

Minutes

Meeting name	Electricity Balancing System (EBS) IT Subgroup
Meeting number	5
Date of meeting	5 th December 2012
Time	10:00 - 15:00
Location	National Grid Wokingham

Attendees

Name	Initials	Company
Robert Paterson	RP	Chair, National Grid
Sally Cox	SC	Technical Secretary, National Grid
Pete Smith	PS	National Grid
Steve Roberts	SR	National Grid
Afe Ogun	AO	National Grid
Rob Apperley	RA	National Grid
James Mitchell	JM	Centrica
Stuart Green	SG	First Hydro (Teleconference)
Allan Viney	AV	Scottish Power
Simon Piercy	SP	Contigo
Paul Coates	PC	RWE (Teleconference)
Nick Martin	NM	Dunstan Thomas
Michael Packman	MP	EDF
Paul Hardy	PH	Siemens
Mahesh Chauhan	MC	E.ON (Teleconference)
Erik Cummins	EC	EDF
Michael Joyce	MJ	E.ON (Teleconference)

Apologies

Jane Oates	JO	National Grid
Graham Bunt	GB	EDF

1 Safety

RP opened the meeting by thanking everybody for attending both in the room and by teleconference. He advised participants of the arrangements should there be a fire alarm.

2 Introductions

Introductions were made from all participants.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

No comments were received regarding the minutes from the last meeting. These were, therefore, agreed.

4 Review of Actions

Action 001 – AO **Action - Closed**

Action 002 – SR **Action - Closed**

Action 006 – JO A change of target date has now been agreed – July 2013. **Action - Ongoing**

Action 013 – SR National Grid haven't yet received the EDL* and EDT* server code – it is expected in the new year, when it will be tested and then made available to suppliers in around April 2013. **Action - Ongoing**

Action 014 – AO The EDT* tool kit has been sent out to all suppliers and those market participants who requested it. MC requested that he be sent a copy. National Grid are awaiting the EDL* tool kit – this is expected to be available in March.

Action AO – to send a copy of the EDT* tool kit to MC and upload it to the EBS IT website. **Action - Ongoing**

Action 015 – AO IE8 and IE9 will be supported. Chrome and Firefox are yet to be tested and the frequent releases of these browsers will make it difficult to maintain support. **Action - Closed**

Action 017 & 18 – SR & RP Grid Code Issue papers relating to the new and changed data and instructions have been drafted and will be presented to the next Grid Code Review Panel Meeting. **Action - Ongoing**

Action 022 – PS This action is now pending until an understanding is reached regarding the structure of the document set. **Action - Ongoing**

Action 025 – MPs No further responses to the questionnaire have been received since the last meeting therefore this action can now be closed. **Action - Closed**

Action 026 – National Grid

Ongoing – presentation arranged for this meeting.

Action - Ongoing

Action 032 – AO

National Grid are on track to provide the EBS IP addresses to market participants by the target date in mid-December.

Action - Ongoing

Action 034 – RP

The roadmap is to be discussed at the next main (business) EBS meeting.

Action - Ongoing

Action 035 – SR

A new draft of the EBS EDT & EDL Test Approach was circulated in October.

Action - Closed

Action 036 – AO

Action to be closed as testing will determine the nature and extent of these and any other issues.

Action - Closed

Action 037 – PS

The External Testing and Transition Overview Document was sent out with the meeting agenda. Market Participants and Suppliers to let National Grid have any comments by the end of the January.

Action - Closed

Action 038 – RP

National Grid proposes providing user guides to assist market participants in using the EDT* web-pages.

Action - Closed

Action 039 – RP

The Telecommunications Roadmap will be presented to the next EBSG (business) meeting on 13/12/12.

Action - Ongoing

5 Timescales

Robert reported that there have been no significant changes in project timescales. Market participants and suppliers will be kept updated should there be any changes.

6 Existing Interfaces Test Plan

Steve advised the meeting that he had two members of staff, Sarvesh Kumar and Vinayak Sonawane who will be identifying all suppliers and participants and canvassing suppliers for more details and scheduling the initial testing. It is anticipated that suppliers will be able to start testing shortly, once connectivity has been established, which should hopefully drive out any issues. These will be functional tests only – the non-functional aspects will be tested once an environment with production levels of resilience and other infrastructure becomes available.

PH asked whether suppliers would need to make any firewall or Access Control List changes in order to access the test EBS system. SR said he thought not, but would check.

Action – SR

To check what, if anything, suppliers need to do at their end to access the EBS test systems.

Paul Hardy, Siemens

Q. Are we testing using IP addresses or DNS?

A. Steve answered that the initial testing with suppliers would use IP addresses.

Nick Martin, Dunstan Thomas

Q. If an issue comes up with testing do we need to re-test?

A. Steve replied that in the worst case would be that there would be 3 rounds of testing. The testing would be undertaken against the existing EDL & EDT interface specifications.

Steve asked whether the Testing & Transition plan was what market participants and suppliers wanted to see?

Michael Packman commented that it was a very useful plan, but asked if they could have a new version of the plan every month. Steve said National Grid should be able to provide a new version every fortnight.

Action – SR/RP

To publish a new version of the Testing & Transition plan every fortnight on the EBS IT web-page:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/gridcode/workinggroups/EBS+IT+Subgroup/>

7 External Testing and Transition Overview Document

Pete Smith advised that this document was a single high-level document covering both Testing and Transition and aimed at both suppliers and market participants. It is split into sections on the existing and new interfaces as these have different timelines.

With regard to EDT, the access validation would be a manual FTP connection from the EDT client system to EBS. Market participants would be given login credentials to allow them to undertake this test. However, National Grid would need to detail the arrangements that should apply for these tests.

PS agreed to provide an EDT FTP script to market participants to allow them to validate their access to EBS production.

Action – PS

To draft out proposals for EDL & EDT access validation by the next meeting.

Action – PS

To provide an EDT FTP script for market participants to run to validate their access to EBS production.

It was agreed that both of the above activities needed to be included in the Testing and Transition plan.

EDT access validation – this is initiated from the market participant-end and will not need to be repeated once it has been successful.

EDL access validation – the view is that if repeated cycles of validation are required then, due to the nature of the technology, this will affect both those Control Points whose access has yet to be validated and those whose access has already been validated. This, though, will have the advantage of validating that EBS can successfully connect all Control Points at once, rather than just a subset of Control Points.

Action – Market Participants & Suppliers

Market participants and suppliers to provide any comments they may have on the External Testing and Transition Overview document by the end of January, after which the first issue will be published.

8 Technology VMS OS-specific issues Connectivity Proposal

Afe gave an overview of National Grid's proposal for market participant connectivity to EBS, in terms of the EBS EDT* interface and the Peer Point Network Proxy.

For clarity the Peer Point slide will have the reference to CNI system servers changed to EBS servers prior to its circulation to attendees.

Afe said that there had been a good level of responses to the VMS operating system-specifics questionnaire. Some issues had been identified, one being around whether EBS will continue to use the existing VMS directory structure, the other being a dependency on the VMS file version number in the response files. These issues were being discussed with the originators.

Action SR – to update the EDT type test scripts scenarios to cover the impact of the absence of VMS version numbers.

9 Presentation on the use of MPLS for EDT

Angela Richards-Chapman gave a presentation regarding the use of MPLS for EDT.

Action – AR-C to provide indicative costs for the provision of MPLS and Leased Lines for comparison purposes by the end of February.

10 Dates of Next Meetings

Thursday 21st March 2013
Tuesday 25th June 2013

11 AOB

Action RP – to circulate the slides with the minutes of meeting.