



Communication standards

AEMC

Market protocol – international

- ToR requires us to consider suitable internationally accepted protocols.
 - Are there any internationally accepted market or meter protocols that could be used as the common market protocol?
- Options – meter protocols
 - DLMS/COSEM generally regarded as the most advanced internationally accepted meter protocol, being used in many places in Europe and South East Asia
 - ANSI used in North America and Victoria

Market protocol – international

- Stakeholders views on DLMS and ANSI
 - DLMS generally regarded as more developed than ANSI
 - Market protocol should be services based, rather than function based
 - Innovation may be slow if new functions and services not already in DLMS, although many functions already exist in overseas implementations
- Options – market (services based) protocols
 - IEC 61968 is services based but not well developed yet

Market protocol – NEM specific

- Options – market (services based) protocols
 - Start with a clean sheet of paper
 - Build on the existing B2B hub
- Advantages of B2B
 - B2B already defines and implements a set of related services.
 - Governance arrangements already in place, although may require review
 - Likely to deliver an initial implantation more quickly than starting from scratch
 - Performance of existing system can be extended if required
- Recommend market protocol based on existing B2B arrangements

Should there be a single common market protocol for all communications for metering services?

- Paradox – stakeholders want
 - a common market protocol (efficiency and barriers to entry)
 - flexibility for new services (outside of common protocol)
- Interoperability promoted by a single common market protocol
- Enforcement of a single protocol etc may be difficult
- Innovation could be reduced if all new services need to be agreed prior to implementation
- Barrier to entry and competition
 - multiple protocols could allow flexibility
 - to allow new entrants access to essential meter services suggest recommending that B2B implementation must maintain capability for common functions in minimum functionality specification
- Gatekeeper (SMP) required to manage multiple points of entry?

What Governance framework should apply?

- NER sets out governance framework to allow flexibility
- Governance framework - options
 - AEMO procedures
 - Similar to metrology procedures etc
 - Existing consultation procedures
 - Industry body similar to IEC
 - Already used for B2B
 - Costs generally borne by industry – decisions likely to lead to efficient investment and operation costs

What Governance framework should apply?

- Governance framework - issues
 - Membership of industry body and advisory group
 - Needs to include all stakeholders (Retailers, DNSPs, MPs, MDPs, MC/SMP, Consumers, ESCOs)
 - Decisions likely to include public consultation and high level of transparency given increased range of stakeholders
 - Implementation would require changes to the NER
 - Transition
 - B2B currently used by retailers and DNSPs
 - Other web portals etc already in use
 - Applies generally, including Victoria

Should there be a common meter protocol?

- DLMS/COSEM
 - internationally acceptance high and offered by many vendors
 - not all implementations the same
- Interoperability of services maintained by a “common” market protocol
- Risk of poor investment decisions generally borne by investor, rather than consumers



Implementation

AEMC

APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION (i)

- Recommend that a rule change request be developed
- Outline areas to be addressed in rule change request
- Market protocol
 - Define market protocol
 - Require ‘gate keeper’ to provide ability to communicate via the market protocol [for minimum specifications]
 - Principles for the establishment of the market protocol
 - Principles for governance [we note existing provisions for IEC]

APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION (ii)

- Gate keeper role
 - Define/Assign responsibilities
 - Accreditation
 - Service level performance
 - Priorities and emergencies [link to minimum specifications]
- AEMC legal review to consider scope and whether any issues can be addressed as a part of the ‘competition in metering’ rule change request



Regulatory framework

AEMC

Overview

- The Supplementary Paper – Regulatory Framework addressed the following issues:
 1. Whether to regulate rights of access and access charges to smart meter functionality;
 2. DNSP access to smart meter functionality; and
 3. Accreditation of new ‘gatekeeper’ functions associated with the introduction of smart meters.
- Our recommendations relate to new and advanced functionality associated with smart meters - not metrology functions under chapter 7.7 of the NER. Third-party access to energy data will be the subject of a future rule change.
- We recognise that Victoria is unique to other jurisdictions and that transitional arrangements will be required to be developed and consulted on as part of another process (e.g. a rule change request, if required, to implement any recommendations from this review).