

# EASEE-gas

European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange - gas

## Common Business Practice

Number: 2017-001/01

Subject: Message Transmission Protocol for Document Exchange

Approved: 10-07-2017

### Summary

This Common Business Practice promotes the use of AS4 for the transmission of EDIG@S-XML documents.

## **ABOUT EASEE-GAS**

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*The European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange-gas or EASEE-gas was created by six founding members in Paris on March 14th, 2002. EASEE-gas' aim is to support the creation of an efficient and effective European gas market through the development and promotion of common business practices (CBPs) that intend to simplify and streamline business processes between the stakeholders.*

*The formation of EASEE-gas was prompted by the success of the Gas Industry Standards Board in the United States and has been modelled on it. The GISB has now evolved into the North American Energy Standards Board. The creation of EASEE-gas is a project that is fully supported by the European Commission and by the European Regulators through the so-called Madrid Forum. It was achieved through the work of a dedicated Task Force supported by EFET, Eurogas, Eurelectric, GEODE, GTE, OGP and the Edigas group.*

*The association is fundamentally based on company membership and voluntary contribution towards the development of common business practices.*

*Full membership in EASEE-gas is open to all companies, European or other, that are involved in the European gas business, from producers to end users, and to companies that are their service providers. Companies can subscribe to full membership in one or more of the eight gas industry segments.*

*Associate membership in EASEE-gas is open to government agencies, e.g., regulators, through to organisations such as gas business trade associations and to individuals that may contribute to the benefit of EASEE-gas. Associate members do not pay annual fees, nor do they have voting rights.*

*The development of common business practices within EASEE-gas is organised through working groups under the supervision of an executive committee that is representative of the various gas industry segments. Participation in the working groups is limited to members only.*

## **Common Business Practice 2017-001/01:** **"Message Transmission Protocol for Document Exchange"**

### **1. APPLICATION AREA**

The adoption of this Common Business Practice means that EASEE-gas members will use the proposed standard way of exchanging EDIG@S documents.

### **2. DESCRIPTION**

Starting from 2007 AS2 is a common business practice for exchanging EDIG@S documents in the EASEE-gas community, CBP 2007-001-02 on Message Transmission Protocol [CBP-2007-001-02]. For TSOs the "Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/703 of 30 April 2015 establishing a network code on interoperability and data exchange rules" is active. This means that for TSOs and their affected counterparties AS2 must be replaced by its successor AS4 [AS4]. The counterparties are defined in the network code: *"For the purposes of this Chapter, 'counterparties' means network users active at: (a) interconnection points; or (b) both interconnection points and virtual trading points."*

Furthermore, in general, it is also stated that the security techniques specified in AS2 aren't future proof. The solution is to use the AS4 protocol for all document exchange in the gas market with an appropriate profile (narrowed down set of settings). ENTSOG [AS4TSO] developed this profile based on the EASEE-gas (EDIG@S) standards .

This CBP therefore encourages EASEE-gas members to use the AS4 protocol with the ENTSOG profile starting ASAP, but before the end of 2018 and in addition the use of EASEE-gas certificates.

Furthermore the certificate exchange using AS4 and the central AS4 configuration management facility should be implemented when available.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

The implementation of this CBP shall be completed as soon as practical.

The network code states that TSOs have to ask their NRAs (national regulators) for how long the existing method (AS2) can be used. This resulted in different end dates for the current protocol per country: Germany, 1-2018 and Netherlands, 5-2018 but no known restrictions in other countries. In accordance with the ENTSOG Networkcode on Interoperability TSOs already have AS4 implemented as of May 2016.

This means that a lot of companies, active at interconnection points in D and NL, must have implemented AS4 as of the start of 2018. Since implementation of a new protocol and testing takes some time, companies should start at least 6 months

before implementation. It is advised that solely AS4 is used for EDIG@S document exchange before the end of 2018.

#### **4. TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED**

AS4 will be used as the document exchange technology, the specifications defined by ENTSOG in a specific profile will be used [AS4TSO].

ENTSOG also released a "Setting Up an AS4 System" document [AS4SETUP], the document is aimed at users that need to set up the AS4 protocol in their organisations and need a basic understanding of how B2B communication using AS4 integrates into IT environments.

##### *Certificates*

EASEE-gas digital security certificates should be used, for other certificates the CA and certificate can be approved by ENTSOG on request by an ENTSOG member. The certificate exchange protocol, which uses the Agreement Update Specification [ebcore-au-v1.0], should be implemented when the technology is generally available in the AS4 products. Key is the possibility to support multiple agreement references linked to different certificates. This way of requesting an agreement update serves the certificate renewal process.

##### *AS4 configuration management service*

In the future a central AS4 configuration management may be made available by EASEE-gas as a hosted service. CPPA3 is the ebXML Collaboration Protocol Profile and Agreement specification [CPPA3]. A CPP is an XML document representing a party's technical and business collaboration capabilities, when this is centrally available it serves as an address and configuration service.

#### **5. COMMUNICATION DETAILS OVERVIEW**

It is advisable to employ a secure connection using TLSv1.2 [CBP 2017-002-01] and server certificates. It is possible to use the AS4 certificate also for TLS, note however that it is a best practice to have different certificates for different certificate usages.

Also a best practice is to have a connection sheet with details regarding contact persons, URLs, IP-addresses, EIC and certificate details which are also centrally available as the address book in the form of a spreadsheet. This will be replaced by the configuration management service in the future, it is still the responsibility of the parties to keep their details up to date.

#### **6. PROCESS**

The CBP will follow the EASEE-gas guidelines for CBPs. An Explanatory Notes document will accompany this CBP [CBP-2017-001-01-EX].

The finalisation of the CBP should be released in time for the large implementations of AS4 in 2018.

## 7. DEFINITIONS

AS4: Applicability Statement 4 [AS4], a web services based protocol for transporting documents.

ENTSOG: the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas  
<http://entsog.eu/>.

## 8. REFERENCES

- [AS4] AS4 Profile of ebMS 3.0 Version 1.0. OASIS Standard, 23 January 2013. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/ebxml-msg/ebms/v3.0/profiles/AS4-profile/v1.0/>
- [AS4SETUP] [http://www.entsog.eu/public/uploads/files/publications/INT%20Network%20Code/2016/INT0697-161115%20Setting%20up%20an%20AS4%20System\\_Rev\\_2.pdf](http://www.entsog.eu/public/uploads/files/publications/INT%20Network%20Code/2016/INT0697-161115%20Setting%20up%20an%20AS4%20System_Rev_2.pdf)
- [AS4TSO] ENTSOG AS4 Usage Profile for TSOs.  
<http://www.entsog.eu/publications/as4#AS4-USAGE-PROFILE>  
The most recent (concept) version is advised to be used.
- [CBP-2007-001-02] [https://easee-gas.eu/download\\_file/DownloadFile/24/cbp-2007-001-02-on-message-transmission-protocol](https://easee-gas.eu/download_file/DownloadFile/24/cbp-2007-001-02-on-message-transmission-protocol)
- [CBP-2017-002-01] CBP 2017-002/01 "Secure communication over the internet"
- [CBP-2017-001-EX] Explanatory Notes CBP 2017-001/01
- [CPPA3] OASIS Working Draft v0.5. <https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/57550>
- [ebcore-au-v1.0] <http://docs.oasis-open.org/ebcore/ebcore-au/v1.0/cs01/ebcore-au-v1.0-cs01.html>

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