

II
Gemini Project

MPLS Update – 19th August 2005

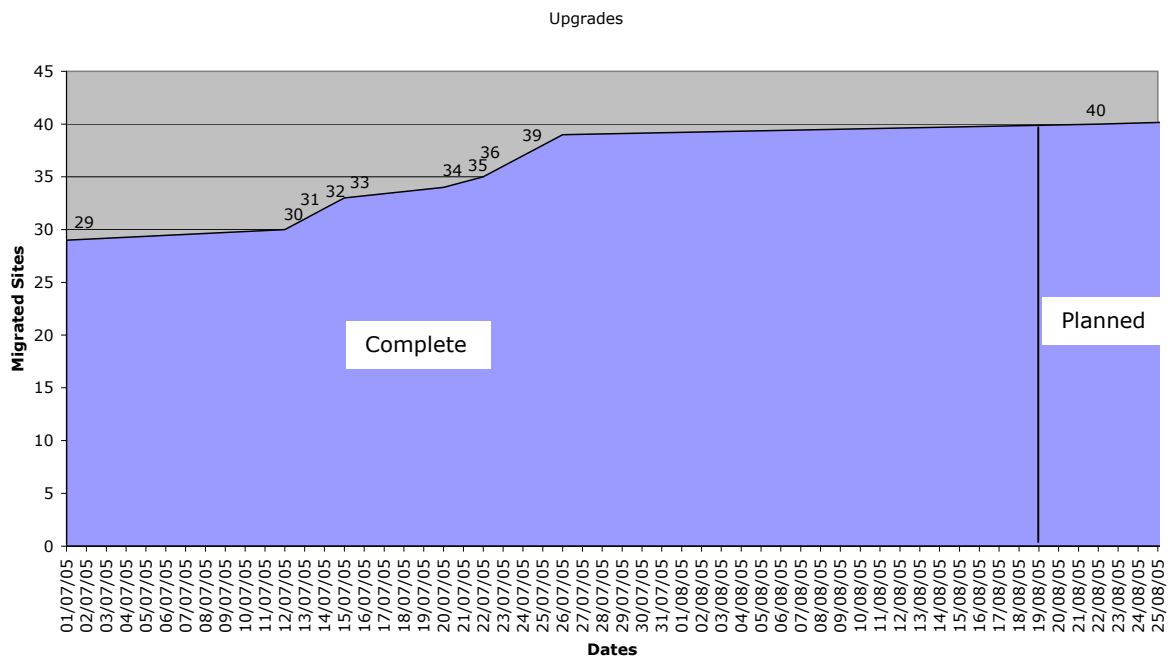
Introduction

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 unavailable at present.

Upgrades have been progressing to plan with some needing rescheduling. Reasons for this to-date, which are worth noting for Phase II Shippers, include:

- Site re-locations
- Appropriate internal approvals
- BT Line faults
- Internal Change freezes

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

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Phase II

De-commissioning of old I'X routers has now commenced from those Phase I sites that were migrated to MPLS in early- to mid-June. This will continue throughout August and September.

BT circuit installations for Phase II Shippers have now commenced and proposed dates provided by BT, (via Energis) continue to be agreed with Shipper contacts. It is likely that BT circuit installations and Energis router installations will continue throughout August and September with migrations commencing early in September.

Proposed dates have now been received for the vast majority of the seventy-six sites within Phase II. Of these, approximately twelve Shippers have had both primary and backup circuits installed, with several being installed per day currently.

XP1 Replacement

The conceptual design for a replacement for XP1 is complete, with designs being considered including access via the Internet. Following approval, the physical technology will be progressed.

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