ELEXON

Metering Protocol Approvals – Energy Assets, Stark Software International and TESGL

Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG)

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Summary | **Energy Assets Group Limited (EAHH), Stark Software International Ltd (SSIL) and TESGL Limited (TESG) have applied for Protocol Approval for various integral Outstation Meter types. SSIL has also informed us of amendments to its data collection software. We invite the SVG to note that; we have issued Certificates of Protocol Approval to EAHH and SSIL; updated the Code of Practice Compliance and Protocol Approval list with these approvals and added TESG to the list; and issued Newscast articles covering these approvals, including TESG's, and SSIL's data collection software amendments.**

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[1].

2.2 In order for the BSC Panel to approve[2] the protocol for an Outstation type, the protocol must undergo testing with each HHDC (or the CDCA) that wishes to collect data from that Outstation type for use in Settlement. Testing will verify that the HHDC (or the CDCA) can properly communicate with, and retrieve data from, the Outstation using their data collection instation (i.e. a computer). This is done by comparing the data retrieved using the HHDC's (or CDCA's) data collection instation, with the data retrieved using the Outstation manufacturer's software.

2.3 Under BSCP601, Elexon is responsible for agreeing a suitable test script with each HHDC (or the CDCA) and for witnessing the HHDC's (or the CDCA's) protocol testing. In the event of successful testing, Elexon needs to:

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[1] 'Metering Protocol and Compliance Testing'

[2] 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.

- Issue a Certificate(s) of Protocol Approval to the applicant (usually the HHDC (or the CDCA), 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/or the Imbalance Settlement Group (ISG)) of Certificates of Protocol Approval we issue and updates we make to the CoP Compliance and Protocol Approvals list.

3. Protocol Approval application – Energy Assets Group Limited (EAHH)

3.1 In April 2021, Energy Assets Group Limited (EAHH) applied for protocol approval for the following integral Outstation Meter types, using its data collection software, Connexo v10.8, running on Microsoft's Azure (OPS) platform:

- EDMI Mk10;
- EDMI Mk7;
- Honeywell/Elster A1700/A1700i;
- Honeywell/Elster A1140; and
- Honeywell/Elster AS230.

3.2 Since the protocol for the EDMI Mk10 and Mk7 is already approved using Connexo v10.8[3], we asked EAHH to satisfy itself that the protocol was successfully implemented on their platform (Azure (OPS)). Following successful testing for the Mk10 and Mk7, EAHH provided us copies of its test reports on 13 August 2021. We reviewed the test reports, confirmed the testing was successful and we issued a Certificate of Protocol Approval to EAHH for the Mk10 and Mk7 on 21 September 2021.

3.3 For the Honeywell/Elster A1700/A1700i and the A1140, we witnessed successful testing on 19 October 2021. We issued Certificates of Protocol Approval to EAHH for the Honeywell/Elster A1700/A1700i and A1140 on 21 January 2022.

3.4 Following successful testing for the Honeywell/Elster AS230, EAHH provided us a copy of its test report on 14 January 2022. We reviewed the test report, confirmed the testing was successful and we issued a Certificate of Protocol Approval to EAHH for the Honeywell/Elster AS230 on 21 January 2022.

3.5 In January 2022, we updated the CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval list (v61.0) and published a Newscast article (889) for the protocol approval of the integral Outstation Meter types list above, under EAHH.

4. Protocol Approvals – Stark Software International Ltd (SSIL)

4.1 Protocol Approval application – EM-Lite EMA1

4.1.1 In September 2021, Stark Software International Ltd (SSIL) applied for protocol approval for the EM-Lite EMA1 integral Outstation Meter type, using its Reality v8.0 data collection software, running on Windows 10.

4.1.2 We witnessed successful testing on 24 November 2021 and issued a Certificate of Protocol Approval to SSIL on 29 November 2021.

4.2 Protocol Approval – data collection software amendments

4.2.1 In October 2020, we received a letter from SSIL confirming that it had moved the following integral Outstation Meter types from its Reality v7.0 data collection software, to its Reality v8.0 data collection software:

- Elster A1700 (Vision);
- Elster A1140;
- Elster AS230;
- EDMI Mk 10; and
- EDMI Mk 7a-7c.

4.2.2 In December 2021, we received an additional letter from SSIL (also covering the above integral Outstation Meter types) confirming that it had also moved the following integral Outstation Meter types from its Reality v7.0 data collection software, to its Reality v8.0 data collection software:

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[3] Following successful witness testing, we issued Certificates of Protocol Approval, for the EDMI Mk10 and Mk7 integral Outstation Meter types, to Callisto Data Limited (MDSL) on 13 May 2021.

- Elster PPM Issue 1;
- Elster PPM Issue 2;
- PRI/Secure Calmu 3+;
- PRI/Secure Sprint;
- PRI/Secure Premier;
- PRI/Secure Calmu Link;
- Iskraemeco MT375; and
- Cewe Prometer R/W.

4.2.3 SSIL confirmed that, as with any update, Reality 8 has undergone its standard regression testing process, in line with ISO 27001[4], to ensure the protocols are unaffected and output the same results as Reality 7. Reality 7 and Reality 8 run collection in parallel to feed into the same existing system, infrastructure and processes.

4.3 In January 2022, we updated the CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval list (v60.0) and published a Newscast article ([888](#)) for the protocol approval for the EM-Lite EMA1 integral Outstation Meter type, and the amendments to the data collection software for the integral Outstation Meter types list above, under SSIL.

5.   Protocol Approval application – TESGL Limited (TESG)

5.1 In December 2021, TESGL Limited (TESG)[5] applied for protocol approval so their Market Participant ID (MPID), TESG, could be added to the CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval list.

5.2 TESG will subcontract all remote data collection, and data collection via site visit, to TMA Data Management Ltd (TMA). Since the protocols for the integral Outstation Meter types dialled under MDR (v3.4) have already been approved, and Certificates of Protocol Approval have already been supplied to TMA, we did not issue TESG with any Certificates of Protocol Approval (contrary to what we said in the Newscast article referred to below).

5.3 In January 2022, we updated the CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval list (v60.0) and published a Newscast article ([887](#)) for the protocol approval application under TESG.

6.   Recommendations

6.1 We invite you to:

a) **NOTE** we issued Energy Assets Group Limited (EAHH), a Half Hourly Data Collector, with Certificates of Protocol Approval for the EDMI Mk10 and Mk7 and the Honeywell/Elster A1700/A1700i, A1140 and AS230 integral Outstation Meter types;

b) **NOTE** we issued Stark Software International Ltd (SSIL), a Half Hourly Data Collector, with a Certificate of Protocol Approval for the EM-Lite EMA1 integral Outstation Meter type;

c) **NOTE** TESGL Limited (TESG), a Half Hourly Data Collector, will be using TMA Data Management Ltd (TMA) for its data collection, using approved protocols within TMA's MDR (v3.4) data collection software;

d) **NOTE** we updated the 'CoP Compliance and Protocol Approval' list to include the protocol approvals for EAHH and SSIL, added an entry for TESG and amended the relevant data collection system entries for SSIL; and

e) **NOTE** we issued Newscast articles notifying BSC Parties and BSC Party Agents of the protocol approvals for EAHH and SSIL and updates for the TESG protocol approval application and the SSIL data collection system amendments.

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[4] 'Information Security Management'
[5] TESG Limited (TESG) is an independent arm of SSE Energy Solutions. SSE Energy Solutions is a trading name of SSE Heat Networks Limited which is part of the SSE Group.