

## Minutes

<b>Meeting name</b>	Electricity Balancing System (EBS) IT Subgroup
<b>Meeting number</b>	3
<b>Date of meeting</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Time</b>	10:00 - 15:00
<b>Location</b>	National Grid Wokingham

## Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Company</b>
Robert Paterson	RP	Chair, National Grid
Debra Hudson	DH	Technical Secretary, National Grid
Pete Smith	PS	National Grid
Afe Ogun	AO	National Grid
James Mitchell	JM	Centrica
Joanne Heine	JH	Alstom Grid
Nick Martin	NM	Alstom Grid
Paul Hardy	PH	Siemens
Ian McDonald	IMcD	Thames Power
Allan Viney	AV	Scottish Power (teleconference)
Simon Piercy	SP	Contigo
Simon Cooper	SC	E.ON (teleconference)
Mahesh Chauhan	MC	E.ON (teleconference)
Paul Coates	PC	RWE
Michael Webster	MW	RWE
Erik Cummins	EC	EDF Energy
Robin Whitfield	RW	EDF Energy
Michael Joyce	MJ	E.ON
Martin Macleod	MM	SSE (teleconference)
Susan McNicholl	SM	ESB (teleconference)

## Apologies

Kevin Kennedy	KK	IPRPL/GDF Suez
Stuart Green	SG	First Hydro
Mike McDermott	MMcD	Siemens
John Sherban	JS	Quorum Developments
Graham Bunt	GB	EDF Energy
Darren McCann	DMcC	Logica
Steve Roberts	SR	National Grid
Rob Apperley	RA	National Grid
Sally Cox	SC	National Grid

## 1 Safety

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

## 2 Introductions

Introductions were made by 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

Further investigation has taken place on the implications of VMS operating system specifics. The questionnaire referred to in action 016 includes questions about this and industry/supplier attendees are requested to complete this and return it to [ebs.it@nationalgrid.com](mailto:ebs.it@nationalgrid.com). **Action ongoing**

### Action 002 – SR

It was agreed that initial versions of the test scripts be circulated to participants for comment during August 2012. **Action ongoing**

### Action 003 – AO

Discussions with National Grid IS Security have taken place regarding the options for computer-to-computer EDT\* data exchanges over the internet. For this scenario hard tokens will not be required, but access to EBS will be via a VPN. **Action complete**

**Action 004 – AO action ongoing** – will provide an answer in September as part of action 014.

### Action 006 – JO

Develop a communications strategy for transition and cutover – **action ongoing – targeted for December 2012.**

### Action 013 – SR

National Grid will be offering suppliers access to a real EBS over the internet, rather than to attempt to create a simulator. **Action ongoing – targeted for December 2012.**

### Action 014 – AO

An initial version of the ABB EDT\*/EDL\* client web services toolkit should be available around September 2012. **Action ongoing**

### Action 015 – AO

A list of web browser software that is compatible with EBS be supplied to all participants by September 2012. **Action ongoing**

### Action 016 – AO

A questionnaire has been e-mailed to the EBS IT mailing list and will be sent to all the other industry IT contacts as soon as possible (post-meeting note – sent out 22<sup>nd</sup> June). **Action complete**

**New Action** – All industry & system supplier attendees to respond to the questionnaire by the end of July.

**Action 017 – SR**

Ongoing – this was raised at the 7<sup>th</sup> June NG/Elexon Service Review meeting. Elexon responded positively and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Action ongoing**

**Action 018 – AO/RP**

RP and AO met with Elexon. National Grid would raise a BSC change proposal and seek approval around the same time that the Grid Code change is submitted for approval. The associated data changes would be introduced in stages as suggested by industry business reps - 10 run-up rates and time-varying SEL/SIL in the first release, then probably the TBD areas like two-shifting limit and sync/de-sync intervals and subsequently more complex areas like the configuration modelling of CCGTs and cascade hydro. **Action ongoing**

**Action 019 – SR**

Agenda Item 5 refers. **Action complete**

**Action 020 – SR/PS**

Agenda item 5 covers National Grid's proposals for EDL and EDT testing, and National Grid has provided a high-level timeline as part of the slides that support this item. **Action complete**

**Action 021 – PS**

We have one EDT site that uses MPLS already, another is in progress. A guidance document for this will be provided in due course. **Action complete** (a new action will be raised regarding the provision of a guidance document).

