

II Gemini Project

MPLS Update – 2nd September 2005

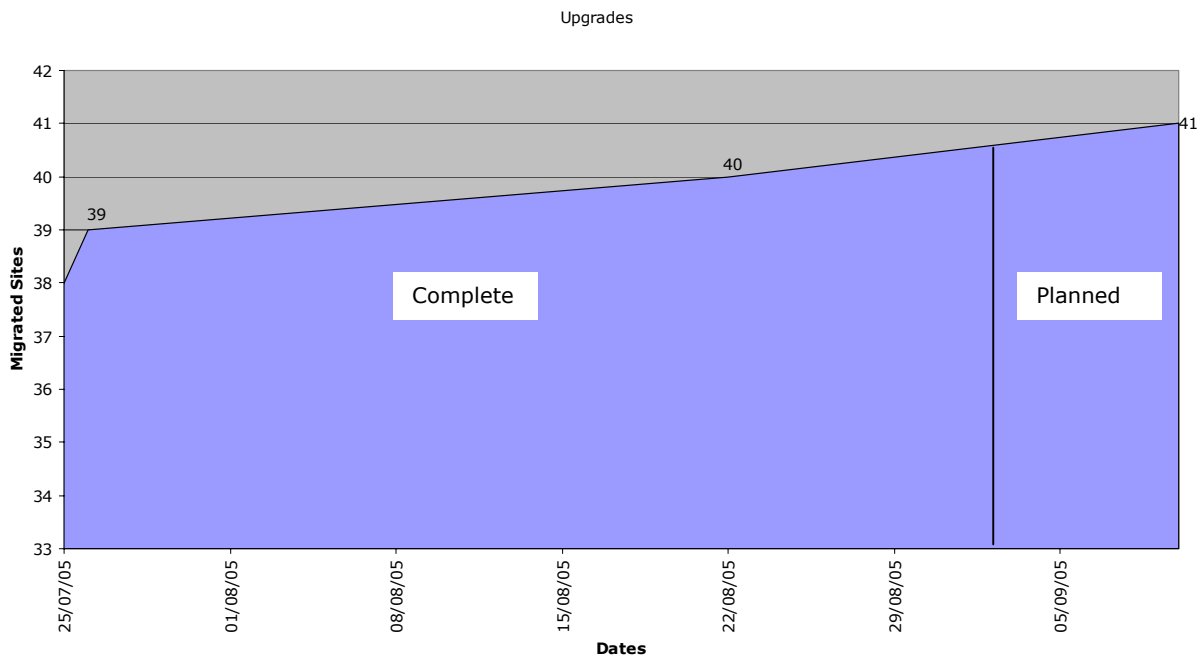
Introduction

National Grid is currently undergoing an I'X replacement programme, replacing existing I'X lines with more flexible and resilient MPLS (Multi Protocol Label Switching) technology.

Those shippers that NG identified as requiring upgrades for Gemini, as detailed in previous I'X updates, were incorporated as Phase I of the MPLS project.

The remaining Shippers are to be incorporated in Phase II.

Phase I implementation progress



The date for the final remaining Phase I site is Saturday 10th September 2005.

De-commissioning of old I'X routers continues for those Phase I sites that were migrated to MPLS in June. Approximately one third have now been removed from shipper sites and this will continue during the next two months. Circuit cancellations have been placed for all sites except the final Phase I site.

Some Phase I upgrades needed rescheduling. Reasons for this, which are worth noting for Phase II Shippers, include:

- Site re-locations
- Appropriate internal approvals
- BT Line faults

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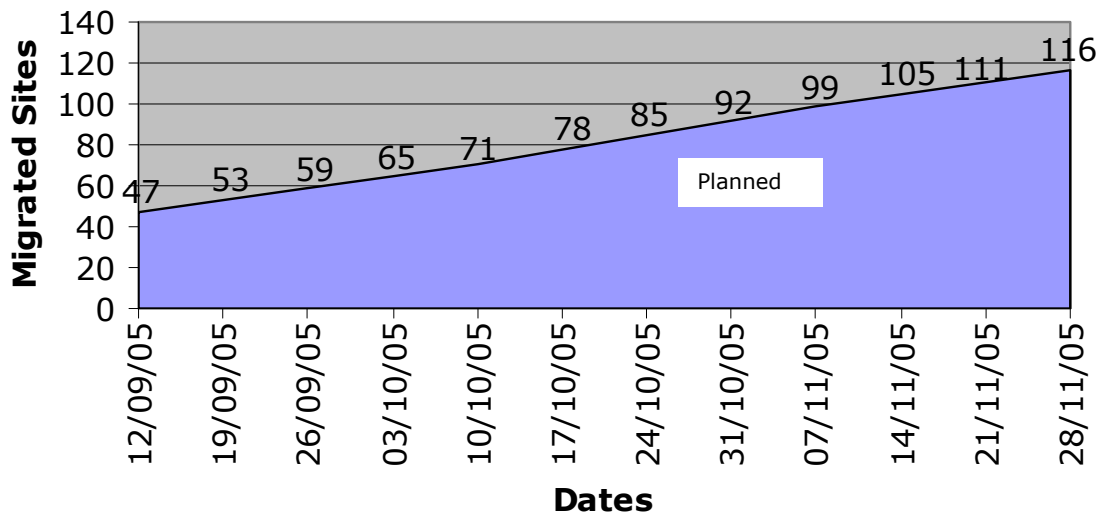
Internal Change freezes

Please call the MPLS project team directly if you have any particular concerns.

Phase II

Phase II implementation plan

Migrations



Energis have completed the additional 34Mb connection installation work at HDC and LDH. Confirmation that all required activities are now complete is awaited from Energis. This was a significant milestone for Phase II migrations to commence.

BT circuit installations for Phase II Shippers continue and proposed dates continue to be agreed (and amended, if requested) with Shipper contacts. Proposed dates have now been received for the vast majority of the seventy-five sites within Phase II.

Thirty-five sites have been completed as far as BT primary and backup circuits are concerned. These sites are currently being contacted to confirm when would be suitable for the Energis router installation to take place. Energis will then make all efforts to adhere to the required dates.

BT circuit installations and Energis router installations will continue throughout September with I'X to MPLS migrations commencing towards the middle of September. The revised completion date of 28th November reflects experiences from Phase I in terms of the number of migrations possible per week.

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XP1 Replacement

An Internet-based XP1 replacement is unlikely to be in place before Implementation. A plan will be distributed to Shippers detailing the XP1 replacement for Go-live and subsequent Internet-based solution

Contacts

MPLS Upgrade Coordinator
Karen Ellis
Phone: 01455 892132
e-mail: kellis7@csc.com

MPLS Project Manager (NG)
Andrew Baynes
Phone: 07901 510799
e-mail: andrew.d.baynes@ngtuk.com

MPLS Project Manager (CSC)
Tim Perkin
Phone: 07917 171844
e-mail: aperkin@csc.com