PROTOCOL APPROVALS – IMSERV (CDCA)

MEETING NAME	ISG 216

Date of meeting	23 April 2018
Paper number	216/04
Owner/author	Mike Smith
Purpose of paper	Information
Classification	Public
Summary	In July 2018 IMServ Europe Ltd (IMServ), in its role as data collector for the Central Data Collection Agent (CDCA), applied for protocol approval for the Elster A1700, Schneider Electric ION 7650 and the Iskraemeco MT375 integral Outstation Meter types. In August 2018 and March 2019 we witnessed the protocol testing IMServ conducted, using its data collection software, EIServer. We invite the ISG to note that, following successful protocol testing, we issued IMServ (as the CDCA) with Certificates of Protocol Approval for these three integral Outstation Meter types. We also notified industry about these protocol approvals via our Newscast publication and updated the 'Code of Practice (CoP) Compliance and Protocol Approval' list on the BSC Website. We presented a similar information paper to the Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG) about these protocol approvals, notifications and the update, in relation to IMServ's role as a Half Hourly Data Collector (HHDC), at its meeting (SVG218) on 2 April 2019.

1. Background

1.1 An Outstation is a device that stores data (e.g. Half Hourly (HH) data and alarms) from a Meter, or Meters, for later transmission to a Half Hourly Data Collector (HHDC) or the Central Data Collection Agent (CDCA). An Outstation may be integral to, or separate from, a Meter.

1.2 A protocol, in the context of an Outstation, is the set of rules (or language) governing the communication of data between the Outstation and any other device connected to it. The manufacturer of the Outstation usually designs the protocol.

2. BSC requirements

2.1 Each HH Code of Practice (CoP) (i.e. CoPs 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10) requires Outstation data to be to a format and protocol approved by the BSC Panel in accordance with BSCP601 'Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing'.

2.2 In order for the BSC Panel to approve the protocol for an Outstation type, the protocol must undergo testing with each Data Collector (DC) that wishes to collect data from that Outstation type for use in Settlement. Testing will verify that the DC can properly communicate with, and retrieve data from, the Outstation using their data collection instation (i.e. a computer).

2.3 Under BSCP601, ELEXON is responsible for agreeing a suitable test script with each DC and for witnessing the DC's protocol testing. In the event of successful testing, ELEXON needs to:

- issue a Certificate(s) of Protocol Approval to the applicant (usually the DC, but it can be the Outstation manufacturer) on behalf of the BSC Panel;
- update the 'Codes of Practice (CoP) Compliance and Protocol Approvals' list on the BSC Website;

- notify BSC Parties and BSC Party Agents of the protocol approvals (via our Newscast publication); and
- notify the BSC Panel (i.e. the relevant BSC Panel Committees, namely the ISG and the Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG)) of Certificate(s) of Protocol Approval we issue and updates we make to the Protocol Approvals list.

3. Protocol Approval applications – IMServ (HHDC)

3.1 In July 2018 ELEXON received two protocol approval applications[1] from IMServ Europe Ltd (IMServ), in the role of data collector for the CDCA[2] (and as an HHDC itself), for the following integral Outstation Meter types:

- Elster A1700 – we witnessed the protocol testing on 17 August 2018;
- Schneider Electric ION 7650 - we witnessed the protocol testing on 17 August 2018; and
- Iskraemeco MT375 - we witnessed the protocol testing on 8 March 2019.

3.2 Following successful protocol testing, we issued IMServ with Certificates of Protocol Approval for the Elster A1700, Schneider Electric ION 7650 and the Iskraemeco MT375, using their data collection software, EIServer 8.11, running on Windows.

4. Update and notifications

4.1 In March 2019, we:

- published an updated version (v52.0) of the 'Code of Practice (CoP) Compliance and Protocol Approval' list to include these protocol approvals; and
- issued Newscast articles[3] notifying BSC Parties and BSC Party Agents of the protocol approvals.

4.2 Since IMServ undertakes the role of an HHDC, using the same data collection software (EIServer) for these integral Outstation Meter types, we presented a similar information paper to the SVG about these protocol approvals, notifications and the update, at its meeting (SVG218/03) on 2 April 2019.

5. Recommendations

5.1 We invite you to:

a) **NOTE** we issued IMServ Europe Ltd (in the role of data collector for the CDCA) with Certificates of Protocol Approval for the Elster A1700, Schneider Electric ION 7650 and the Iskraemeco MT375 integral Outstation Meter types;

b) **NOTE** we updated the 'CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval' list to include these protocol approvals;

c) **NOTE** we issued Newscast articles notifying BSC Parties and BSC Party Agents of the protocol approvals; and

d) **NOTE** we presented a similar information paper to the SVG about these protocol approvals, notifications and the update, in relation to IMServ Europe Ltd's role as an HHDC, at its meeting (SVG218) on 2 April 2019.

For more information, please contact:

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[1] One covering the Elster A1700 and the Schneider Electric ION 7650 and one covering the Iskraemeco MT375.
[2] IMServ performs this role on behalf of CGI.
[3] Issues 744 (Iskraemeco MT375) and 745 (Elster A1700 and the Schneider Electric ION 7650).

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