

## Protocol Approval – BT Plc (BTUK)

### Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG)

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#### Summary

**On 21 October 2020, we received an application from the Half Hourly Data Collector (HHDC), BT Plc (BTUK), for protocol approval of the Elster A1700 and A1140 (integral Outstation) Meter types. On 17 February 2021, we witnessed the protocol testing, using BTUK's, BTUK Meter Data Collection System. We invite the SVG to note that following successful protocol testing we issued Certificates of Protocol Approval to BT Plc for the Elster A1700 and A1140 (integral Outstation) Meter types.**

### 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, 6 and 10) requires Outstation data to be to a format and protocol approved by the BSC Panel in accordance with [BSCP601](#)<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2 In order for the BSC Panel to approve<sup>2</sup> 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 '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 SVG and the Imbalance Settlement Group (ISG)) of Certificate(s) of Protocol Approval we issue and updates we make to the CoP Compliance and Protocol Approvals list.

<sup>1</sup> 'Metering Protocol Approval and Compliance Testing'

<sup>2</sup> Under the [BSC Baseline Statement](#), the BSC Panel has delegated responsibility for BSCP601 to its BSC Panel Committees, the Supplier Volume Allocation Group and the Imbalance Settlement Group. Under BSCP601, since [CP1174](#) was implemented in June 2007, if protocol approval testing is successful, Elexon can issue a Certificate of Protocol Approval to an applicant. Prior to June 2007 Elexon had to seek a decision from the relevant BSC Panel Committee before issuing a Certificate of Protocol Approval (or a Certificate of Compliance) to an applicant.

### 3. Protocol Approval application – BT Plc (BTUK)

3.1 In October 2020 Elexon received a protocol approval application from BT Plc (BTUK), in the role of an HHDC, for the following integral Outstation Meter types:

- Elster A1700
- Elster A1140

3.2 Following successful protocol testing, we issued BT Plc with Certificates of Protocol Approval for the A1700 and A1140, using their data collection software, BTUK Meter Data Collection System.

### 4. Updates and notifications

4.1 In March 2021, we:

- Published an updated version (53.0) of the '[CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval](#)' list to include these protocol approvals; and
- Issued [Newscast](#) articles notifying BSC Parties and BSC Party Agents of the protocol approvals.

### 5. Recommendations

5.1 We invite you to:

- a) **NOTE** we issued BT Plc (BTUK) with Certificates of Protocol Approval for the A1700 and A1140;
- b) **NOTE** we updated the 'CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval' list to include these protocol approvals; and
- c) **NOTE** we issued Newscast articles notifying BSC Parties and BSC Party Agents of the protocol approvals.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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