

Data and Communications Functions workshop 8 March 2010

**Text from flipcharts used at main feedback sessions
and in the various breakout sessions**

**N.B. All content is as produced by the Stakeholders
and does not represent a preferred option or view
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GROUP 1

Morning summary (Scope of Activities)

- Vision – the minimum to support industry processes, and gas/electricity convergence, including:
 - Access Control
 - Registration
 - Data retrieval
 - Storage
- Transition:
 - There is no “no change” option
 - Must be Greenfield
 - Trade offs may be analysed (results may be counterintuitive)
 - No legacy data until tipping point
- Settlement:
 - There is a need for review
 - There is a need to align ToU tariffs with cost allocation/drivers
- Service Levels
 - Mandate minimum services
 - Allow for additional services

Afternoon summary (CCP Structure and realisation)

- There must be single point of accountability
 - From consumer and supplier perspective
- Three key elements
 - Comms, data, industry processes
- Requirements for comms and data functions must be defined:
 - Define high level requirements and issue a Request for Information (RFI)
 - Shortlist proponents
- CCP needs to own and control WAN comms in the home
 - However, concerns around redress for consumers
- Draft licence and appoint a tendering body (i.e the Programme or existing industry body)
 - Suppliers should have appropriate influence
 - Three-pronged approach – a licence, a Code and a Service Level Agreement (SLA)
- The Code governance should involve:
 - Appropriate mix of stakeholders
 - Regulatory oversight
 - Industry influence over performance and change processes

GROUP 2

Morning summary (Scope of Activities)

- Services – connectivity and access only, Central Communications Provider (CCP) must be minimal size.
- Industry processes – many industry participants are affected by these processes so little change is preferable.
- Minimum position - interfaces into existing processes must be defined.
- Change of supplier – the majority of problems will be solved by accurate reading on moving house / changing supplier. Mass meter change will enable standing data (meter point registration) to be cleaned up – although the process must be designed to do so.
- Small to Medium Energy consumers (SMEs) – these should be included in the scope of the CCP as networks need to see the full picture of usage.
- Half hourly (HH) reads – whether they should be mandated or not is a separate debate. The only impact on CCP will be the volume of data traffic.

Afternoon summary (CCP Structure and realisation)

- CCP should have “coordinating” role – but the intended scope is unclear
- CCP should have centrally organized governance (SLA management of non-functional service reviews), but not necessarily operational centralisation (procurement / service delivery / service assurance)
- Operational execution should be carried out by one or more agents and / or aggregators – supplier choice must remain
- RFI / RFP is required for CCP ASAP
- Suppliers / DNO requirements are very different and need to be considered together to define requirements for CCP
- Comms module – suppliers do not consider this as their domain. Software and hardware should be regarded as separate and ownership allocated appropriately.

GROUP 3

Morning summary (Scope of Activities)

- Key question: When and what is Day 1?
- Vision (end game) for CCP:
 - Thick - access, Data Retrieval (DR), Data Collection (DC), Data Aggregation (DA)
 - Value added services as per customer need
 - Criticality of enabling smart grids
 - But, competition and innovation concerns
- Day 1:
 - Critical dependencies and plan need to be determined
 - A viable option for graded approach must be established
- Critical dependencies:
 - Decision on the HAN standard
 - Minimum meter functional specification
 - Decision on comms requirements (e.g. frequency of access)
 - Clarity on scope - Industrial and Commercial (I&C), SMEs
 - Does CCP need to support multiple comms to avoid stranding?

Afternoon summary (CCP Structure and realisation)

- Structure

<i>Option</i>	<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
Comms and data together	Clarity of responsibility/availability	Lag on data requirements Innovation/competition High sunk cost risk
Comms and data separate	Different skills Timescales – contract lengths may be different More open to competition	Lack of clarity Need for Integration
Multiple comms	Variability on timing	Lack of clarity How do you know which comms provider to go to? Who defines the interface?
Multiple data providers	Value in data competition Enables ESCOs Uses systems already developed	Complexity around industry processes
WAN home module – CCP should own	Expertise in the right place	Practical issues on meter integration

- Realisation
 - Licensed; procurement by a separate formal body
 - Early RFI based on requirements
 - NO technology mandate
 - Depends on what/when
 - Use of existing bodies
 - +ve knowledge and capability
 - ve overstretched
 - Data is most important, but doesn't have to lead

GROUP 4

Morning summary (Scope of Activities)

- “Day 1” concept is less helpful than viewing the programme as a continuum with milestones
- Need to understand vision and end target, including:
 - Efficiency for suppliers
 - Demand response and extensibility
 - Requirement “buckets”
- Meter Specification must be defined ASAP to mitigate stranding
- Comms. solution should support HH meter readings for flexibility
- Network Requirements:
 - Planning Data / Smart Grid policy
 - Subject to Cost Benefit Analysis / Cost recovery
- Need to consider demand response for multiple stakeholders
- Electricity and Gas harmonisation:
 - Yes for Comms. and Access control
 - Maintain single fuel flexibility
- Consistency with DECC policy
 - Allow for existing advanced meter developments
 - I&C market already advanced/ smart

Afternoon summary (CCP Structure and realisation)

- Important to retain focus on the £4.80 / home per year cost challenge for WAN connection, and £15 unit installation
- National Comms considerations:
 - Benchmarking of performance
 - Contestability
 - Single Point of Contact
- Scope of data services, could tender:
 - Only Data
 - Only Comms
 - Lot 3 Combined
- Timescales:
 - Single organisation implies internal debate
 - External interface implies easier to split / change subsequently
- Single installation:
 - Meter Operators (MOs) could do the work at the premises
 - Fault scenarios need careful consideration
- Second Comms HAN (VAS services)
- Demarcation:
 - Consider drivers for gateway ‘vs’ integrated comms with meter
 - Ownership, Comms evolution, innovation
- Realisation options:
 - New licence (Ofgem/ Ofcom)
 - Industry Code (6 to 12 months)
 - Hybrid option - DECC/ Ofgem creation (Define RFI, Procure, Operate) followed by industry progression