

BM System Replacement

Industry Consultation

Transition from BM to EBS and Communications

16th June 2015

Responses requested by 31st July 2015

Information Contact:

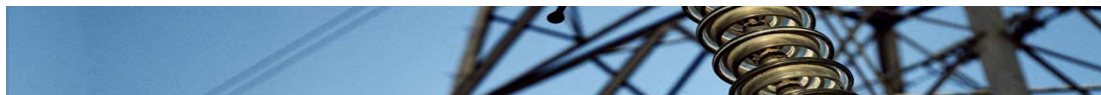
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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Transition phase BM to EBS is scheduled for the latter part of Q2 2016. The plan for Transition has been shared with the EBS IT group in several occasions where we have had useful discussions. As a result we have adapted the plan according to this feedback. National Grid would like to have the final Transition plan agreed with the Market Participants by Q4 2015. To this extent we are launching a consultation next 16th June to gather additional views about the Transition and the communications with the Industry during this phase. The consultation document will be sent to the EBS Stakeholders, the EBS IT and the GCRP and published on <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/uk/industryinformation/electricity-codes/balancing-framework/electricity-balancing-system/>.

The responses are requested by 31st July 2015. Please send your responses to EBS.IT@nationalgrid.com. The responses to the consultation will be published on the same site and will be discussed during the September EBS IT meeting.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

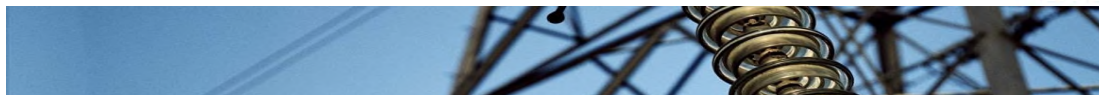
National Grid is replacing the Balancing Mechanism (BM) system with the new Electricity Balancing System (EBS). The project to deliver the EBS is approaching its final stages with the cut-over date currently planned in 12 months from now. The factory testing is about to complete, therefore the remaining phases are:

- Onsite Testing (5 months)
- Operational / User Acceptance Testing (4 months)
- Transition BM to EBS (3 months)

The Market Participants connectivity testing for EDL and EDT is also underway and in line with the rest of the project. After this, the formal EDL/EDT certification can proceed, in order to get the communications ready for the Transition phase.

Once all testing has been completed, the Transition phase will take place, which concludes with the cut-over from BM to EBS. This phase involves transferring the production external communications EDL and EDT from the old system to the new one. Although it is not anticipated that the Market Participants will notice any difference as the EDL and EDT are not modified in any way, we would like to maintain the industry well informed about what will be happening and by when.

National Grid wishes to get better understanding of the EBS Stakeholders' views about the Transition activities and the expected communications between the project and the Industry before and during this phase.



2.2 TRANSITION PLAN

Supporting documents for this consultation are:

- External Testing and Transition Overview
- Market Participant EDT Transition Approach

published in <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Industry-information/Electricity-codes/Balancing-framework/Document-feeds/EBS-%28BM-Replacement%29/EBS-IT-Sub-Group/>

and agreed with the EBS groups.



Market Participant EDT Transition Approach



External Testing and Transition Overview

During previous EBS IT meetings the Market Participants fed back that they preferred a staged approach to the transition from current BM system to future EBS instead of a big bang cut over. We have modified slightly the transition phase to accommodate this and we would like to gather opinion on how to best implement it.

Transition is divided into 3 phases:

- For 10 weeks Operational Soak
- For 2 weeks Trial Runs
- For 1 week Go Live

2.2.1 OPERATIONAL SOAK

One item of the entry criteria into Operational Soak is to have completed all the circuit connectivity tests for both EDL and EDT. These functional and non-functional tests have run and will still be running until the end of 2015.

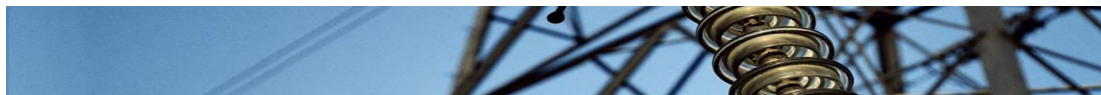
Consultation Question 1: *What is your experience so far of the EDL and EDT tests processes and how would you like National Grid to improve it?*

EDL Access Validation: During Operational Soak as agreed previously, National Grid will perform EDL access validation by disconnecting production EDL from BM, connecting it to EBS production system and then reverting back to BM. National Grid will analyse the connection log files, and action those failed connections.

Consultation Question 2: *Do you have any concerns about the procedure for EDL Access Validation?*

EDT Access Validation: we envisage providing the MPs with 3 different periods to connect their production EDT to the EBS production system to validate access. The validation could be done by just establishing an FTP connection or by submitting a file through the link.

