

## **Environment Requirements envisaged for UNC Modification 531 - Provision of Industry Testing Capability following PNID – a Preliminary Discussion Paper**

This document has been produced to reflect initial discussions regarding requirements for UNC Modification 531. This preliminary view of requirements is shared with the Workgroup to solicit opinions of workgroup members.

### **Background**

This modification has been raised by SSE. Version 2 of the Modification has amended the scope of the Modification to reflect an on-going test capability.

This modification requests that a testing environment is available to Users beyond the Project Nexus Implementation Date (PNID). This is anticipated to be an ongoing requirement.

The following requirements have been identified by the proposer for the testing environment (the environment) envisaged under this modification.

### **Requirements**

#### **General**

1. The environment should be available immediately after PNID.
  - a. A short period of downtime (for example 4-8 weeks) during preliminary stabilisation of the Production environment would be acceptable.
2. Provision of this environment should not impact delivery of Project Nexus.
3. Once implemented, provision of this testing environment should not be prioritised over production tasks. i.e. this will be a lower priority resolution in the event of failure.
4. Non UK Link Systems are excluded. Also excluded is Gemini test environment as this is separately provisioned currently. ANS is excluded. Included in scope is UK Link (excluding Gemini) and UK Link Network.

#### **Availability**

5. The environment should be available within business hours 09:00 – 17:00hrs on Business Days.
6. It is assumed that there will be a single test instance – i.e. a single User or multiple Users (with relevant agreements in place) will only be able to operate at any one time. No functionality will exist in the environment to partition or ring fence data or functionality to allow a multiple Users to co-exist without impacting another.
7. Users will book access to the testing capability. Where the environment is available, such requests should be able to be met within [6] weeks of contract agreement [assume functionality / data will need to be agreed via a Schedule].

#### **Data**

8. This environment will not be a full size data equivalent of UK link Production.

9. The environment should have the capability to be populated with data cuts from UK Link Production. The environment must have the capability to have a refresh at the start of a testing phase, and as agreed with the testing User(s).
10. Where requested the test system should be populated with standing data – this data will be defined but is expected to include data available in advance such as EUC / ALP / DAF. Where data is derived daily this data should be loaded as requested, but could reflect live data feeds – e.g. CV data and Weather data.
11. Where data is required to be populated – e.g. Calorific Values, Weather Data – the data used to populate the testing environment should be published separately if this does not reflect the Production / Live data.
12. Data populated should align to Market Domain Data.
13. It is not expected that this environment will need to be maintained with parallel data to UK Link other than via these specified refreshes and data items defined in bullet 10.
14. Users may specify the data population that they require. This might be by virtue of the data types – e.g. by Product Type, by Market Sector, or by specific nomination of Meter Points. The User would need to be entitled to see all data within the data population, or have the express consent of the relevant parties – including the consumer.
15. The effective date of the data cut must be provided to Users, and where required agreed in advance with the User.
16. Users will be required to confirm that data provided will only be used for testing purposes and that relevant controls are in place. Users will be required to delete data after completion of testing.

#### **Functionality**

17. It is not expected that this environment is a full scale functional test environment. Processes specified by Users will need to be provided by the test environment.
18. its purpose is not for volume testing.
19. The Modification states a 'time travel' requirement. The environment 'clock time' may be altered by prior agreement with all testing parties.

#### **Batch Schedule**

20. Users will need to specify the testing that they plan to carry out so that the test environment can reflect the necessary functionality.
21. The batch schedule on the testing environment should emulate Shipper interaction with UK Link..
22. Unless agreed to the contrary, the environment should reflect the 'normal' operation as much as possible – for example, if an invoicing run occurs on a given business day within the month this should happen on this same equivalent day in the test environment.
23. Specific events will be suspended where Users and Xoserve agree not to test these events – e.g. invoices will not be generated.

#### **Interfaces**

24. If requested, the interface mechanisms should reflect Market Trials. i.e. Batch files should be submitted via I'X and routed to the test environment in the same manner as defined for the Market Trials test phase.
25. If requested, the UK Link portal should be available.

#### **Support Resources**

26. Support. To be agreed as per each testing requirement.

#### **Reporting**

27. No reporting will be required to industry participants of participation in this testing phase.