SMDA Working Group 36 – Meeting Summary

Date and time	Tuesday 26th June 2018 10.00 – 12:30
Venue	Gemserv Offices, 8 Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ
Attendees	Included in Annex 1
Competition Notice	In taking part in this meeting, participants are confirming that they have undergone relevant training to raise their awareness of, and ensure compliance with, applicable competition law, including the Competition Act 1998 and Articles 101 and 102 EC and that they will not discuss matters that would or might lead to any breaches of competition law.
Date Issued	Friday 5th October 2018

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Following a quick introduction to the meeting agenda, members of the Working Group were all introduced.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION NOTICE

Following introductions, the Chair drew attendees' attention to the competition notice, and safety information.

These minutes should be read in conjunction with the slides presented during the Working Group (WG) meeting 'WG36 Presentation 2018-06-26 v1.0'.

3. ACTIONS LOG AND APPROVAL OF WG35 MEETING SUMMARY

The Scheme Operator (SO) provided an update to the Working Group on all actions per the slides. The following open actions were updated as follows:

WG35-03 – *Manufacturers to ensure that the feedback around NDA's shared at WG35, is passed back to those who are trying to impose or negotiate them.* **Update:** The SO reminded manufacturers to brief their internal legal teams regarding SMDA NDAs. SO is happy to close the action, given TH confirmation that this has only been an issue with one manufacturer thus far.

The SO advised that all completed action items on the June WG36 Action Log would be closed.

The Working Group did not have any comments on the WG35 Draft Minutes and these were agreed as final.

4. SMDA CO. BOARD UPDATE

The SO provided an overview of the topics discussed with the SMDA Co. Board since the last WG meeting. These included an overview of end-to-end testing and early mover progress, the status of device forecasts and how the SO was tackling submission delays, an outline of the progress made on the governance nominations and GDPR requirements.

The SO informed members that CPA Test Houses have been contacted to discuss how testing of devices could be accelerated for those also gaining SMDA Assurance. Members were advised that this was not possible given the need for the Test Houses to follow ISO17000 standards which means they must remain impartial.

The CPA Test Houses advised that they were not experiencing any backlogs, but they were impacted by the long lead-times for NSCS to respond to requests.

5. TEST HOUSE UPDATE – END TO END TESTING, EARLY MOVER PROGRESS & LEARNINGS

The TH provided a status update on Early Mover testing which is progressing well.

Members were informed that the first assurance date had been moved back to w/c 10 September 2018, due to delays in device submission. The TH advised that delays in ZigBee certification of the HCALCS emulator had also become evident since the last meeting.

A revised version of the 'Plan on a Page' was shared, along with detail on the changes made since the last version.

Regarding HCALCS, the TH advised members that ZigBee certification is expected towards the end of August which will have a knock-on delay to completing ESME: HCALCS testing. Although this should not impact the critical path, the TH highlighted risks in leaving undetected HCALCS issues to very late in the testing process. As a result, the TH asked members whether ZigBee certification should continue to be sought or whether a contingency option should be put in place (running ESME: HCALCS tests via a manual emulated testing system using the DCC Gateway GFI tool). Suppliers agreed that ZigBee certification should be pursued and a manufacturer highlighted a concern that a manual emulation system would increase risks during testing and so would prefer to wait for ZigBee certification. Following discussions, the Working Group proposed that the TH should carry out tests with the HCALCS emulator ahead of gaining ZigBee certification as its function won't change. In the event there needs to be retesting, the SO advised that there are only six ESME: HCALCS tests so the additional cost of retesting would be minimal. With regards to funding of these extra costs, it was proposed that the Early Mover Model fund be used for this purpose. A MAP member suggested this should be fine as it is a slight change in use, rather than additional funding being sought, but suggested that MAPs who had funded the Early Mover Model should be consulted on this proposal.

Action WG36-01: The SO to confirm with relevant SMDA MAP members whether EMM funds can be used on retesting of HCALCS: ESME tests if ZigBee certification results in any changes to the tests.

