



Paul Cooper MD Alt HAN Co

Closing in on the start line

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

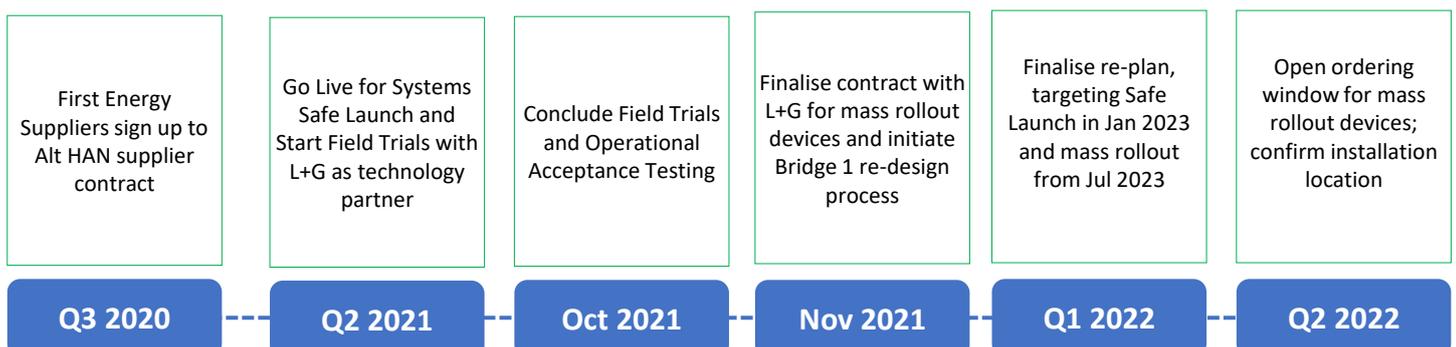
The first quarter of 2022 has been about orientating to our new delivery plan. This targets Safe Launch in January 2023 ahead of the start of mass rollout in July 2023. The foundations to hit this plan are in place, and we will reach an important milestone in April when we open the first of the quarterly ordering windows. A key step in our mission to create products and services that extend the Home Area Network (HAN) and integrate seamlessly into energy suppliers' smart meter rollout plan.

This has been enabled by the strong progress made with our technology partner, Landis+Gyr (L+G), to design and prove a version of our device that can be installed on the network side of a customer's meter – and our Energy Supplier Members have now endorsed this approach for mass rollout. We have worked closely with our stakeholders and with Government and believe that we now have an approach that offers the best outcome for end consumers.

Our growing readiness for Safe Launch and mass rollout are also reflected in other areas. The development phase with our operational services partner, Capgemini, has now successfully closed out and we are ready for BAU operations. Similarly, our independent testing partner, SMS, is finalising the build of its test facility in Bolton. This will complement L+G's test lab in Manchester. There have also been important shifts and efficiencies in how we engage with our Energy Supplier Members. We now have a single, consolidated group for discussing all planning, testing and operational issues, and we will shortly be standing up a group to support the ongoing development of the Alt HAN Supplier Contract.

We are also building out our understanding of, and potential solutions to, some of the less common but more challenging use cases and exploring ways to make our solutions more "future proof". Our sector-wide work to find coordinated solutions to crowded meter rooms continues apace, and we are engaging closely and openly with gas meter manufactures to find creative solutions to issues emerging from testing.

"At a glance" progress tracker



A New Baseline Plan

Towards the end of 2021 we made the decision to delay our target date for Safe Launch, to allow additional time to redesign one of the Alt HAN devices – and make it capable of being installed on the network side of a customer’s meter. Earlier this quarter we validated this change to the plan and set a new target date for Safe Launch in January 2023. This in turn is now proposed for inclusion in an updated Joint Industry Plan (JIP).

We are tracking well against the updated plan: technical progress with the updated design by L+G is strong; and recently our Energy Supplier Members confirmed that Alt HAN devices would be installed on the network side; and decided to open the April ordering window for mass rollout devices (for delivery in July 2023).

“Smart ready” Meter Rooms

Some customers who require Alt HAN equipment risk being denied access to smart metering because of a lack of space in meter rooms. This quarter, following wide industry consultation, our Energy Supplier Members gave us the green light to progress a pilot with Alt HAN as the body to coordinate the design and delivery of works to make meter rooms “smart ready”.

We have mobilised the project team to stand up this capability and started the competitive procurement for meter operator and electrical services deliver partners. In parallel we have consulted with industry parties to inform our Outline Business Case and raised an enabling change to DCUSA sponsored by Shell Energy. The pilot is scheduled to start in early 2023.

Tackling Technical Challenges

Alt HAN solutions need to work in a variety of settings. The most technically challenging situation involves apartment blocks with separate gas and electricity meter rooms and accommodating the variability in when gas meters “wake up” to communicate with the comms hub. During this quarter we worked closely with L+G and through an open invite to all gas meter manufacturers to help understand the challenges and identify and begin to evaluate possible solutions.

We are progressing two potential solutions paths in parallel. We will continue to work closely and openly with all stakeholder, with the objective of finding and implementing the solution that maximises coverage and delivers the best value for end consumers.

Building our Organisation

This quarter has also marked an acceleration in Alt HAN’s transition from a delivery programme to an enduring business. Our recruitment into enduring roles is complete, and we will shortly complete our transition away from consultancy support. We have also made great strides in embedding our culture as an organisation which makes a difference, delivers and is one team – a great team.

As a small organisation we are embracing the opportunity to create the right culture and involve all our people in how we do this. We also continue to evolve our model of hybrid working and are seeing increased use of our Norwich Street Hub – and more face-to-face meetings with our service partners.

Nas Zeb, Product Manager



My role is focused on leading the ideation, design and development of product enhancements, with the ultimate goal to deliver enabling HAN technology for hard to reach homes. I've been in role now for just over 9 months, but it does seem a like it's been a lot longer!! That said I am pleased and encouraged by the progress we've made in the tech space, but do recognise and I'm excited by the challenge ahead.

I've worked in Smart Metering pretty much since its inception primarily from Energy Retail perspective delivering Technology and Services across all previous iterations of the Smart Metering tech, joining AHC allows me to complete a technology journey that started well over a decade ago.

When not at work you'll usually find me either at the gym or out enjoying a run in some of the beautiful green spaces Yorkshire has to offer.

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:

Planning, Operations & Testing

The Planning, Operations & Testing Sub-Group ("POTSG") is the new, consolidated Forum for Energy Supplier Members to engage on the full range of live operational, testing and delivery issues. The next meeting is 12th April.

From a delivery planning perspective, the focus is currently ensuring both Field Trials and Safe Launch are on track as well on a detailed review of the portfolio plan and open risks, with a focus on the critical path items for the Bridge 1 redesign as well as mitigating actions around the Bridge 4 version 2 and OTA firmware.

On operations, the focus is currently on further survey work to support market sizing. Our next forecasting and ordering window will be in April 2022 with projected

delivery for July 23 soon after the completion of Safe Launch . We have also addressed the approach in a no-WAN situation with agreement for a WAN check for any survey work.

On testing, the focus is on discussions to configure the test labs with AHC B1 on the supply side of the meter. Alt HAN Co also continue to provide updates on the overall development of the SMS and L&G test lab facilities.

Supplier Contract

The focus of the Supplier Contract Sub-Group this quarter will to progress the detail and associated legal drafting for Release 3 of the contract. The next meeting is 13th April.