**Action 022 – PS**

Agenda item 6 discusses this – **Action ongoing**

**Action 023 – PS**

Latest version of CTC Message Client has been made available on <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Balancing/EDL/> - **Action complete**

**Action 024 – JO**

**Action complete**

## **5 EDT and EDL Testing**

PS and RP ran through National Grid's proposals for EDL and EDT testing. There would be an opportunity for suppliers to be involved in the testing of the interim release of EBS EDL and EDT if they wanted.

**Action Suppliers** – To indicate to National Grid by the end of July if they are interested in being involved in the testing of the interim release of EDL and EDT.

The meeting agreed that we should look to undertake connectivity tests between market participants' production systems/networks (including DR where practicable) and all potential "to be production" EBS environments. These connectivity tests would not include exchange of BM data due to the risks involved plus the data exchange aspect will be covered by offline tests using EBS and market participants/suppliers' test environments.

With an approach to testing having been established, market participants requested that National Grid now document their proposed approach and rationale so that participants and suppliers have something to comment on and refer to. They requested that the EDL approach should include the failover of EDL servers within an EBS environment, and the EDT one the remote password change facility.

**Action SR** – Document EDL and EDT testing proposals including the rationale for them and the failover of EDL servers within an environment and the EDT remote password change facility. Send this out to industry and supplier attendees by the end of August.

**Action AO** - Check that ABB are considering the effects on the CTC Message Client/EDL client of rapid failover to the other EDL server within an EBS environment.

## 6 Transition

PS gave a presentation on various options for transition. The options were around whether there should be a new DNS name for EBS and whether it was better to try and align EDT FTP passwords across the current BM Systems and EBS, or whether a new password should be required for EBS.

Market participants thought a new DNS name for EBS was acceptable, as it would allow the phased migration of market participants' EDT to EBS, rather than a "big-bang". Given the issues associated with aligning the EDT FTP passwords, they thought that the "new password for EBS" option was preferable.

PC asked whether National Grid would have a schedule for migration of market participants to EBS following go-live so that market participants could ensure their resources would be available. RP responded that National Grid hadn't, but that it sounded like a good idea. There was discussion around how long should be scheduled for each market participant before moving onto the next – the view was an hour or two. If issues arose then the market participant would re-establish its connection with the BM Systems while any remedial actions took place and there would be another attempt at transition towards the end of the schedule.

Limiting factor in these schedules may be National Grid resource or resource from suppliers with many customers e.g. Siemens and Alstom. The view of the meeting was that first market participants to be cut-over should be the ones that have been comprehensively tested i.e. we expect to work, as National Grid may use this as part of the confirmation that there is no need to revert to the BM Systems.

RP said that EDL transition would inevitably be "big-bang", but the connectivity tests should mitigate the risk of this and, providing the number of issues was small, voice telephony would be an effective fall-back until any issues were resolved.

**Action PS** – Document transition proposals including the rationale for them. Send this out to industry and supplier attendees by the end of August.

## 7 Date of Next Meetings

The following dates for next meetings were confirmed (all at Wokingham starting at 10:00):-

26<sup>th</sup> September  
5<sup>th</sup> December

RP agreed to look at arranging better remote access facilities for the next meeting,

possibly using MS Live Meeting. He confirmed that the rooms booked for the next two meetings had better teleconferencing facilities than the room used for this meeting.

**Action RP** – Investigate the provision of better remote access facilities for subsequent meetings, including the use of MS Live Meeting or similar.

## 12 AOB

None