

UK LINK Committee Minutes
Thursday 11 January 2007
held at Elexon, 350, Euston Road, London

Attendees

John Bradley	(JB)	Joint Office
Mike Berrisford	(MiB)	Joint Office
Caroline Purcell	(CP)	xoserve (for Transporters)
Annie Griffith	(AG)	xoserve
Dave Addison	(DA)	xoserve
Martin Baker	(MaB)	xoserve
Mick Curtis	(MC)	e=mc ² (for Shell)
Tiago Vasconcelos	(TV)	TGP
Dan Simons	(DS)	EDF Energy
Bryan Donnelly	(BD)	SAIC Europe Ltd (for Scottish Power)
Martin Brandt	(MB)	SSE
Robert Cameron-Higgs	(RCH)	NGN
David Mayne	(DM)	RWE Npower

1. Review of Minutes and Actions**1.1. Minutes**

The minutes of the December meeting were accepted.

1.2. Review of actions.

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL1041 – please see item 4.0 below.

UKL1055 – please see item 3.6 below.

UKL1061 – please see item 4.0 below.

UKL1075 – please see item 3.3 below.

UKL1076 – please see item AOB below.

UKL1077 – xoserve (DA) advised members that SCOGES communication DF/696/IM had been issued on 22/12/06.

SSE (MB) informed members that at a meeting earlier in the week participants raised concerns that all data for the iGTs had not been loaded. Further to this, MB asked if every item of data that had passed validation had been loaded.

xoserve (MaB) responded by informing members that the first batch of IAD files have been received and all data items that passed validation had been loaded. Where data had failed the respective iGTs had been contacted in accordance with the validation rules. Supporting this view, DA informed members that it may not be possible to identify the percentage failure rate and that it is inappropriate to name specific iGTs. DA agreed to investigate the matter and issue a communication asap. *please see NR/706/JS, dated 17/01/2007.*

Members agreed that action UKL1077 could now be closed and a new action raised for xoserve.

Action UKL1077: Closed.**Action UKL1080: xoserve (DA) to investigate SCOGES data transfer failure rates and issue a covering communication.**

UKL1078 – xoserve (DA) advised members that IAD ‘confirmation pending message’ code is utilised in several places and, as a consequence, would require a recoding exercise. In DA’s opinion a change of this nature was not justified. SAIC (BD) agreed and therefore members agreed to close the action.

Action UKL1078: Closed.

UKL1079 – xoserve (CP) advised members that, with regard to ConQuest and IAD, xoserve could not foresee any problems with Users utilising email communications (unless it has an impact on the UK Link Manual). Any Users who wish to utilise email in order to reset passwords for this systems should contact xoserve who will notify the appropriate Suppliers. Members agreed to close the action.

Action UKL1079: Closed.**2. Other Industry Fora**

JB updated members on the following:

- Transmission Workstream – at the last meeting members discussed how future system changes would be funded. JB advised members that in future UNC Modification Reports may need to include more detailed system costing analysis.

JB provided members with an update on all closed UNC modifications, as follows:

- 0116CV “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. Withdrawn 21/12/06, superseded by 0116CVV;
- 0117 “Amendment to Invoice Billing Period”. Rejected 20/12/06;
- 0120 “Introduction of an SO Commodity Charge for NTS Storage Exit Flows”. Withdrawn 21/12/06, superseded by 0120V;
- 0122 “Restriction of invoice billing period to Price Control”. Rejected 20/12/06.

JB then provided members with an update on the live UNC modifications with a potential impact upon UK Link systems, as follows:

- 0088 “Extension of DM service to enable Consumer Demand Side Management”. Following a series of workgroup meetings the Final Modification Report is now scheduled for consideration at 18/01/07 Panel meeting. This has potentially major system impacts (possible implementation scheduled for 2008);
- 0090 “Revised DN Interruption Arrangements”. Awaiting an Ofgem decision. *Please refer to the xoserve (MB) presentation later in the meeting;*
- 0097/0097A “Modification to release aggregated ex-post information for pipeline interconnector offtake flows”. 0097 is a potential Gemini Release 4 related change but not 0097A. Both awaiting an Ofgem decision;
- 0099 “Management of erroneous Domestic AQs during the Registration process”. Minor system impacts, and the Final Modification Report is now scheduled for consideration at 18/01/07 Panel meeting;
- 0115 “Correct Apportionment of NDM Error”. System impacts have been discussed within the Distribution Workstream and they will report to the 19/04/07 Panel meeting;

- 0116V, 0116VD, 0116A, 0116BV & 0116CVV “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. All awaiting Ofgem decision. Panel recommended implementation of 0116A which does not have system impacts;
- 0119 “Amendment to the Entry Overrun Charge”. This is expected to have some minor Gemini related system impacts and is awaiting an Ofgem decision;
- 0120V “Introduction of an SO Commodity Charge for NTS Storage Exit Flows”. Awaiting Ofgem decision.
- 0124 “Amendment to the window for acceptance of Meter Reads by the Transporter”. Final Modification Report is now scheduled for consideration at 18/01/07 Panel meeting, and
- 0126 “Restriction of Invoice Billing Period” Initial Review Group meeting is scheduled for today immediately following the UK Link Committee meeting.

