

## Minutes

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|------------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting name</b>    | Electricity Balancing System (EBS) IT Subgroup |
| <b>Meeting number</b>  | 9  |
| <b>Date of meeting</b> | 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2013                 |
| <b>Time</b>            | 10:00 – 11:30                                  |
| <b>Location</b>        | Live Meeting with audio                        |

## Attendees

| <b>Name</b>         | <b>Initials</b> | <b>Company</b>                     |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Robert Paterson     | RP              | Chair, National Grid               |
| Sally Cox           | SC              | Technical Secretary, National Grid |
| Pete Smith          | PS              | National Grid                      |
| Afe Ogun            | AO              | National Grid                      |
| Steve Roberts       | SR              | National Grid                      |
| Sarvesh Kumar       | SK              | National Grid                      |
| John Walsh          | JW              | National Grid                      |
| Hari Chohan         | HC              | National Grid                      |
| Mark Bucknell       | MB              | Drax Power                         |
| Simon Piercy        | SP              | Trayport Contigo                   |
| Paul Hardy          | PH              | Siemens                            |
| Graham Bunt         | GB              | EDF                                |
| Michael Joyce       | MJ              | E.ON                               |
| Allan Viney         | AV              | Scottish Power                     |
| John Lucas          | JL              | Elexon                             |
| Paul Coates         | PC              | RWE                                |
| Richard James       | RJ              | CGI                                |
| Ian Mort            | IM              | Quorum                             |
| John Sherban        | JS              | Quorum                             |
| Grace Leonard       | GL              | EirGrid                            |
| Alan Souch          | AS              | RWE                                |
| Gráinne Fitzpatrick | GF              | ESB                                |
| Mark Houston        | MH              | CGI                                |
| Graham West         | GW              | Natural Power                      |
| Andrew Chaplin      | AC              | Alstom Grid                        |
| Alex Marsh          | AM              | SSE                                |

## **1 Safety**

Robert confirmed that there were no fire alarm tests planned for today.

## **2 Introductions**

All participants introduced themselves.

## **3 Minutes of Last Meeting**

No comments were received regarding the minutes from the last meeting. These were, therefore, agreed.

## **4 Review of Actions**

The actions were reviewed and the action list updated.

## **5 Update on Timescales**

Robert presented some slides on timescales. Progress has been reviewed based on experience to date and as EBS is key to safeguarding supplies to customers and to market participants' businesses, then go-live has been delayed from September 2014 to April 2015. The high-level timescales and the detailed external testing & transition plans have all been revised and these will shortly be included or referenced in an Industry Newsletter.

## **6 EDT FTP Issues**

Afe reported that he believed that the key issues associated EDT FTP had been resolved. These were the response of the FTP server to the List command and some connectivity issues associated with the proxies. The fixes had been successfully tested with the key suppliers affected.

He also reported that there was an issue with a significant delay when market participants were logging into the EBS EDT FTP server – this had not yet been resolved, but was being investigated.

## **7 Testing Update**

Steve started by talking through the testing plan. He advised that the external testing & transition plans were in line with the revisions to the high-level timescales communicated earlier in the meeting. He reported that the initial EDL & EDT type testing with suppliers was essentially complete. Circuit Connectivity Testing had commenced and was expected to complete in April. Final EDL & EDT type testing is planned to start in late July 2014, once a resilient EBS environment is available, and conclude by the end of September 2014. There will continue to be informal testing with suppliers between now and the final type tests, for example to confirm the resolution of issues. The window for optional EDL & EDT testing with market participants will commence following the completion of the final type tests with suppliers and will run until the end of the year.

## **Initial Type Test Progress**

Steve then provided an update on the initial type tests, he reported that these were now complete from a functional point of view with no outstanding problems. Major issues regarding the response of EBS to the [EDT] FTP commands DIR and LS have been fixed and successfully tested with some of the affected suppliers.

The connectivity issues around allowing passive FTP for EDT appear to have been fixed and this too has been re-tested with some of those affected. However, there are still some environment-specific performance issues which were being investigated.

## **Update on Circuit Connectivity Tests**

Sarvesh reported that the final EDT/EDL connectivity test scripts have now been circulated. DNS names and IP addresses have also been finalised and circulated. A proxy solution is now in place at Wokingham and Warwick. Circuit connectivity tests have commenced with market participants. Sarvesh will be contacting market participants to schedule the circuit connectivity tests in the New Year. A prerequisite for the circuit connectivity tests is that market participants have made their firewall and ACL changes.

## **8 EDL\* & EDT\***

Afe said that National Grid were now ready to configure the VPNs to allow suppliers access to the test EDL\* and EDT\* services over the internet. He asked those suppliers who had firm plans to develop EDL\* or EDT\* clients in the near future and wished to access the services over the internet to send an e-mail to the ebs.it address. He went on to say that this facility would first be tested within National Grid and should be available in April 2014.

## **9 EDL\* & EDT\* New Industry Interfaces Plan**

Robert advised that the Grid Code and Data Validation, Consistency & Defaulting Rules consultation closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The responses to this consultation will be reviewed by the industry business representatives at the EBSG workgroup meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December. A report will then be written and submitted to Ofgem who will then decide whether to approve the changes.

Robert reported that the BSC P297 workgroup on publishing the new and revised data supported by EDT\* had held additional meetings. The plan was to re-issue the assessment phase consultation early in the New Year following concerns he had raised regarding the original solution. Subject to positive consultation responses, the modification will go to the BSC Panel and then to Ofgem for their decision – this is likely to take happen in March 2014.

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014

A decision will be taken a month in advance of this meeting as to whether the agenda merits it being a physical meeting or a teleconference/Live Meeting only.

**Which Trading Agents intend using DNS when FTPing EDT files to EBS?**

Robert noted that, unlike the existing BM Systems, EBS has proxies that mean all EDT submissions can be directed to a single virtual ip address. Consequently the use of DNS with EBS, which would just translate to the single virtual ip address, would seem to offer little or no benefit. However, some market participants may still wish to use DNS e.g. if their EDT client application requires this. To help inform National Grid's testing of the EBS DNS functionality, we would appreciate a view from market participants as to whether they intend using DNS when submitting EDT files to EBS.

**Action SK** – When contacting market participants regarding circuit connectivity tests, determine which participants intend using DNS when submitting EDT files to EBS.

A question was asked by Graham Bunt, that with changes arising from European legislation/regulation, the delay to EBS go-live could mean that the requirements for the new industry interfaces EDL\* and EDT\* have to change. Should this be raised as a risk? RP agreed that externally imposed changes, including those from Europe, did represent a risk and confirmed that National Grid had previously raised risks regarding the impact of these types of changes on EBS.