

iGT-UNC047 Work Group Report

Data Items Relevant to Smart Metering File Flows

15 March 2013

Background

On 12th June 2012, a modification was raised to ensure that iGTs and shippers flowed the relevant smart data items required by iGTs, shippers and the Data Communications Company (DCC), in order to facilitate the mass roll out of smart meters and the commencement of the DCC. The modification was sent to development by the iGT-UNC panel.

It was agreed that the development should run in parallel to the large transporter's mirror mod, UNC430. The group met twice in joint work groups with the UNC430 work group and on three separate occasions as a standalone iGT047 group.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.igt-unc.co.uk/Modifications/Open+Modifications/iGT047DG>

Summary of key discussions

Below is a summary of the key discussions that took place in the iGT047DG. For more detailed descriptions of the specific issues, please refer to the latest version of the 'Discussion Points' spreadsheet (found by following the link above).

Foundation & effective switching requirements

Opinions of the group were split over what changes to the iGT-UNC would be necessary in order for suppliers to meet their smart switching obligations (prior to April 2014). The requirement is that shippers will need to see the Meter Mechanism Code and Installing Supplier ID (from June 2013) and later, the SMSO ID (from October 2013).

It was noted that the requirements would last for a period of 10 months (prior to the enduring solution going live in April 2014) and that there would likely be limited smart metering activity on iGT networks during that time. It was accepted that 2 shippers were installing smart meters on iGT networks and that not all iGTs were proactively installing smart meters on their networks. One proposal was not to include any changes to the code and for the two shippers concerned to send the 3 data items for all smart supply points to the relevant iGTs on an ad hoc basis (i.e. a monthly spreadsheet).

An alternative suggestion was made to include obligations on all shippers to send iGTs the 3 data items and for all iGTs to capture and store the data items.

The 047 modification reflects the proposal not to make changes to the iGT-UNC.

Permission to send data to the DCC

Discussions took place around the appropriate permissions needed for the iGTs to share the relevant smart data with the DCC. It was agreed that the legal text in the iGT-UNC should mirror the UNC430 text.

It was suggested that the iGT-UNC permissions should reference that fact that iGTs would be carrying this out via a third party agent – in this case Xoserve. This suggestion will be reflected in the legal text to be produced by the iGTs for the Draft Modification Report.

File format & transfer of data

The group discussed the possible approaches that could be taken for transferring the smart relevant data items (both new and existing) between shippers and iGTs. Early discussions centred around whether new or existing flows should be used.

Shippers and iGTs agreed that a new file flow would be easier to implement, and that it should be a common format used across all parties. This prompted the development of an Ancillary Document, containing the details of the proposed file.

To date, the group have agreed that one file, an 'SMU' – smart meter update file, should be sent daily from shippers to iGTs and iGTs to shippers, containing any updates to the data (as a result of a change of supply, a meter exchange, a change in the DCC Service Flag status, etc). This file will need to be sent daily and will be in a .csv format.

Within the SMU file, there will be three record types, each containing the relevant smart data items:

- 01 – Current shipper to iGT
- 02 – iGT to current shipper
- 03 – iGT to proposed shipper

With regards to validation, the group agreed that the parties' systems should not contain any validation on the data items transferred within the SMU (although record types may need to be validated in order to ensure that the appropriate record type is being sent to the appropriate party at the right time). This aligns with UNC430.

Retrospective population of data

It was agreed that:

1. Meter Mech Code and Installing Supplier ID could be populated by the iGT in conjunction with the relevant shipper (given that the majority of smart meters on iGT networks will have been installed by the iGTs), prior to June 2013, and;
2. The issue of retrospective population of the SMSO ID, Supplier IDs and any new smart relevant data items be discussed at and picked up by the iGT-Shipper Workgroup.

Funding

Certain shipper parties in the development group felt the issue fell outside the scope of iGT047 and that it was a separate matter that needed to involve Ofgem. iGTs agreed to take the matter offline with Ofgem.

The matter was addressed again at the development group held on Friday 5th April. The shippers present accepted that, in principle, the cost of iGTs' IX connections should be borne by shipper parties, given that this was the solution for the large GTs. With this agreement, together with a handful of potential mechanisms for apportioning these costs, iGTs stated that they were comfortable with the modification progressing.

Commercial arrangements between iGTs and Xoserve

All parties agreed that iGTs and Xoserve would need to develop and agree terms outside of the iGT047 development work.

Implementation

The group agreed that the implementation of iGT047 needed to align with the UNC430 modification. Since the UNC modification refers to a 'designation date' that will be determined by the UK Link Committee, it would be beneficial if the iGT-UNC panel understood what that date is prior to the Authority's decision. This date will fall on or before 1st April 2014.

It is likely that aligning implementation with UNC430 will require an extraordinary release of the iGT-UNC (in addition to the standard releases). The group agreed that the panel will need to decide on this.

iGT047 consultation prior to the completion of the Ancillary Document

Given the timescales, the group acknowledged the need to get the iGT047 modification proposal back to the panel as soon as possible. With the work taking place within the UK Link Committee likely to continue for a number of months and the number of outstanding issues needing to be addressed by DECC (when they expect to receive updates, the security expectations surrounding the SMU file, etc.), the group agreed that the completed modification proposal should go to the April panel, prior to the Ancillary Document being completed.

As a result of this, the development group agreed to continue to meet in order to complete the development of the iGT047 Ancillary Document.

Recommendation to iGT UNC panel

The panel is invited to consider both the iGT047 modification proposal and this report, together with the development group's recommendation to send the modification proposal out to consultation.

The development group also requests that the panel considers whether it would be appropriate to shorten the modification process in order to allow more time for parties to develop the changes necessary to meet a Q1 2013 implementation date. The group considers that this is a reasonable

approach taking into account the extensive discussion that has already taken place in the development group.

Finally, the panel is requested to agree to continue the work of the iGT047DG until such a time as the Ancillary Document has been finalised and agreed upon by group members. The Ancillary Document will be presented to the panel during a month that coincides with its completion.