

Alt HAN hits significant milestones

Welcome to the summer edition of the Alt HAN Co newsletter.

In this quarter I am delighted to report that we have made significant strides in our mission to create products and services that extend the Home Area Network range of communications hubs and that integrate seamlessly into energy suppliers' smart meter rollout plans. The immediate target has been systems safe launch and within the last month the Alt HAN Forum endorsed the recommendations to take this step, another key step towards unlocking the benefits of smart metering for more customers.



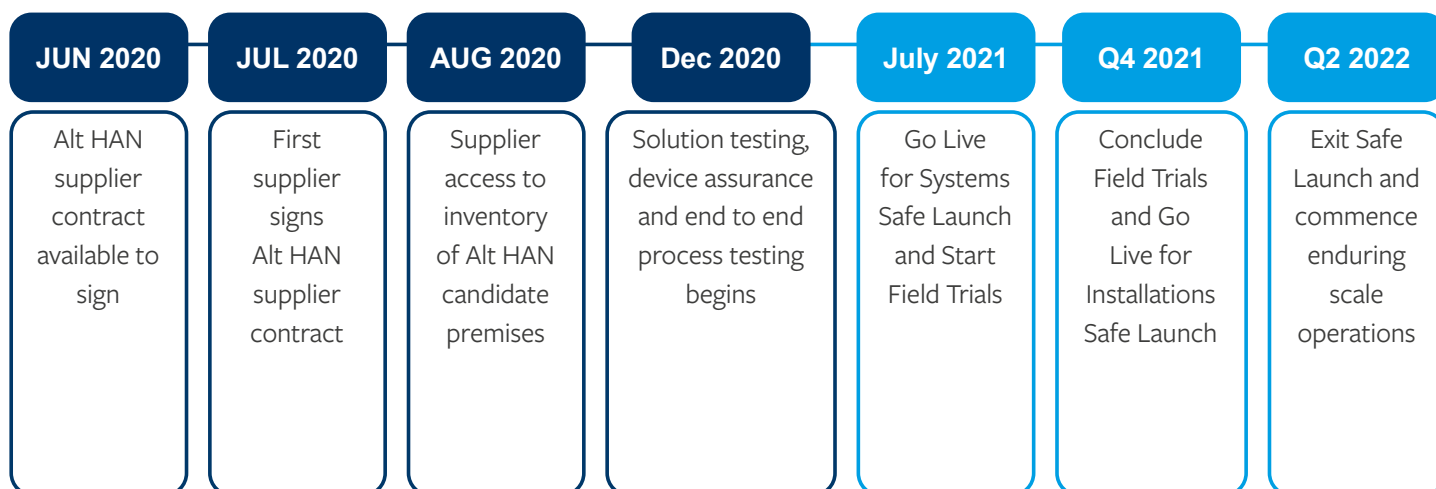
Paul Cooper
Managing Director

In the short-term this will allow energy suppliers to start ordering equipment for delivery next year as Alt HAN equipment joins the mainstream of smart meter installations. The Alt HAN Forum has also approved progressing with the field trials of Alt HAN equipment. Technically, we are ready to take this step because of the wide range of tests we have completed on our chosen technologies. Operationally, we have completed the build and integration testing of the end-to-end systems through which energy suppliers will access and use our services through our operational partner, Capgemini. Commercially, our readiness is reflected in reaching the final stages of contract negotiations with our preferred technology partner for the provision of Alt HAN devices – on terms that pass the value-for-money test that government has set for us.

The milestone we have hit is significant. And we believe that this reflects a strong level of commitment by energy suppliers collectively to make Alt HAN a success, and a key part of the goal of not leaving any customers behind in the transition to a smart, net zero energy sector.

Our journey as an organisation is moving forward rapidly also. This quarter we completed the recruitment of our leadership team. We have a strong and diverse mix of skills, experience and backgrounds to take Alt HAN forward. As with many businesses, we have also begun the process of returning to the office by enabling our staff to combine home working and working together in person at our Norwich Street Hub in central London.

“At a glance” timeline to Alt HAN services & progress highlights



Activity highlights since start of Q2:

Systems Safe Launch “Go Live”

The first phase of Go Live for Alt HAN services involves the systems and processes that support activities such as ordering and forecasting. Throughout Q2 we have planned and completed an intensive cycle of integration testing to give us confidence in moving into Safe Launch – a position endorsed by our energy supplier members in July. We are now working closely with individual energy suppliers to support their transition to using the Alt HAN enduring operational systems. Entry into Safe Launch for the Alt HAN systems is a milestone in the overall Joint Industry Plan (JIP) for smart metering, and a critical step in being ready for the Safe Launch of Alt HAN devices later in the year.

