

Minutes

Meeting name	Electricity Balancing System (EBS) IT Subgroup
Meeting number	19
Date of meeting	14 September 2016
Time	10:00am to 12:30pm
Location	National Grid, St Catherine's Lodge, Sindlesham

Please note: The slide deck for this meeting was sent out to attendees on Wednesday, 14 September.

Attendees – in person

Name	Initials	Organisation	Company	Initials	Initials
Clive Harper	CH	Calon Energy			
Karen Sanders	KS	Contigo Software			
Iain Ward	IW	Contigo Software			
Andrew Chaplin	AC	D Thomas			
Graham Bunt	GB	EDF Energy			
John Sherban	JS	Quorum			
Simon Peter Reid	SR	Scottish Power			
Daniel Webb	DW	Seabank Power			
Damian Jackman	DJ	SSE			

Attendees – dial-in

Jonathan Burgess	JB	Centrica			
Andrew Gorton	AG	Drax			
Mark Hutton	MH	EDF Energy			
Nicholas Rubin	NR	Elexon			
Colin Berry	CB	Elexon			
Stuart Green	SG	Engie			
Richard Bird	RB	Marchwood Power			
Paul Webber	PW	RWE			
Mark Gailey	MG	Scottish Power			
Paul Hardy	PH	Siemens			
Claire McConnell	CMc	SSE			
Matt Ogston	MO	SSE			

Attendees – National Grid

Antonio del Castillo	AdC	Chair, National Grid			
Sarvesh Kumar	SK	National Grid			
Pete Smith	PS	National Grid			
Phil Johnson	PJ	National Grid			
Linda Hardwidge	LH	National Grid			
Afe Ogun	AO	National Grid			

1. Minutes and Actions

The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

The actions were reviewed and the action list updated. A copy of the action list has been attached in the email sent out with these minutes, which will include actions captured in this meeting.

2. Overall EBS Plan

Phil Johnson (PJ) discussed the programme update based on the outline plan included in the slide deck.

Questions following the presentation:

Q1: What are the differences between the two systems in terms of numbers of BOAs generated?

A: Trialling Scheduling first, with a split go live, should enable this to be clarified during the trials.

Q2: What will be the trigger point for EDL*/EDT*?

A: EDL* and EDT* should become available 6 months after PNR.

Q3: Will testing be complete before Trials start?

A: Yes. This was picked up in more detail during subsequent presentation slides.

Q4: What is the drop dead date for no further changes to EBS?

A: EBS is almost locked down now. However, Release 2 is currently planned for shortly after Go-Live.

Q5: Will Phase 1 Go-Live have an impact on P297 in June 2017?

A: We do not envisage any impact to P297 as the functionality is already available in EBS.

3. Testing & Transition Update

PS presented the current status of EBS Testing and Transition.

Questions following the presentation:

Q6: What resilience and performance testing has been undertaken?

A: We have completed our resilience testing cycles. We have already completed rounds of performance testing. The final performance benchmarking and performance tests will be completed on release 1.3.6.

Q7: Why are you not performance testing on release 1.3.7?

A: We will repeat our performance benchmarking and automated tests against 1.3.7 and all subsequent significant releases to ensure that there is no regression.

Q8: What is the anticipated volume of outputs?

A: We will have a better picture of this when we have completed our parallel running and Despatch Trials. However, it should be noted that doubling inputs for NG volume testing does not necessarily mean that the number of BOAs

issued will also double. We can however, manipulate certain variables in order to ensure that high levels of BOAs are produced to assist in stress testing with Elexon. It is however, during the trial runs that we will understand the true behaviour of EBS in relation to BOA volumes.

The EBS team asked what would be the maximum volumes that Elexon/external party systems can handle per half-hour. No estimated figures were offered in response.

Q9: Will passwords change from those issued as part of Access Validation?

A: No. The passwords issued will remain in place for EBS go-live.

Q10: Will there be a cut-off point for adding new connections?

A: No. New connections can be added as the need arises.

Q11: How are new control points managed?

A: Network change and connectivity tests will be undertaken for EBS as per the business-as-usual BM process. Vodafone will always be involved going forwards.

