Suppliers (or their agents) provide communication and data services to each other

| Ref	Option
6	Incoming Supplier appoints same agents as losing Supplier
7	Site visits to exchange SIM or meter

Illustration of Options

In the paper provided by ScottishPower, diagrams were used to illustrate specific solution options. There is an opportunity to include these, for illustrative purposes, in the SRSM Interim Interoperability Options paper.

They are presented here to allow the ERA members to consider their inclusion in the externally distributed copy of that paper.
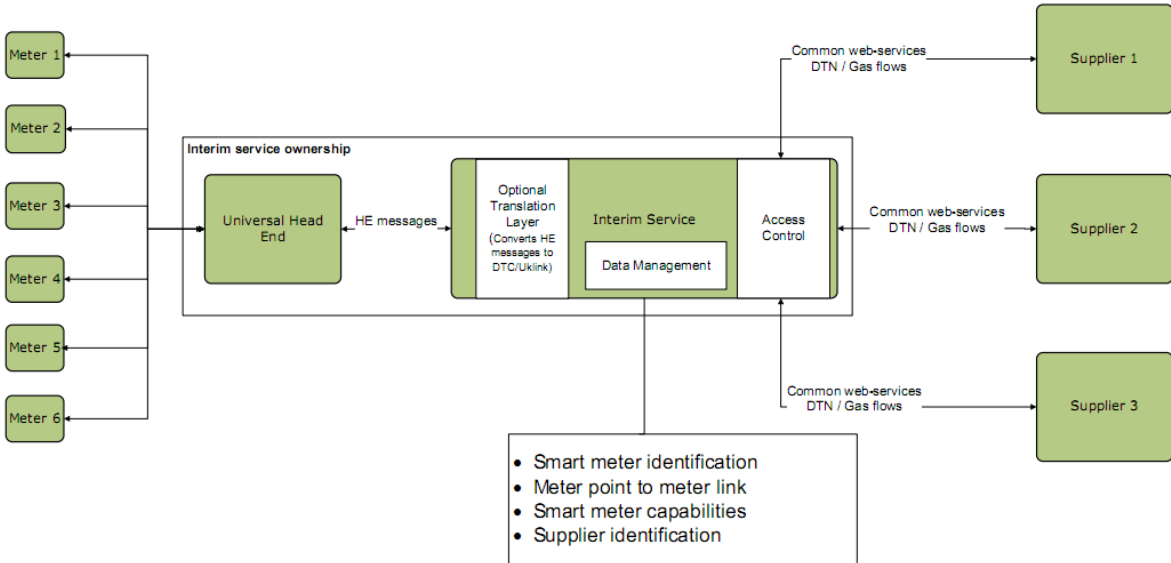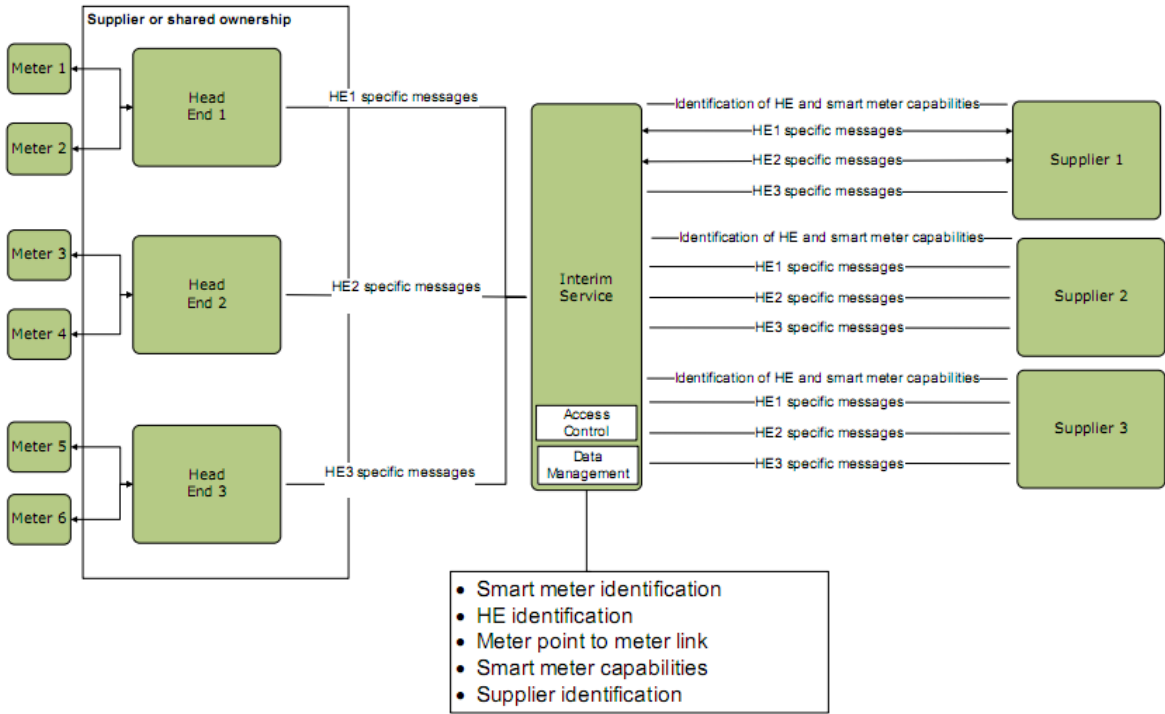
Option 1: Central Translation
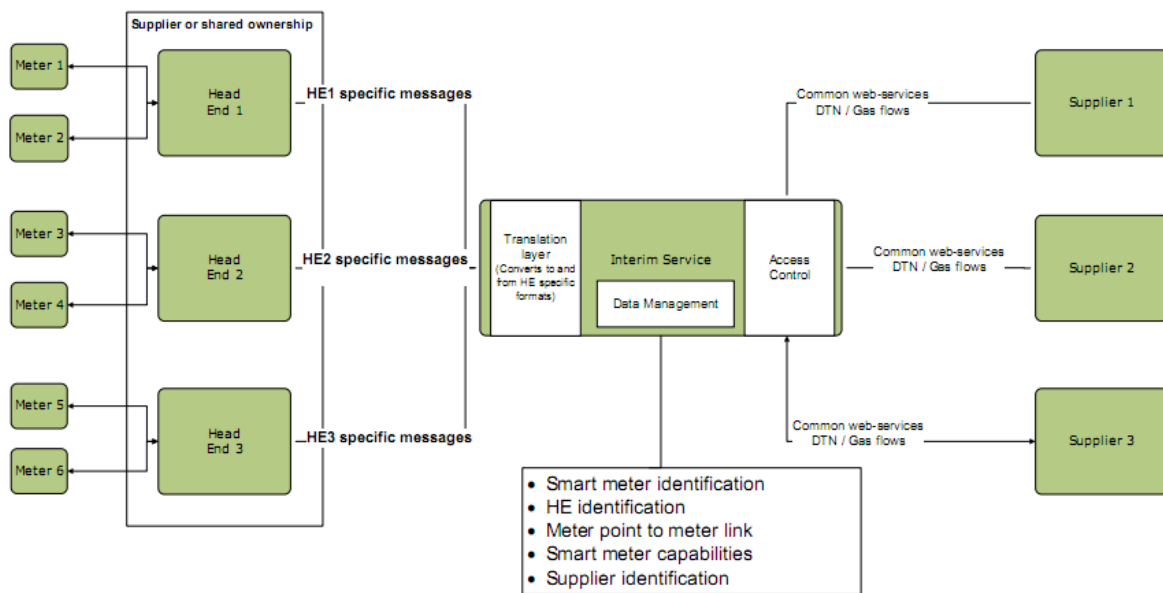
Option 2: Meter Manufacturers Standardise Head End Services
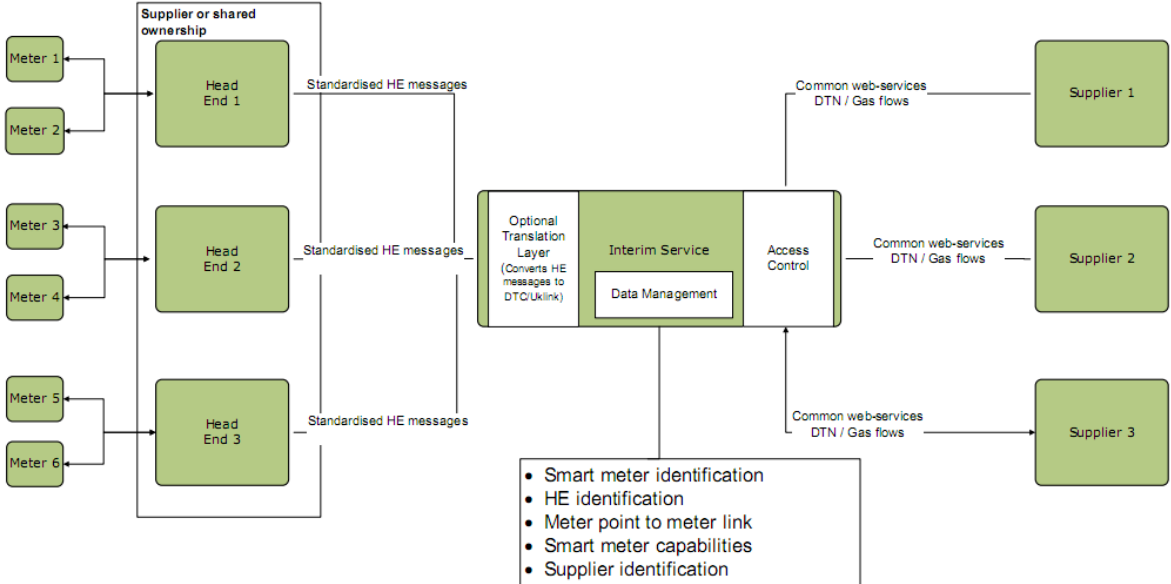
Option 3 – Single Head End with Common Set of Services