Moving into Field Trials

This quarter has seen us complete our preparations for field trials. This has involved an intensive phase of testing and device assurance, engagement with our Health & Safety Advisory Board, and detailed operational planning with our energy supplier partners for field trials, Octopus Energy and Scottish Power.

Our partner energy suppliers are currently canvassing eligible customers, ahead of installs later in August and September. This is an exciting step. An opportunity to build our readiness for Installation Safe Launch later in the year, while at the same time expanding access to smart metering in the short-term.

Wider involvement in sector

One aspect of our evolution as an organisation is our growing participation in wider industry discussions and change processes. Last year we became a Smart Energy Code (SEC) Party in our own right, and this quarter we submitted our first modification proposal. This is MP170, which is looking to explore how the capability for over-the-air (OTA) firmware upgrades of Alt HAN devices might be switched on.

We also worked closely with BEIS to assess optionality around where, precisely, Alt HAN equipment could be wired in relative to the meter. This resulted in BEIS consulting on enabling changes to an industry code (the DCUSA), which we responded to.

Getting buildings “smart ready”

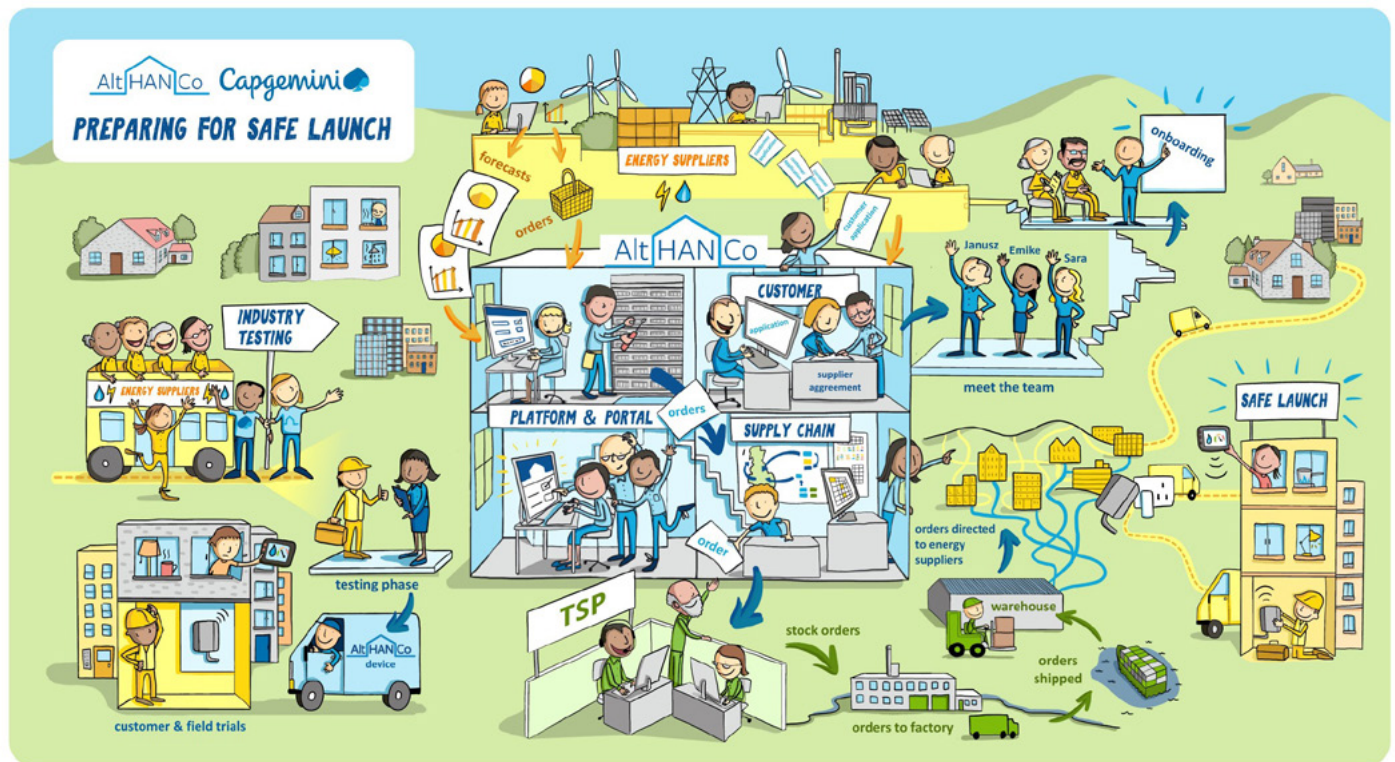
This quarter also marked the completion of our industry-wide consultation on options for getting more meter rooms ready for smart installs. This is about creating space for the communications hub, and for Alt HAN equipment where needed. While the works involved are generally straightforward, coordinating their delivery and finding a way to share the costs equitably is more challenging.

