Draft Change Proposal – BSCP40/01

DCP No: 0045

Version No: 1.0

(mandatory by BSCCo)

Title (mandatory by originator)

Maintenance of Outstation Type Information

Description of Problem/Issue (mandatory by originator)

'Outstation Type' is a data item contained within the D0268 Half Hourly (HH) Meter Technical Details flow and is used by HH Meter Operators (MOs) and HH Data Collectors (DCs) to specify and determine which protocols must be used in order to dial into a particular Outstation. It is defined in the MRA Data Transfer Catalogue (DTC) as a three-character identifier, along with a Valid Set of available codes.

Outstation Types are not generic but rather act as references to specific Outstation makes and models, as in practice most metering communication protocols are manufacturer-specific. However, this means that when a new piece of equipment enters the market, it may not be properly represented by the Valid Set and so the HHDC may not be able to tell which protocol should be used. This will prevent them from dialling in to the Outstation.

At present, altering the Valid Set requires a formal change to the DTC, yet new equipment may be introduced at any time, outside the DTC release timescales. The result is that the Valid Set will often be out of date, and participants will frequently have to resort to manual workarounds in order to transfer the necessary information.

Justification for Change (mandatory by originator)

The current arrangements prevent new equipment from being used properly in the market. These approaches would allow Outstation information to be kept more up to date and, in so doing, will make it easier for participants to make use of new equipment.

SVG rejected CP1282 so that other notification options such as utilising the MDD Change Process could be considered. These options are detailed below.

Proposed Solution(s) (mandatory by originator)

We would appreciate your views on each of the following options:

Option 1 (CP1282)

- ELEXON establish Outstation Type during Protocol Testing
- ELEXON publish codes in an Approval List (on the ELEXON website) and notify industry (Newscast or similar)
- Valid Set removed from DTC and replaced with a reference to the Approval List

Option 2 (notification via MDD Change Request)

- ELEXON establish Outstation Type during Protocol Testing
- ELEXON publish codes in the Approval List on the ELEXON website
- ELEXON create a non-database MDD entity for Outstation Type
- ELEXON submit MDD Change Requests that go out for impact assessment and approval to SVG
- Valid Set removed from DTC and replaced with a reference to the Approval List and/or MDD

Option 3 (minimal change)

- ELEXON establishes Outstation Type during Protocol Testing
- ELEXON publish codes in Approval List (on the ELEXON website) and notify industry (Newscast or similar)

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ELEXON raise DTC changes to put any new codes into the DTC Valid Set

Option 4 (hybrid of options 2 and 3)

- ELEXON establishes Outstation Type during Protocol Testing
- ELEXON publish codes in the Approval List on ELEXON website
- ELEXON create a non-database MDD entity (called Charge Codes)
- ELEXON submit MDD Change Requests that go out for impact assessment and approval to SVG
- ELEXON raise a DTC change to put any new codes into the DTC Valid Set

Option 5 (full MDD change)

- ELEXON establishes Outstation Type during Protocol Testing
- ELEXON publish codes in Approval List on the ELEXON website
- ELEXON create a formal database MDD entity
- ELEXON submit MDD Change Requests that go out for impact assessment and approval to SVG
- Valid Set removed from DTC and replaced with a reference to MDD

Option 5 could be delivered in 3 different ways:

- **Option 5A**: proposes creating a new internal flow. The Logica costs for this option are approximately £62k. This option would mean that there is no impact on the D0269 and D0270; however, it is likely to be more reliant on manual work than options 5B and 5C.
- **Option 5B**: proposes adding a new database table to the D0269 and D0270 flows, by decommissioning v002. The Logica implementation cost is estimated to be £110k. This cost is higher due to an increased impact on NHHDA and SVAA systems.
- **Option 5C**: proposes adding a new database table to the D0269 and D0270 flows by decommissioning V004. The Logica implementation cost would be around £63k.

Of all the options presented in the DCP, only option 5 has an impact on Logica.

Option 6 (do nothing)

- No action taken by ELEXON
- Advise Parties to use existing methods to update DTC, and use agreed workarounds in the interim

Version History (mandatory by BSCCo)

This is v1.0 for impact assessment.

This issue was originally highlighted in CP1282. However, CP1282 was rejected by SVG, so that all of the options could be considered (via this DCP). Please refer to the SVG 100 Minutes and CP1282 webpage for more information on the history of this issue.

Has this DCP been raised for discussion by a Working Group (optional by originator):

No

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Date......03 July 2009.....

Attachments: Yes

Attachment A Pros and Cons table for the options (3 pages)