

Minutes

Meeting name	Electricity Balancing System (EBS) IT Subgroup
Meeting number	2
Date of meeting	29 th March 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
Jane Oates	JO	National Grid
James Mitchell	JM	Centrica
Stuart Green	SG	International Power (Teleconference)
Joanne Heine	JH	Alstom Grid
John Sherban	JS	Quorum Developments
Mike McDermott	MMcD	Siemens
Ian McDonald	IMcD	Thames Power
Graham Bunt	GB	EDF Energy
Darren McCann	DMcC	Logica (Teleconference)
Allan Viney	AV	Scottish Power
Simon Piercy	SP	Contigo
Simon Cooper	SC	E.ON (teleconference)
Paul Coates	PC	RWE
Erik Cummins	EC	EDF Energy

Apologies

Lee Rowling	Intergen
Martin Macleod	SSE
Michael Joyce	E.ON
Kevin Kennedy	IPRPL/GDF Suez
Chris Taylor-Firth	Syseca

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

Further investigation has taken place on the implications of VMS operating system specifics. Industry/supplier attendees were requested to supply details of any VMS specific commands they use in the process of submitting EDT files to National Grid.

Action ongoing

Action 002 – SR

Updating of test scripts is progressing. Non-functional tests to be designed for inclusion within the scripts. **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 (use of VPN is likely to be required) and a firm view will be available by the next meeting. **Action ongoing**

Action 004 – AO Action Ongoing

Action 005 – SR

National Grid will be offering suppliers access to a real EBS over the internet, rather than to attempt to create a simulator. **Action closed (new action to be opened on same subject)**

Action 006 – PS

An action to develop a communications strategy for transition and cutover has now been handed over to Jane Oates – **Action ongoing**

Action 007 – AO

An initial version of the ABB EDT*/EDL* client web services toolkit should be available around August 2012. **Action closed (new action to be opened on same subject)**

Action 008 – AO

Details of the EDT* acceptance / acknowledgement and time stamping arrangements will be made available around August 2012. **Action closed (new action to be opened on same subject)**

Action 009 – RP

It is the intention that an online Frequency Asked Questions will be provided and updated as and when we receive new questions – this was agreed by the meeting. **Action Closed.**

Action 010 – RP

It is proposed that EBS documents will be made available via the internet using an EBS web page on a NG internet site. National Grid will publish appropriate Technical Specifications on the website. **Action Closed**

Action 011 – AO

There are no plans to change the network infrastructure from IPv4 to IPv6. However the hardware infrastructure being deployed for EBS is capable of running a dual stack (IPv4 and IPv6) and National Grid is also able to tunnel IPv6 over IPv4 (or vice versa) should the need arise. HTML5 is supported by IE9. EBS displays will be certified against IE9, therefore EBS will be HTML5 compliant. ABB at present do not utilise any features of HTML5 on EBS.

Action Closed (there is a follow on action for AO)

Action 012 – RP

Terms of Reference has been updated and sent out with the draft minutes.

Action Closed

5 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference has now been updated and the amendments have been agreed by the meeting.

6 Update on Project Timescales

There have been no changes to the timescales since the last meeting.

7 Industry Interfaces – EDL & EDT

Afe gave a brief overview of the new infrastructure of the EBS system, which will be deployed across three National Grid sites and on multiple servers for higher availability.

He advised that the network security settings at the Control Point and Trading Point sites will need to be changed to enable access to and from the new EBS network and Peer point DMZ.

The recommended use of DNS to access the active EBS system/site will help reduce the mean time to recover the service from a participant perspective.

Afe asked the industry attendees how much notice would be needed to update the network security settings at the market participant's end of the EDT and EDL circuits? He also asked if there any Trading Agents not able to use National Grid's DNS to access the active EBS system?

Action AO

Create a list of EBS compatible browsers.

Create and send a questionnaire to market participants / suppliers and suppliers of their own IT regarding timescales around their modifications / changes required / VMS specifics.

**8 Testing
Initial Testing with system suppliers
Subsequent testing with market participants**

There was a discussion regarding the form that EDL testing will take. SR took an action to look into this and come back to the meeting with proposals.

All the data changes for EDT* are planned to be rolled out together. However, EDT*/EDL* will not be offered to market participants at EBS 'Go Live' - this is expected to happen approximately 6 months later.

Action SR

To look into the possibility of an Elexon test environment to allow data flows from participant to EBS to Elexon to participant.

Action RP/AO

To investigate the timescales for Elexon changes to support EDT*.

Action SR

To look into the level of EDL & EDT testing required and to come back one month prior to the next meeting with proposals.

Action SR / PS

To produce a joint timeline of when activity would be required from participants and suppliers in respect of type testing, BPITS, connectivity testing and transition.

9 Transition

Pete gave an update on the external aspects of EBS transition.

Where practicable, the connections between market participant production sites and EBS will be tested prior to go-live.

At go-live there will be a low impact on external parties and any EDL/EDT outage time will be similar to that of a BM upgrade/maintenance outage. There will be separate transition strategies for the different types of market participant sites.

There will be a probably password change for EDT, as there are encrypted FTP passwords on the current system. One question raised was whether we can simplify the DNS name – it was suggested that this could be shorter. It is still to be decided which names will be used in transition.

Another point raised was can a participant have the same password on the old and new system. It was suggested that this might be possible, but further investigation was required.

Action PS

To look into the availability of MPLS for EDL/EDT.

Action PS

Issue a technical guidance note for FTP/DNS connectivity including the use of DNS.

Action PS

Make available the latest version of the CTC Message Client on <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Balancing/EDL/>

10 Communications Strategy

Jane explained that the communications strategy for this project is evolving. Communication to the market participants will be via a newsletter published and issued to the industry three times a year. The first newsletter has just been published which gives a high level overview of the project in particular specific to impacts on the industry, together with details of EBS working groups and the EBS webpage. The idea is to publish them following working group meetings to give a progress update to the industry. The EBS webpage is being updated. The webpage will have links to working group web pages with all the minutes from meetings and presentations. An industry contact list is being maintained to provide news bulletins via e-mail. The bulletins will provide updates on the progress and current status around transition and cutover e.g. support process and key contact numbers.

Action JO

To look into getting the bulletin into the Elexon Bulletin / Newscast

11 Date of Next Meetings

Proposed dates for next meetings are:-

19th June

26th September

12 AOB

None