Through our industry consultation we have identified a potential model that could work well for all parties, and which builds incrementally on what Alt HAN is already doing. In this next quarter we will consult further and develop the detail of how this model might work in practice.

Building understanding through effective engagement

All Stakeholders Event (“ASE 5”)

Alt HAN’s mission is to deliver services that extend the Home Area Network (HAN) and integrate seamlessly with energy suppliers’ smart metering rollout plan. A key focus as we move from design and testing into operations is to build understanding across a wider range of energy suppliers. Working with our Operational Services partner, Capgemini, we have delivered five large-scale engagement events open to all energy suppliers. Our most recent event was held in early June and was based around the theme of preparing for Safe Launch.



The event was designed to give energy suppliers the “big picture” view of how Alt HAN is progressing, alongside detailed drop-in sessions on specific topics of interest. This included streaming a live demo of how Alt HAN equipment would be installed, and an opportunity for our energy supplier partners supporting Alt HAN field trials to share their experience.

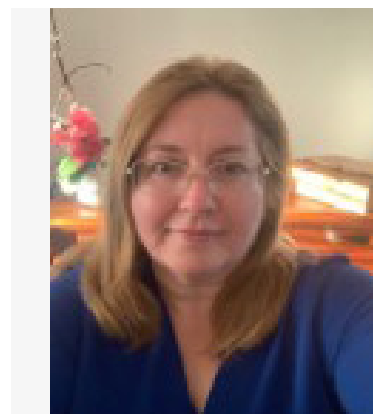
The virtual event had a strong turnout with 34 attendees across 17 different energy suppliers. It was encouraging to see that the majority were independent small to medium sized energy suppliers, illustrating a growing awareness of Alt HAN across a wider range of organisations. The content presented by Alt HAN Co, Capgemini and Participating Energy Suppliers (PES) covered a wide range of key areas, catered to an audience of mixed Alt HAN experience and was well received by attendees, with suppliers looking forward to the next event, the feedback has been positive.

Introducing Beth Jones, Head of Finance & Business

As Head of Finance & Business Support my role involves supporting Alt HAN's evolution from a delivery programme to an operational business. In practice this means supporting the building and retention of a high calibre team and ensuring robust financial and IT system is in place to consistent with Alt HAN being a great place to work and an efficient, customer-focused operation.

I was attracted to Alt HAN by the interesting challenges it faces, its mission to increase access to smart metering, and the knowledge and calibre of the team. Just a few months into the role I can already see the new team strengthening and maturing and I am excited to be a part of it.

My career has been in Finance & HR roles from blue chips such as BMW/Rover and Aviva, to a not-for-profit organisation and a smaller family firm, and includes almost 10 years as a board Finance Director in two very different organisations. My passion is to help businesses and individuals develop and thrive. Outside of work my time is spent with friends and family including my husband, two sons and two dogs. Hobbies include travelling worldwide, garden design and eclectic music taste from a love of Gregory Porter through to Classical.



Getting involved

Our mission for Alt HAN products and services to integrate seamlessly into smart rollout plans of energy suppliers relies on close partnership working. As an energy supplier there are different ways to get involved, depending on what you are interested in understanding or supporting:

- **Supplier Contract & Regulatory Issues:** The Supplier Contract, Governance & Regulation (SCGR) sub-group this quarter will be focusing on the scope for common Alt HAN messaging, the interactions between crowded meter rooms and Exempt Premises List (EPL) nominations and plans/drivers for future Supplier Contract releases.
- **Operational issues:** The focus for the Operational Sub-Group (OSG) this quarter will be on potential design implications from testing and field trials, and as a forum to review and refine documentation to support operations. OSG will also be considering operational implications of Alt HAN for non-supplier 3rd parties.
- **Delivery and Safe Launch:** The focus for the Delivery Sub-Group (DSG) this quarter will be on monitoring progress of Safe Launch systems and processes and field trials against plan. Alongside supporting the close out of technology services activities, and readiness for Installation Safe Launch.
- **Technology Proving & Testing:** This quarter the Testing Sub-Group (TSG) will continue to support and advise on the design of testing and interpretation of test findings, and on any emerging issues from field trials. It will also continue to provide input to the design of Alt HAN's approach to enduring testing.

For more information contact:

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