Option 4 - Suppliers customise interfaces for each head end

Supplier or shared ownership

- Smart meter identification
- HE identification
- Meter point to meter link
- Smart meter capabilities
- Supplier identification

Option 5 – Suppliers Provide Data Services

- Smart meter identification
- HE identification
- Meter point to meter link
- Smart meter capabilities
- Supplier identification
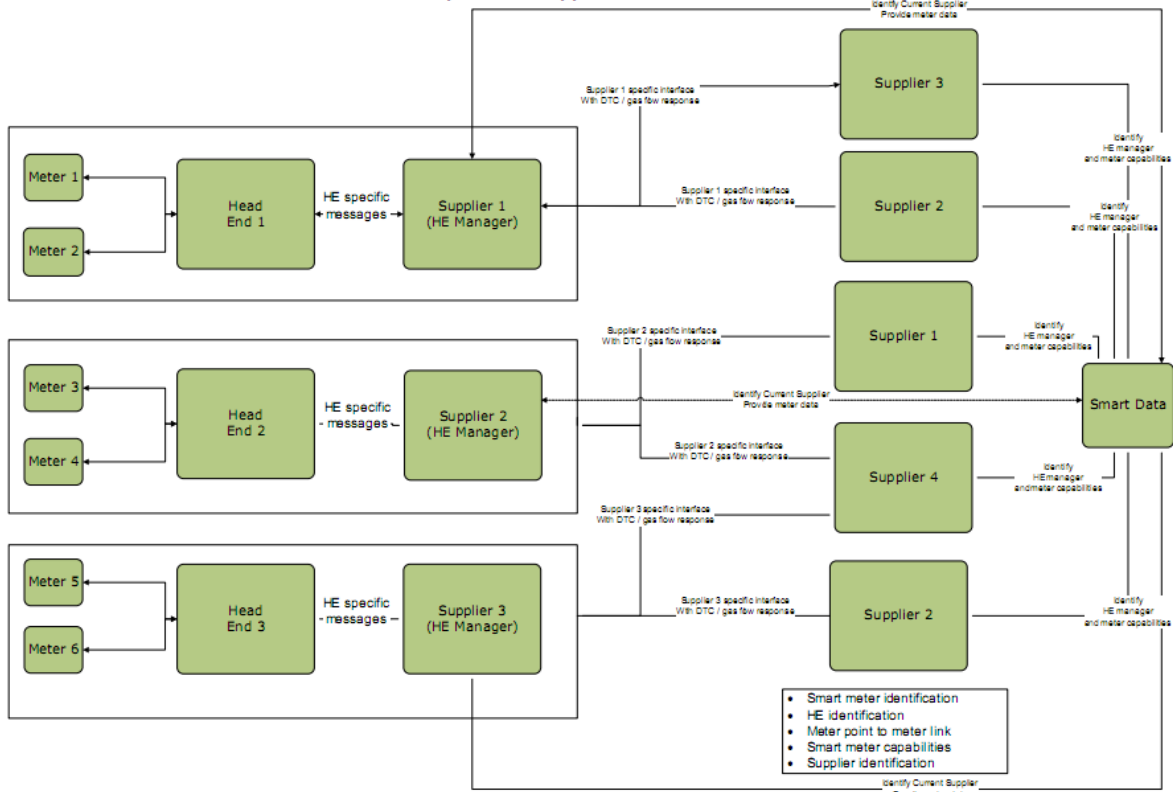
Option 6 - Supplier Configures HE for Gained Meter

Smart Data:
- Smart meter identification
- Meter point to meter link
- Meter and comms details?
- Smart meter capabilities
- Supplier identification

On CoS Loss Provide Head End and Comms Data

On Cos Gain Request and Receive Comms data And meter capabilities

On Cos Gain set-up meter and head end to enable secure communications.

How do comms get transferred can this be done without change of SIM

This may require a site visit