



Paul Cooper MD Alt HAN Co

Orders placed for mass rollout

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

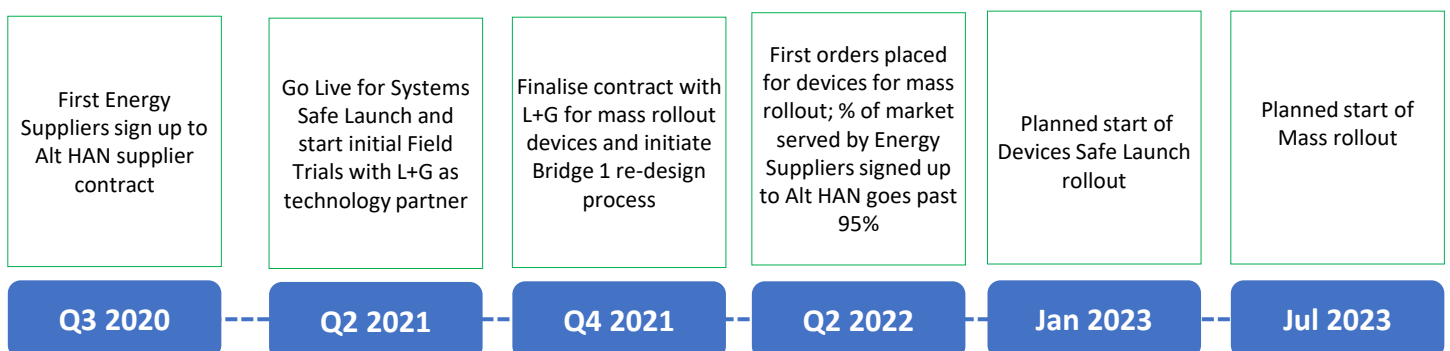
Recent months have marked another big step forward in the journey of Alt HAN towards our mission to provide products and services that extend the Home Area Network (HAN) and integrate seamlessly into Energy Suppliers' smart meter rollout plan. In April, our Energy Supplier members and customers endorsed our progress in the most meaningful way: by placing orders for our products. Initial volumes of ordered devices will be delivered to Energy Suppliers in July 2023, marking the start of mass rollout.

The devices ordered by Energy Suppliers in April, and by ourselves for Safe Launch, will be installable on the network side of the meter. This reflects the strong progress we continue to make with our technology partner, Landis+Gyr, on the updated design for our Bridge 1 devices to meet the government's preferred policy for Alt HAN installations. Planning for Safe Launch next January is picking up pace, and it is good to see strong demand from Energy Suppliers to get involved.

Another significant event this quarter was the opening of our independent test lab in Bolton. The lab, operated by SMS, will be an important resource for all Energy Suppliers to build confidence in how Alt HAN devices operate in different use cases and device set combinations, ahead of deployment in the field. I was delighted to be able to join the team in Bolton to cut the ribbon at the official opening on 8th June.

The commercial, technical and operational growth of Alt HAN is mirrored in our growing maturity as a business. We have completed our transition to an employee-based model and expanding our use of our Norwich Street hub in central London. The organisational culture is blossoming around our principles: People, Passion, Pride. It is exciting to see a small group of people coming together with drive and focus to deliver Alt HAN's mission, and to make Alt HAN Co a great place to work. This extends to being active in our local community. In July we were delighted to start working with Making the Leap, a social mobility charity in London, with Alt HAN staff volunteering to provide interview training to young people.

"At a glance" progress tracker



New Test Lab Open

Last year we took the decision to stand up our own independent test lab for Alt HAN devices. We see this as a key step in providing technical assurance and operational confidence in the Alt HAN solutions for our stakeholders. Our test lab partner is SMS, and on the 8th of June we celebrated the formal opening of the new, purpose-built facility in Bolton. The facility supports 46 test bays with support for flexible configuration of all Alt HAN use cases over multiple combination of SMETS device sets.



Readiness for Safe Launch

Before mass rollout begins, we will be entering our Safe Launch phase. This involves low volumes of installs using Alt HAN devices and a limited number of Energy Suppliers. Its goal is to capture operational issues and learnings that can be shared across all Energy Suppliers ahead of mass rollout, helping to minimise costs and improve the customer experience. While also giving a small number of customers early access to the benefits of Alt HAN. Planning is ramping up with our Safe Launch partners, ahead of the January 2023 scheduled start date.

Ordering devices

The evolution of Alt HAN from a development project through to an operational business took another important step this quarter with Energy Suppliers placing their first orders for mass rollout. The devices ordered in our April and July ordering window will be delivered in July and October 2023 respectively, and then onwards to meter installers, enabling more customers to access smart metering. The orders represent a “go” decision by Energy Suppliers for the mass rollout of Alt HAN devices

Introducing Lydia Igoche, Test Assurance Lead



I joined Alt HAN Co in September 2021 because I am passionate about Technology and using Technology for good. My role is focused on assuring through testing that our devices are interoperable and integrate seamlessly in the existing smart metering ecosystem. It is exciting to have been able to make an immediate impact in helping to stand up our test lab environments, working closely with our partners and Energy Suppliers.

My background is in telecommunications infrastructure and solution testing, and I have worked across many developing technologies, from IP and Packet Core with Ericsson early in my career through to introducing 5G for Three UK. Alongside my role at AHC, I am studying for a PhD in Wireless Communications at the University of Kent, and have started a platform, SheLeads in Tech, to help increase visibility of women in tech and demystify tech as a career for women. I am also a mum of three young children; and in any spare time I can carve out I like to go walking or running.

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 able to support:

Engagement groups & workshops

The foundations for our working-level engagement are two sub-groups, that meet monthly. These are open to all Suppliers who are Forum Members, and otherwise by invitation.

The Planning, Operations & Testing Sub-Group (“POTSG”) is currently working through the following topics:

- the next planned phase of building surveys to improve our data on which premises need Alt HAN;
- planning for the start of “Safe Launch” and how learnings will be captured and shared;
- Options to refine how Meter Operators can access Alt HAN services on behalf of Energy Suppliers; and
- Tracking the progress through testing of our redesigned Bridge 1 device.

The Supplier Contract Sub-Group (“SCSG”) tracks the planning and implementation of changes to the contractual arrangements between Alt HAN and Energy Suppliers using our services. Its work plan is based around periodic releases of updates, with the current focus being alignment between the Supplier Contract and Alt Han’s own contracts with its service providers.

We also engage through individual workshops and meetings on specific topics. For example, earlier this month we hosted a workshop on how exceptions and edge cases might be handled through the “Exempt Premises List” process set out in our regulations.

Advisory groups

We also have two groups who advise the Board of Alt HAN on Health & Safety and Financial matters, respectively. The groups also meet monthly and provide a channel through which expertise can be shared in support of Alt HAN’s activities.