

## **Call for evidence: Review of the regulatory arrangements for the Data Communications Company – Siemens Response**

Siemens is a global technology business with core competencies in meter data management. We are an accredited Non-Half Hourly and Half Hourly Meter Operator (MOP), Data Collector & Aggregator (DC/DA) and provide a range of other products which rely upon robust smart metering communications. As a supplier agent we provide our services to a range of residential and non-domestic energy suppliers and directly to non-domestic customers. Therefore, the Data Communications Company (DCC) operations and future scope is important to our business.

Siemens recognises the value of a centralised communications infrastructure to support smart metering in the domestic sector. Standardisation here is key to supporting a fully functioning competitive market. That said, standardisation has come at a cost, as the DCC experiences ongoing delays in accommodating SMETS1 meters and managing the stability of the core technology.

Whilst we support the development of centralised communications in the domestic sector and would be open to exploring a robust business case for incorporating domestic EV charging into the DCC infrastructure, Siemens believes that there should be clear limits to any expansion in role. In order to facilitate a smart grid in the fastest and most cost-effective way, the DCC role should be limited to a secure communications provider, enabling other parties to innovate and build services around this.

In order to ensure innovation and healthy competition, more should be done to consider the development of DCC roles. Here Siemens would like to reinforce our concerns regarding non-domestic customers and an inability to support the full installation and commissioning process. Such restrictions will hinder competition and we are hopeful that this can be addressed through the new Mandatory Half Hourly Settlement Target Operating Model through the role of Meter Data Retrieval (MDR).

Siemens strongly believe that any additional services developed by the DCC should be restricted solely to communications provision. In our opinion, the DCC's role should always be that of a facilitator. We are opposed to the DCC offering any data driven value add services, given its impact upon competition, innovation, and time to market. The DCC's 'Data for Good' paper published in March, appears to align with our position and focuses on the provision of access to data.

If you wish to discuss this response in greater detail, please contact:

Nick Jones

[nicholas.jones@siemens.com](mailto:nicholas.jones@siemens.com)