A Test House capacity plan was shared and members advised that testing slots would be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis. The TH advised that capacity would flex up or down based on demand. The TH stated that funding testing resources to maintain capacity without firm testing commitments from device manufacturers was unsupportable to any business, and that its business case was at risk.

The status of Pre-testing was shared noting that 250 test scripts had passed, with a further 55 outstanding. Generic issues identified with testing were highlighted.

The TH provided an update on Test Efficiencies work, noting that Early Mover Testing was the priority and estimated that experience of 'real' testing would then be sufficient to allow assessment of proposed efficiencies. At this stage the TH would be appropriately placed to undertake this work if resource capacity existed. Due to uncertainties on both when early mover testing will be completed and resources available to undertake this work, the TH explained

that it could not commit to a planning date. The TH acknowledged that whilst no end date for completion of efficiencies was possible, progress could be monitored through the new scheme governance.

6. COMMON ISSUES

The SO provided a table overview of issues which have been raised in the DCC Common Issues Workshop as having hindered multiple suppliers during their testing. The SO informed members whether these same issues have also affected SMDA testing and how they are currently being addressed.

With regards to the 'inconsistent delivery of commands and receipt of responses' issue, the DCC representative advised that further information on response times will be presented at the July Design Group Forum.

The key points around each of the issues impacting SMDA testing were as follows:

- Inconsistent delivery of commands / receipt of responses: several Suppliers are believed to be impacted by this issue and there are multiple causes;
- xSME (especially GSME) data not showing on display devices: several Suppliers have reported issues with incomplete data being shown on display devices. At least one Supplier is expending significant effort working with the DCC / CSPs on root cause analysis. The impact appears to be dependent on the combinations of Devices being used;
- Devices leaving the HAN: several Suppliers have noted this issue and similarly the cause is unclear. In one case, SMDA attempted to restore communications with a GSME by decommissioning and recommissioning the devices, then using User Interface commands to re-join than HAN, then power-cycling the GSME and eventually succeeding by power-cycling the Communications Hub;
- Firmware verification failures: is currently under investigation between SMDA and DCC, although some Suppliers are currently experiencing firmware upgrade issues.

On the issue of 'GSME data not being displayed on display devices', the SO informed members that this has been experienced across several manufacturer devices during testing.

Following a description as to how each of the issues are being addressed/ worked around, a member highlighted the need for the underlying root cause of issues to be addressed, rather than workarounds be used, to ensure confidence in devices working as expected when installed in properties. The SO agreed but highlighted the risk that waiting for an indefinite period for all root causes to be resolved could indefinitely delay our ability to offer SMDA Assurance, and that an alternative might be to make a note of observations in the baseline.

The SO agreed to circulate a paper to the Working Group with recommendations as to how SMDA deals with each of the Common Issues, seeking input from the Working Group regarding the acceptability of providing assurance with workarounds.

Action WG36-02: SO to circulate paper to WG with recommendation as to how SMDA deals with Common Issues.

Following discussion of the Common Issues the SO introduced Alan Simmons, Testing Issues Manager at the DCC, who requested increased knowledge sharing with SMDA to facilitate issue resolution, whilst ensuring that all information is discussed confidentially. Supplier members voiced that this is a positive move. One manufacturer raised concern that the relationship should not result in the SO, TH and DCC fixing the "system", and becoming the System Integrator at the scheme's cost. A MAP member outlined an ideal scenario whereby a problem occurs, the root cause is identified and the relevant party fixes the issue. The SO advised that this is not always achievable,

and highlighted the risk that if the two organisations did not work closer together, it might affect our ability to offer SMDA Assurance.

The SO reiterated that a device only achieves SMDA Assurance once each test has passed. Members of the Working Group concluded that, in principle they support the idea of increased knowledge sharing between the two parties whilst ensuring that the DCC take accountability for any issues that reside with them. The SO took an action to outline the parameters surrounding knowledge share and some possible scenarios, for Working Group approval.