JB then introduced the following items:

- DN Interruption Reform presentation by M Baker, xoserve – MB advised members that there will be an opportunity for Shippers to be involved in testing.

Members enquired about Suppliers Annual Contracts and what will happen to the ‘right of interruption’ to which MaB advised that these would stay with the Supply Point. Members then asked about how the DM ‘switch’ would work in terms of eligibility to which MaB replied that initial eligibility is for AQ’s > 200,000 therms.

Members also enquired how xoserve will validate the information and were advised by JB that it will be defined within the UNC. MaB added that further details will be made available in due course, but that the Modification Rules require that aggregate information is calculated.

MaB highlighted the three (3) new Shipper interfaces and advised members to have a look at Modification 0090 for details on the various dates involved, although the dates contained within the presentation are those the DN’s have asked xoserve to work towards. MaB went on to advise members that with regard to the impacted SPA files, analysis starts on 12/01/07 and members should anticipate some changes. The current definitions will remain in place until 2010 and consideration of any changes will only take place after 2007, subject to Ofgem approving the modification.

With regard to the options for delivery, both manual and system processing have been considered. Members expressed their concerns as they believe this to be a major change and that the likelihood of approval of a less than 6 month notice period is slim as they are concerned that the respective Shipper I.T. departments will struggle to accommodate these changes. DA advised members that an option would be to consider a manual workaround solution for 2007 with a view to automating it in 2008.

MaB advised members that detailed work will start on Monday 15/01/07. DA added that the file formats would be issued after the February UK Link Committee meeting in anticipation of a March approval prior to the Technical Refresh Code Freeze and members early views will be invaluable. Members enquired about the ‘volumetrics’ involved to which MaB advised that xoserve analysis will look closely at these. There are currently around 1300 Interruptible sites impacted.

JB reminded members that should Ofgem approve modification 0090 with a specific implementation date, then the 'manual workarounds' would possibly kick in early.

Summarising this item, DA advised that MaB will issue the presentation with a view to soliciting comments on members views, preferred solution for 2007 and beyond. *please see NR/700/MB, dated 12/01/07.*

- Operational Forums – the Billing Operational Forum will meet again in February 07. The Transmission Operations Forum has been scheduled for 31/01/07.
- xoserve Forum – met on 10/01/07 and discussed proposed new governance arrangements. SSE (MB) also advised members that progress of this matter is subject to tight timescales and the next meeting is scheduled for 31/01/07, whilst discussions with, and correspondence between Ofgem, is ongoing.

3. UK Link Modification Implementation Plan (and review of UK Link Modification Status Report)

3.1 Provision of Testing Services for Electronic Code Communications

With reference to item 4.0 below (004UKL), JB asked members to consider removing this item from the Implementation Plan and topics register, to which members agreed.

3.2 CR 13760 – Shipper Agreed Reads Procedural Change

xoserve (DA) advised members that there is no implementation date as yet and nothing new to report.

3.3 Minor Amendment to CALMS System

xoserve (DA) advised members that this is a Class 1 modification involving minor screen changes and that testing is already underway. A notification will be issued regarding implementation, but as this is a Class 1 modification the committee were advised that this may be after implementation, therefore the action should be carried forward.

Action UKL1075: Carried Forward.

3.4 CR 13820 - Gemini Release 4

xoserve (DA) advised members that a communication NR/694/LF, dated 15/12/06 had been issued and two (2) comments received. Both accepted the CR but one (1x) Shipper was unhappy with a shortened 6 month notice period. JB explained that if 0097 were implemented in less than six months following approval the impact on shippers would be limited to earlier additional visibility on Gemini of interconnector flows. It would not affect invoicing or any other Gemini file transfers. xoserve intend to issue a communication tomorrow, Friday 12/01/07, looking to return to the February meeting for approval with an implementation date of 29/04/07. Members asked, and DA agreed to make sure all relevant dates are clearly identified within the notification. *please see NR/698/DA, dated 11/01/07 & NR/701/AS, dated 12/01/07.*

JB reminded members that the modifications relating to this matter have not yet been approved by Ofgem and should they rule on 0097/0097A that additional Shipper information is only to be made available via the web, some of the issues will fall away.

