

## Four Common Business Practices (CBPs) nearing completion

The EASEE-gas working groups **IT Communication Network** and **Codes & Definitions** have each developed two draft Common Business Practices (CBPs) which have recently been issued to Members for consultation. The CBPs cover the following areas:

- Message Transmission Protocol;
- Common Data Communications Network;
- Company's Identifier encoding; and
- Connection Point Identifier encoding.

The CBP on *Message Transmission Protocol* specifies the use of AS2 for the transmission of Edig@s messages. AS2 has been chosen as the most suitable protocol for reliable messaging of structured business data over the Public Internet. It was designed by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) specifically to meet this need. The CBP on *Common Data Communications Network* promotes the use of the public internet as the platform for business to business messaging between organisations involved in the delivery of gas from the producer to the end users.

After 2.5 years of development and consultation, the Codes & Definitions working group has now brought forward its CBPs on streamlining the number of company identifiers and connection point identifiers to be used in electronic messaging, thus reducing duplications and waste of effort in the management of databases, contracts, etc. The CBP on Company's Identifier encoding recommends using the ETSO EIC-X code structure, and the CBP on *Connection Point Identifier encoding* recommends the use of the ETSO EIC-Z code structure.

Chris Crane Acting Chairman of the EASEE-gas Executive Committee says, "We are very pleased that the hard work and co-operation between all the companies represented in the working groups has resulted in these four draft CBPs. This underlines the important role that EASEE-gas is playing in bringing together parties from across Europe and across the whole gas chain to help streamline the process for shipping gas across Europe."

The four CBPs have been circulated to all EASEE-gas members to give them the opportunity to comment on the proposed CBPs. The deadline for comments is 6<sup>th</sup> July. The relevant working groups will then take account of the comments and develop a final draft version which will be submitted to the EASEE-gas Executive Committee for final approval. If approved, EASEE-gas members have a further 2 months to object. If three or more members object then the CBP would need to be ratified by all Full members.

Further details on EASEE-gas, the Executive Committee, its working groups and the rules for approving CBPs can be found on the website [www.easee-gas.org](http://www.easee-gas.org).

#### Contacts:

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| • Andy Morris/Agnes Petersen (General Manager)         | +44 1865 722 660   |
| • Chris Crane (Acting Chairman of Executive Committee) | +44 1372 22 3152   |
| • Rob Pringle (IT Communication Network Chairman)      | <a href="mailto:Rob.Pringle@centrica.com">Rob.Pringle@centrica.com</a>               |
| • Antonio Di Nubila (Codes & Definitions Chairman)     | <a href="mailto:antonio.dinubila@snamretegaz.it">antonio.dinubila@snamretegaz.it</a> |