Action WG36-03: SO and DCC to work together on a short paper explaining the nature of 'knowledge share' between the two parties, for Working Group approval.

The SO asked members to approve the proposal to remove the checks for 0x8F70 when the Device's Own Certifications are replaced (when 0x8F4D or 0x8F4F security logs entries are checked). The SO confirmed that IRP 552, which is planned for implementation in June 2019, should resolve the ambiguity that has likely led to the situation when 0x8F70 is not generated in certain circumstances. The SO agreed to share a revised proposal paper and asked members to provide any comments and thoughts by Friday 6th July.

Action WG36-04: The SO to circulate a revised proposal paper regarding 0x8F70 log entries for the Working Group to review and comment.

7. PAYMENT SCHEDULE & APPLICATION TIMEFRAME

Due to limited time constraints, the SO was not able to cover the agenda item in its entirety. The SO swiftly explained that if manufacturers wish to begin testing by the end of August then applications will need to be submitted by Friday 29th June, as the lead-time between application submission and testing commencement is approximately 10 weeks. A recap on the Payment Schedule will be provided in the next Working Group.

8. UPDATE ON FIRMWARE STRATEGY

The SO advised that, since the last Working Group meeting, the SO, accompanied by two Supplier members, had met with DCC representatives to discuss the consultation, during which the DCC gave a positive indication that Comms Hub testing was viewed internally as important.

Parmjeet Dayal, from the DCC presented the latest unapproved draft wording from the consultation.

A Supplier member highlighted a sentence within the draft which indicated that suppliers would be mandated to perform compulsory testing of Comms Hubs following a firmware update, which supplier members did not agree with. The DCC representative quickly clarified that the wording would be revised as this was not the intention of the DCC. It was agreed that the representative would take an action to revise the wording to ensure that there are no additional obligatory components for supplier members. To facilitate this, the SO offered to circulate the draft wording to the WG, for them to mark-up comments directly.

Action WG36-05: The SO to circulate Firmware Strategy wording to the WG for comment. Feedback to be collated and sent to the DCC.

Action WG36-06: The DCC representative to revise the consultation wording to incorporate WG feedback and ensure that supplier members are not mandated to perform compulsory testing of Comms Hubs following a firmware update.

9. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed and will be carried over to the next meeting.

10. GOVERNANCE – NOMINEES FOR BOARD AND MANAGEMENT PANEL

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed.

11. MONTHLY REPORT

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed.

12. AOB

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed.

Annex 1 - SMDA Working Group 36 Attendance List

No.	Role	Company	Name
1.	SMDA SO	Gemserv	Abigail Hermon
2.	SMDA SO	Gemserv	Phillip Twiddy
3.	SMDA SO	Gemserv	Eessa Mansoor
4.	SMDA SO	Gemserv	Abhay Soorya
5.	SMDA Test House	NMi Certin B.V.	Adrian Rudd ☎
6.	Guest	DCC	Alan Simmons (part)
7.	Guest	DCC	Parmjeet Dayal
8.	Manufacturer	Aclara	Robert Steele ☎
9.	Manufacturer	Chameleon	Nick Bond
10.	Manufacturer	Flonidan	Dave Kerr
11.	Manufacturer	GEO	Ferenc Vanhoutte ☎
12.	Manufacturer	Holley Technology	Tony Hart
13.	Manufacturer	Itron UK	Peter Thorold ☎
14.	Manufacturer	Landis & Gyr	Elias Hanna
15.	Manufacturer	Landis & Gyr	Robin Annett
16.	Manufacturer	Metersit srl	Giovanni D'Alberton ☎
17.	MAP	Macquarie Energy Leasing	Jason Brogden
18.	Supplier	British Gas	Will Leacock
19.	Supplier	EDF Energy	Martin Bell
20.	Supplier	EON	Jonathan Brennan
21.	Supplier	SSE	Martin Hanley
22.	Supplier	Utility Warehouse	Leon Wright
23.	Trade Association	EUA	Gary Cottrell