Consultation Question 3: *At this stage have you considered already if you are planning either just establishing an FTP connection, or submitting a file manually, or using your production system to submit files automatically, or you prefer National Grid to provide you with a script to run the validation?*



2.2.2 TRIAL RUNS

The purpose of the introduction of the EBS trial runs is to avoid a big bang cut-over of such a critical system for the country, allowing building up the confidence on the stability of the Resource Dispatch module. There will be a limited number (2 to 8) of trial runs, which will include:

- EBS is receiving replicated EDL from BM and has been running the schedulers steadily
- EDL is disconnected from BM and is connected to production EBS
- EBS dispatcher starts sending instructions to MPs, initially a low volume of instructions
- validation of the stability of RD using both automated and manual instructions
- revert back EDL to BM once the exercise is complete

Consultation Question 4: *Do you have any concerns about this procedure?*

On the specific day of a trial run and before the start of the run, we intend to have a teleconference open for the Market Participant to join to inform about the go-ahead, the progress and the return back to BM at the end. We could consider other forms of communication.

Consultation Question 5: *Would you prefer to have other forms of communication instead of / additional to a teleconference during the trial runs? If so, please state and explain the benefits.*

At the end of each trial run we will analyse the run of EBS and we'll provide feedback about our findings. We expect to analyse in detail the actual dispatch instructions, the functioning of EDL/EDT and the monitoring of the EBS amongst others.

Consultation Question 6: *Is there any particular information you would like to have included in this feedback?*

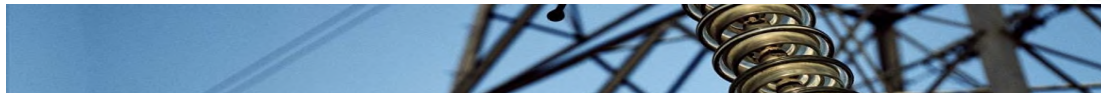
We are interested too on the Market Participants experience of the trial run / outage (before, during and after).

Consultation Question 7: *How would you like to provide this feedback?*

2.2.3 GO-LIVE

Yet again to avoid a big-bang on the balancing tools, the Go-Live date will be planned similarly to a trial run, but with no return to BM. Once completed EDL connection to production EBS, next step is the EDT cutover, which will happen in stages with each Market Participant.

Consultation Question 8: *What support do you expect / require from National Grid for the EDT cutover?*



3 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

3.1 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The consultation questions are summarised in Appendix 1. The proforma in appendix 1 can be used to respond to the consultation questions, as described in section 3.2.

Appendix 2 contains a short questionnaire seeking industry feedback on this consultation document.

3.2 HOW TO RESPOND

Responses should be submitted by replying to the consultation questions in Appendix 1 and e-mailing the completed proforma to EBS.IT@uk.ngrid.com. The completed feedback questionnaire in Appendix 2 can also be e-mailed to the same email address

If you do not wish any elements of your response to be made publicly available, please mark these as confidential.

3.3 DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES

The consultation period for this consultation is 6 weeks from the date of publication (16th June 2015) of this document. Therefore responses are required by 31st July 2015.

3.4 HELP WITH QUERIES

If you have queries regarding any aspect of this consultation, please contact:

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4 NEXT STEPS

Once the consultation responses have been received, National Grid will summarise these responses in a consultation report which will be published on its website

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Balancing/consultations/>, ready for our EBS IT meeting in September 2015.

National Grid will keep the industry informed of the progress of the system development work via normal communications such as the Operational Forum, the GCRP and the newly created EBS Stakeholder distribution list.



5 APPENDIX: CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

National Grid invites responses to this consultation by 11 November 2010. The responses to specific consultation questions (summarised below) or any other aspect of this consultation can be provided by completing the following proforma.

Please return the completed proforma to: EBS.IT@nationalgrid.com

Respondent:	
Company Name:	
Does this response contain confidential information?	

No	Question	Response
1	What is your experience so far of the EDL and EDT tests processes and how would you like National Grid to improve it? (section 2.2.1)	
2	Do you have any concerns about the procedure for EDL Access Validation? (section 2.2.1)	
3	At this stage have you considered already if you are planning either just establishing an FTP connection, or submitting a file manually, or using your production system to submit files automatically, or you prefer National Grid to provide you with a script to run the validation? (section 2.2.1)	
4	Do you have any concerns about this procedure? (section 2.2.2)	



5	<p>Would you prefer to have other forms of communication instead of / additional to a teleconference during the trial runs? If so, please state and explain the benefits. (section 2.2.2)</p>	
6	<p>Is there any particular information you would like to have included in this feedback? (section 2.2.2)</p>	
7	<p>How would you like to provide this feedback? (section 2.2.2)</p>	
8	<p>What support do you expect / require from National Grid for the EDT cutover? (section 2.2.3)</p>	
	<p>Are there any other comments that you wish you to make on this consultation?</p>	