Q12: In relation to slide 20 – Interconnector Parties, will there be any impact to external parties of using the alternate EBS Production System?

A: It was confirmed that either EBS Production System can configure EDL to connect to all control points. For incoming EDT connections, National Grid will handle the incoming routing. External parties do not need to know which EBS production environment is active.

Q13: Can we have visibility of dates and precision timings for Trials?

A: The process for trials will be carefully scripted and timings shared with participants as appropriate. Dates of trials will be communicated via the weekly bulletins.

Q14: In relation to slide 21 – Elexon stated that end to end testing is not only needed from EBS perspective. Does testing need to be completed by end of October?

A: The intention is to complete as much external testing as possible on release 1.3.7 by the end of October. However, we fully intend to keep providing test output for end-to-end testing with BMRS throughout the transition trial period – right up to the PNR.

Q15: Are size of BOAs being considered?

A: Yes. We are looking at frequency, length and volume.

Q16: Can analysis be shared?

A: Overall volumes from the July Role Play have previously been shared. Next we plan to share our results on numbers of BOAs created on BM vs numbers of BOAs generated from EBS. We can send BMRA files at any stage to test the BMRS - if the system availability (of test BMRS) allows.

Q17: What is the plan to explore pricing impacts of EBS?

A: We are linking up with Commercial Operations to ensure this is covered.

ACTIONS:

- Any Trading Agents who have not been scheduled for Access Validation should contact Sarvesh Kumar (All to check)
- National Grid to publish the results of EDL connectivity to EBS during trials – for all connections not just failures. Positive confirmations to be issued.
- National Grid to consider how we can simulate worst/best case scenarios in terms of numbers of BOAs created, to test with Elexon (PS)
- National Grid to share all available data in terms of BOA volumes
- National Grid to work with Elexon to support any BMRS stress testing that they wish to undertake
- National Grid to improve communications for future EDL AV or RD Trials
- National Grid to produce a high-level briefing for external parties to explain the purpose and nature of Despatch Trials. Consider if there should be two versions; one for traders and one for control points.
- Market Participants to send any suggestions or comments on communications to the EBSIT mail box.

4. Scheduling Parallel Run

ADC provided an update on Scheduling Parallel Run activities.

Questions following the presentation:

Q18: How is human error correction management handled in the system?

A: Analysis is under way. We need to ensure we have a method to advise the Operators of inability to solve due to erroneous data. We are taking measures to correct a known error. Validation rules will still apply. Errors should be captured in Scheduling.

5. Proposal for Dispatch Pre-Trials

PJ ran through the proposals for Dispatch Pre-Trials.

Questions following the presentation:

Q19: What are the anticipated timings for a switch-over?

A: Target is 10-15 minutes, but process to bring everything back may take longer. (20 mins to switch EDL to EBS, 20 mins for initial trial, 20 mins to switch EDI back to BM).

Q20: Do you intend to switch some EDL links or all?

A: With EDL it is all or nothing – so all will be switched for the Trials.

Q21: Can we strengthen communications to assist Market Participant

communications with Traders and Stations?

A: We need to agree communications in both directions in terms of Trials. It would be helpful if Market Participants could provide their informal views on how they would like to receive communications to assist with this.

Q22: Will Pumped Storage be integrated into EBS?

A: Yes.

Q23: Can EBS BOA up or down for tendered contracts?

A: EBS looks at total cost of contract. EBS will optimise, therefore it will do marginal cost.

Q24: Can the issue with file versioning of interface changes be explained?

A: This is unavoidable as we are moving from a VMS to a UNIX environment.

ACTIONS:

- Check that contact information previously sent in has been incorporated in the communication plan (PS)
- National Grid to improve communications for future EDL AV or RD Trials. This will include a review of the BAU communication process for BM Outages.
- National Grid to produce a high-level briefing for external parties to explain the purpose and nature of Despatch Trials. Consider if there should be two versions; one for traders and one for control points.
- Market Participants to send any suggestions or comments on communications to the EBSIT mail box.

6. Closure (Any Other Business, Date of Next Meeting)

Market Participants attending in person were invited to a demonstration of the EBS Parallel Run activities.

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

The next meeting will be held during late November/early December – exact date/time/location to be confirmed.