

DCMDG Private Networks Subgroup Meeting 04

16 January 2024 at 11:00

Teleconference via Microsoft Teams

Attendees	Company
Brian Clark [BC]	SSE
Chris Ong [CO] part meeting	UKPN
Dave Wornell [DW]	National Grid
Diandra Orodan [DO]	BU-UK
Edda Dirks [ED]	SSE Gen
Eleanor Suter [ES]	BU-UK
Giao Le [GL]	SSE
Joe Boyle [JB]	SPEN
Kara Burke [KB]	NPg
Sally Musaka [SM]	SSE
Victoria Burkett [VB]	SSE
Secretariat	
Dylan Townsend [DT] (Chair)	ElectraLink
Alysson Peña [AP] (TechSec)	ElectraLink
Apologies	
Lee Stone [LS]	EON

1. Administration

- 1.1 The group reviewed the DCUSA “Competition Law Guidance” and agreed to be bound by this for the duration of the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair noted one apology to this meeting.
- 1.3 The Working Group did not review minutes from previous meeting due to a technical error, these were however The Chair was able to share these minutes on screen and gave a summary to the Working Group.

ACTION 04/01: The Secretariat to circulate minutes from DCMDG Subgroup 01 - Meeting 03 with the working group and to upload correct version on the website.

2. Purpose of meeting

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed the DCMDG attendees to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the output of previously agreed actions with respect to the output of research conducted by the Secretariat and then to review the draft RFI as was agreed would be produced by the Secretariat.

3. Review output of research into:

- 3.1 The Chair presented the information sources found thus far, collated in a document which included the contact information of different companies who potentially operate in the private networks space or are otherwise associated with private networks.
- 3.2 It was noted that this document was a work in progress and would be updated until the point in time that the group was ready to issue their RFI.
- 3.3 It was noted that members had no comments on this document.

4. Review of Draft RFI

- 4.1 Prior to reviewing the draft RFI that had been circulated shortly before the meeting, some members shared their concerns that the sub-group isn't necessarily working towards the desired outcome and suggested that the sub-group would benefit from more clarity on what it is the sub-group is trying to achieve. A suggestion was noted that a terms of reference be created to guide the group on both its direction generally as well as the content and questions in the RFI.
- 4.2 Further to the above and as captured in action 02/03, related to clarification from Ofgem on the scope of the sub-group, members of the sub-group expressed their desire to ensure that Ofgem's steer on the work of the sub-group is clear. With respect to the suggestion for the creation of a terms of reference, it was agreed that they should be created with input from or at the very least reviewed by Ofgem. The sub-group believes that this will make it absolutely clear what the sub-group is trying to achieve and how they should go about doing it. The Chair noted that that any committee or group set up under the auspices of the Panel are effectively sub-committees of the Panel themselves and therefore it would be appropriate for the Panel to have final approval of the terms of reference created for the sub-group.
- 4.3 The Chair noted all the discussions and suggestions and agreed to take these forward for the sub-group.
- 4.4 The Chair then sought views on the content of the draft RFI which was presented on screen. During their review of the document, the following points were noted:
 - The purpose statement on the front page should be updated to make it clearer to those who are responding, why they should read and subsequently respond to the RFI. It was noted that members had concerns that as currently drafted, the purpose statement is too broad which might put some potential respondents off or otherwise cause concern about the intent of the sub-groups work.

- Consideration needs to be given to the length of the document to ensure it doesn't present a barrier for potential respondents who may be time poor or who have resource constraints. One member suggested inserting an executive summary up to a page in length which restates the purpose and lists the questions. It was thought that this may present potential respondents with the option of answering the questions without having to read the entire document if they don't have the time or resource to allocate such tasks.
- Consideration needs to be given to how the sub-group intends to treat the information/data that is gathered as part of this exercise, especially as what the sub-group are requesting could be considered as commercially sensitive to some businesses. It was agreed that further detail near the start of the document should be added to explain upfront how the sub-group intends to process such data, and how potential respondents could opt out.
- One member suggested the inclusion of a reference to DCP328 should be added, to which the Chair explained that it was currently drafted in such a way as to avoid the need to refer to DCUSA or other industry changes. The Chair went on to explain that this approach was used due to a view that whilst such references are useful to people who are up to speed with the inner workings of industry, it would be potentially quite overwhelming to anyone with less exposure and especially because changes such as DCP 328 were very complex and contained a vast array of additional attachments.
- One member suggested the inclusion of a reference to BSC modification P455, which was highlighted as being relevant during the last sub-group meeting. It was noted that P455 effectively creates a fourth option for third party supplier access.

ACTION 04/02: The Secretariat to circulate a Draft Terms of Reference document for the subgroup to review during the next meeting, in line with the approach in the minutes of meetin 04.

4.5 No further comments were made.

5. Agreed Next Steps

5.1 Members agreed that The Secretariat would continue to develop the RFI and for The Secretariat to work on the terms of reference document for working group members to review.

5.2 Members continued to consider it to be important that Ofgem feed in their views as to what they would like this workstream to achieve to be able to determine the scope of this work. Members noted that they would like a clear steer for the group to be confident in what they are doing.

6. Agenda items for next meeting

6.1 Members agreed to add the following items to the agenda for the next meeting:

- Review Draft RFI; and

- Review Terms of Reference.

7. Any other business (AOB)

- 7.1 The Chair asked for any other items of business.
- 7.2 There were no further items of business raised.

8. Date of Next Meeting

- 8.1 The Secretariat agreed to issue a doodle poll to Working Group members for the next DCMDG Subgroup 01 meeting (WG 05) – the potential dates will be from the week commencing 26 February 2024 onwards and the meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams/Teleconference.

9. Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Private Networks Contact List (work in progress)
- Attachment 2 – Draft RFI (work in progress)

Appendix A- Actions

New and Open Actions

Action Ref.	Action	Owner	Update
01/01	The Secretariat to follow-up with RC around an action from DCP 328 regarding contacts for LENs (PNs).	Secretariat	New Action. 09/10/23 – 16/01/24 – ongoing
02/01	The Chair to explore whether data can be requested/used from internal resources related to the MTC 997.	Chair/Secretariat	New Action. 16/01/24 – ongoing, leaving this action open is handy for upcoming meetings.
02/02	The Secretariat to continue develop the RFI and background research and issue to the working group for review.	Chair/Secretariat	New Action. 19/12/23 – 16/01/24 – ongoing, a draft RFI has been shared with working group.
02/03	The Chair to engage with Ofgem to relay the groups desire for a clear steer from Ofgem as to what they would like this workstream to achieve.	Chair/Secretariat	New Action. 19/12/23 – 16/01/24 – ongoing,
04/01	The Secretariat to circulate minutes from DCMDG Subgroup 01 - Meeting 03 with the working group and to upload correct version on the website.	Chair/Secretariat	New Action.
04/02	The Secretariat to circulate a Draft Terms of Reference document for DCMDG Subgroup 01 to working group members for review on the next meeting.	Chair/Secretariat	New Action.

Closed Actions

Action Ref.		Update	
01/02	The Secretariat to gather information around private networks and collate for the Working Group to review.	Secretariat	New Action. 09/10/23 – ongoing, an initial starting point has been shared with the working group. 16/01/24 – Closed, this is now reflected in the RFI
01/03	The Working Group to revisit whether these issues may impact transmission charging arrangements.	Working Group	New Action. 09/10/23 – 16/01/24 – closed, previously addressed. Not to say new issues could arise. Reference to CMP 425?