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CHANGE PROPOSAL EXTENSION TO PLAN

I0278 – Establishing the Safe Isolation Provider (SIP) as a Standalone REC Party

DOCUMENT VERSION	2.1
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE	TBD
IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH	TBD

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE	CHANGE PANEL	**CHANGE PATH**	SELF-GOVERNANCE
PRIORITY STATUS	HIGH	**URGENCY**	STANDARD
IMPACTED STAKEHOLDERS	Safe Isolation Providers (SIPs), Metering Equipment Managers (MEMs), Electricity Metering Operatives (EMOs), Energy Suppliers, Distribution Networks Operators (DNOs)		

LEAD ANALYST (SOLUTION LEAD)	TECHNICAL LEAD	ASSURANCE LEAD	SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT
FRANCINE PEYROUX-SISSOKO	ELLA MCGUIRE	ANTON MODEN	GLENN SHEERN
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1 OVERVIEW

This Issue seeks to formally recognise the SIP as a standalone REC Party to align with Ofgem's Strategic Direction Statement, enabling easier access to certified SIPs, meeting market demand and ensuring safety standards.

2 CODE MANAGER RECOMMENDATION

The Code Manager recommends that the REC Change Panel:

- **REVIEW** the extension to plan for I0278; and
- **APPROVE** the extension to plan for I0278.

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Responsible committee decision

On 21 July 2026, the REC Change Panel approved this Extension to Plan.

3 CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

On 20 January 2026, the Change Panel approved an Extension to Plan to allow for more solution development for this Issue due to the complexity of establishing a standalone REC Party that is already existent and intertwined with other existing Parties. This Extension to Plan covered:

- Engagement with trade associations to assess industry views including on sealing requirements, recording and notification, record keeping and REC accession;
- Working groups with industry stakeholders to refine these requirements; and
- Solution refinement following industry engagement and feedback.

The Code Manager engaged with various industry stakeholders from January until March 2026, which included the Energy Network Association (ENA), the Independent Network Association (INA), Future Energy Networks (FEN), the Association of Meter Operators (AMO), the UKRPA, and Electrical Safety First. These discussions confirmed the need to gather further input from the industry before it is possible to establish what a clear governance framework for SIPs can look like.

Following this engagement, the Code Manager conducted an information request that was open for six weeks between February and March 2026 to Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), MEMs – including Meter Operator Agents (MOAs), Electricity Metering Operatives (EMOs) and SIPs – and to Revenue Protection Agents (RPAs), to better assess industry views on what a streamlined framework for SIPs could look like, reflect on potential impacts and anticipate risks that may arise with the creation of a standalone Party that is already existent in a different setting within the REC, and ensure high standards for safety are met across the industry.

The Code Manager then started to run closed Working Group sessions to gather further input from the industry, agree on the type of efficient and safe practices the REC should allow standalone SIPs to conduct, and develop a streamline process for Consumers, ensuring a clear separation in Parties responsibility. So far, the Code Manager has hosted two working groups, focusing on the framework and scope of activities of standalone SIPs, and more are needed.

The Code Manager is proposing the new Proposal Plan for the Change Panel to review. This includes more time for five further working group sessions to develop the solution requirements between July and November 2026. These working group sessions will cover the below themes:

- Equipment and testing
- Safety, interference, and sealing
- Reporting and documentation
- Auditing and training
- Accession

The Code Manager is also considering the opportunity to organise open webinars to inform industry Parties of the progress of this solution. This is believed to help provide clarity to Parties who have an interest in this issue, and those who would like to become standalone SIPs, as well as help build a strong business case assessment before going out to consultation.

The proposed update to the Proposal Plan for I0278 can be found below:

Milestone	Activity	From	To	From	To
Definition		**01 Oct-25**	**31 Jan-26**	**01 Oct-25**	**16-Feb-27**
	Solution Analysis	October	December	Oct 25	Dec 25
	Engagement with Trade Associations	N/A	N/A	Jan 26	Apr 26
	Engagement with Responsible Committee	October	December	Oct 25	Nov 26
	Solution Development	October	January	Oct 25	Nov 26
	Working group	N/A	N/A	Mar 26	Nov 26
	Legal Drafting	October	January	Sep 26	Jan 27
	Solution Refinement	N/A	N/A	Dec 26	Jan 27
	Update to Responsible Committee	January	January	Feb 27	Feb 27