

II
Gemini Project

MPLS Update – 30th 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

All Phase I implementations are now complete.

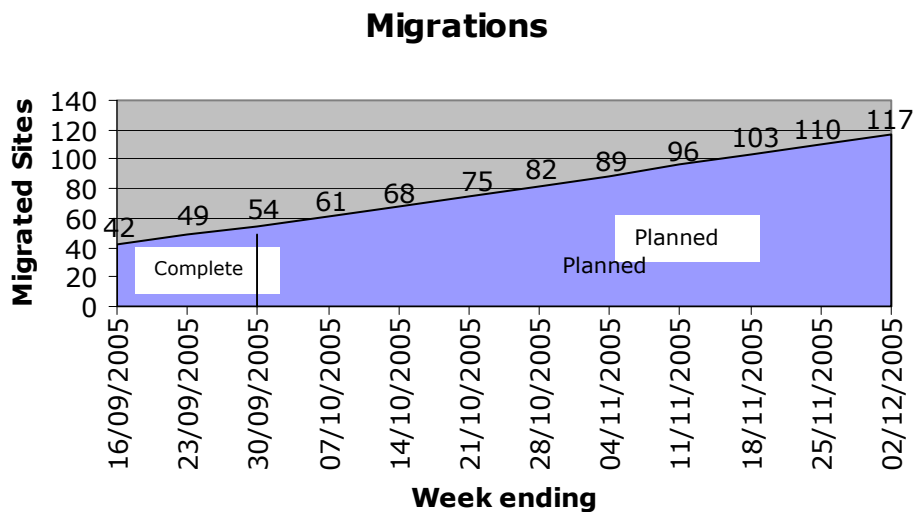
Some Phase I upgrades needed rescheduling. Reasons for this, which are worth noting for Phase II Shippers, include:

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

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

Phase II

Phase II implementation plan



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BT circuit installations for Phase 2 shippers continue and proposed dates provided by BT, via Energis, 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 this second phase.

Sixty shipper sites have now been completed as far as BT primary and backup circuits are concerned. Of these sites, fifty Energis routers have now been installed with more planned over the next few days.

The remaining shippers are either currently being contacted and requested to confirm when would be suitable for the Energis router installation to take place, or will be contacted once the BT circuit installations are complete.

Thirteen shippers have now been migrated to MPLS within Phase II making a total of fifty-four for the project so far.

Migration dates and times continue to be agreed, taking into account geographical locations, with those shippers whose routers have been installed. A further seven migrations are scheduled to take place during w/c 3rd October.

XP1 Replacement

Plans are in progress to migrate the existing XP1 access from AT-Link to Gemini for Go-live. The cutover outage time required to migrate from AT-Link to Gemini is minimal and to be confirmed.

The Gemini Project has carried out a Logical Technical Model (LTM) for replacing the XP1 access with Internet access for Gemini. This work is required to progress into a Physical Technical Model (PTM) which, with the required testing to prove the Internet option, is planned for completion for the end of November 2005.

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