

Minutes

Meeting name	Electricity Balancing System (EBS) IT Subgroup
Meeting number	16
Date of meeting	17 March 2016
Time	10:00 – 11:30
Location	National Grid, Wokingham - Teleconference

Attendees

Name	Initials	Company
Antonio del Castillo	AdC	Chair, National Grid
Sally Cox	SC	Technical Secretary, National Grid
Sarvesh Kumar	SK	National Grid
Pete Smith	PS	National Grid
Ben Carter	BC	National Grid - Teleconfernece
Ann Morgan	AM	National Grid
Afe Ogun	AO	National Grid
Paul Hardy	PH	Siemens
Mike McDermott	MMcD	Siemens
Allan Viney	AV	ScottishPower
Simon Reid	SR	ScottishPower
Graham Bunt	GB	EDF
Erik Cummins	EK	EDF
John Bennett	JB	EDF
Dave Holt	DH	Dunstan Thomas
Andrew Chaplin	AC	Dunstan Thomas
Dave Collins	DC	Contigo
Iain Ward	IW	Contigo
Michael Joyce	MJ	EON
Andrew Gorton	AG	Drax
Dave Stewart	DS	Quorum
Richard James	RJ	CGI
Peter Knight	PK	Centrica
Jonathan Burgess	JB	Centrica
Stuart Green	SG	First Hydro
Kenny MacLeod	KML	SP
Claire McConnell	CMcC	SSE
Martin Foster	MF	SSE
James Nevill		
Martin MacLeod		

1 Introductions

All participants introduced themselves.

2 Previous Meeting (Minutes and Review of Actions)

No comments were received regarding the minutes from the last meeting. These were, therefore, agreed. The actions were reviewed and the action list updated.

3 EBS Programme Update

Antonio del Castillo (AdC) gave an update of the programme. There have been some problems with regard to the delivery of the latest hardware shipped from the US and this meant that a re-plan of the programme resulting in the Go-Live date being moved to the end of September. There was some damage during shipment to the hardware required for the start of User Acceptance Testing (UAT). It took time to identify.

UAT, which started on Monday, 14 March, is now running on a test environment. The testing will continue for nine weeks.

All software suppliers, who have successfully completed their tests, will receive their type test certificates within the next two months.

Elxon end-to-end Testing to confirm all output files are received on BMRA have been completed successfully. Interconnector parties test preparations have been completed and following latest EBS release the execution of these tests will start in mid-March.

Interface testing with Coreso is being planned.

The next steps are:

- To perform formal type tests
- Continue with Interconnector testing
- Close out any observations

4 Industry Testing Update

Sarvesh Kumar (SK) gave a brief update on the Industry testing.

UAT, which started on Monday, 14 March, is now running on a test environment. The testing will continue for nine weeks.

All software suppliers, who have successfully completed their tests, will receive their type test certificates within the next two months.

Elxon end-to-end Testing to confirm all output files are received on BMRA have been completed successfully. Interconnector parties test preparations have been completed and following latest EBS release the execution of these tests will start in mid-March.

Action: SK will start the latest EBS release interconnector parties test preparations from mid-March.

Interface testing with Coreso is being planned.

The next steps are:

- To perform formal type tests
- Continue with Interconnector testing
- Close out any observations

Q. Dave Stewart – Quorum: How do Market Participants arrange EDL* Testing?

A. Liaise with Sarvesh to arrange a testing slot.

Afe Ogun (AO) advised that the EDT* & EDL* Toolkit has not changed since the development and the Market Participants can use them. A re-issue of the toolkit will be issued as a final version by the end of next month (April).

Action: AO will send out the EDT* & EDL* Toolkit by the end of April at the latest

Q. Claire McConnell – SSE: Can Market participants have more information regarding the EDT* * EDL* toolkit?

A. Although the toolkit has been sent out there are a number of members that are new to the group that have not had sight of it, therefore, it was agreed to re-circulate it.

AO explained that EDT* & EDL* was a way of communication to National Grid over the internet instead of using dedicated communications.

Action: National Grid should consider the possibility of a ‘test’ (perhaps zero cost) instruction to all control points during the RD trials.

5 Transition Plan

Pete Smith (PS) reiterated what had been explained previously regarding transition. There have not been any changes, however, trials have been brought forward. He also advised that there has been an increased in EDL access validation and ‘Go-Live’ for National Grid is not an event but a process.

He reiterated that the EBS External Testing and Transition Overview document is a very useful document.

Action: PS will send out the EBS External Testing and Transition Overview document with the Meeting Minutes.

PS went on to talk through the Resource Despatch & EDL trial. He explained that it replicates what is happening on BM from EBS. The length of this trial is two hours.

Philip Johnson (PJ) added that this trial is not to prove technology but to prove / test the business process.

Graham Bunt – EDF – commented that Market Participants should be clear on what is going to happen.

PJ then added that there would be some interruption from National Grid to Market Participants and they would see a slight interruption. However, National Grid was also be available on the telephone to help and provide advice.

PS further continued that this is a stepped approach with minimal impact to Market Participants.

Q. Claire McConnell – SSE: How much notice will Market Participants receive before the transition?

A. Timely notice will be provided and the actual outage will be during a flat period such as 9am to 10am on a weekday.

However, if there is an operational issue/problem the outage may have to be cancelled but the Market Participants will be notified in the usual way that they receive notification on outages now.

PJ commented on the Despatch Trials would give Market Participants confirmation that notifications have been received.

Following successful Despatch Trials, there would be Enduring Despatch Operation and only in extreme circumstances would National Grid revert back to BM.

The 'Point-of-No-Return' will be communicated to the market in advance and National Grids' preference is to migrate Trading Agents as soon as possible of the Point of No Return.

6 BSC Contact Details

Antonio (AdC) advised that the audit of contact details had been delayed and will be sent out next week to all BSC parties / Trading Agents and Control Points to ascertain whether the details that are held by National Grid are correct.

Action: AdC should send out the audit communication in the week beginning 21 March.

Once the contact details are verified the Qualification Certificates can be sent out.

There are no changes to the Communication Strategy.

7 Communication Strategy

The Transition Plan has been approved and the final plan with the actual dates will be published four weeks before transition (May 2016).

The next newsletter will be published in May.

8 Closure (Any Other Business, Date of Next Meeting)

The next meeting will be face to face and held on 17 May 2016.

Action: National Grid will arrange an EBS system demonstration after the next EBSIT meeting

AOB

Q. Andrew Gorton – Drax: Could any changes to milestones be communicated to Market Participants as soon as they are known?

A. This was agreed.