3.5 CR 13819 – Previous Read Reference for Replaced Reads

xoserve (DA) advised members that communications NR/693, dated 15/12/06 (and subsequent communications NR/695, dated 19/12/06 & NR/697, dated 27/12/06) proposing this as a Class 1 modification, had been issued and three (3x) responses

received with all in support of the CR. The CR has yet to be scheduled and xoserve will notify Users in due course, but are looking for a April/May 07 implementation. *please see NR/698/DA, dated 11/01/07.*

3.6 CR 13818 – Invoice Numbers on CSEP Invoice File Formats

xoserve (DA) advised members that communications NR/693, dated 15/12/06 (and subsequent communications NR/695, dated 19/12/06 & NR/697, dated 27/12/06) had been issued, seeking responses to the two (2) suggested options. DA went on to say that five (5) responses have been received, with a breakdown as follows:

- 3x supporting Option 1, of which
 - 2x support Option 1 only, and
 - 1x preferred Option 1, thereafter
- 1x supported Option 2 only, and
- 1x can provide no support for either option.

DA then went on to advise members that xoserve propose to inform the Billing Operations Forum of their recommendation of Option 1 to the Transporters.

SSE (MB) expressed their disappointment that the one week's notice prior to the UK Link Committee meeting had not been adhered to, suggesting that doing so only aids the processes. DA responded by stating that due to the impact of the Christmas period, the shipper comments were scheduled to be issued on the day of the UK Link Committee meeting.

RWE npower (DM) did not believe that either Option works and questioned whether or not sufficient debate on the matter had taken place within the Billing Operations Forum. RWE's issue is with the structure of the CR, and not the file formats themselves. In response, DA acknowledged that timing surrounding this matter had been an issue and advised that a presentation on the technical solution (with Transporters approval) will be made at next weeks Billing Operations Forum. This will be followed by submission to the UK Link Committee for formal approval of the technical solution, with a view to scheduling the CR in with the Technical Refresh in November 07, subject to UK Link Committee approval.

DM requested that xoserve 'caveat' the message to be sent to the forum, however, DA advised that the Billing Operations Forum would be provided with Option 1 as the data remains the same between both options. The UK Link Committee members would then have opportunity to comment on the relevant technical solution when formal representations are sought. *please see NR/698/DA, dated 11/01/07.*

Members agreed to close the action as this will now be covered under the Implementation plan.

Action UKL1055: Closed.

3.7 CR 13779 – Modification 080 – AMR Readings

xoserve (DA) advised members that this is a Class 1 modification as there are no changes to any file formats involved and is on schedule for a Feb 07 implementation.

3.8 CR 13803 – Recovery of Late Paid Energy Balancing Invoice Interest – Creation of 4 New Charge Types

xoserve (DA) advised members that this is a Class 2 change and is on schedule for a June 07 implementation.

At this point in the meeting JB asked members if the 'Experience Since Implementation of Modification Proposal 0010(0735)' document had been useful.

Members pointed out that where Ofgem approve a modification specifying a specific implementation date, Shippers may not always be able to accommodate the UK Link impacts of this and would therefore escalate this back up the chain for the Uniform Network Code Committee to make a decision.

There followed a brief discussion regarding the penultimate paragraph wording, and the committee agreed that the following sentence would have been appropriate:

“The UK Link Committee will take into consideration any Ofgem set UNC modification implementation date when deciding on their system implementation date(s).”

It was agreed that there was no requirement for this type of analysis to be produced on a routine basis.

4. Review of Topics Status Report

Topic 004UKL UK Link Testing Arrangements

BD, on behalf of Scottish Power, advised members that SP have decided not to proceed with this matter as it was felt there was now little benefit and thus no point in advancing the modification any further. In light of this, members agreed to close the topic and remove the item from the xoserve implementation plan.

Topic 006UKL Gemini Performance Monitoring

xoserve (CP) advised members that a two (2) day trial had taken place on 18 and 19/12/06 and a one month trial on the production system was scheduled. Partial data will be available from April with full data available in May 07. An update on progress will be provided at the February 07 UK Link Committee meeting followed by a full report available in April 07. Therefore members agreed to carry forward this action.

Action UKL1041: Carried Forward.

xoserve (AG) provided a presentation on the UK Link Technology Refresh and providing a broad update on progress since June 06.

AG advised members that whilst the Technology Refresh is definitely not an application rewrite, investigations into a rewrite commenced in June 06. She went on to advise members that, with regard to parallel testing, this is still being reviewed.

With regards to Data cutover date(s), AG advised that there is no indication of actual date at present.

Regarding contingency arrangements, AG advised members that as the application will run on new equipment, with the existing equipment providing risk mitigation as the ‘addressing’ elements remain the same. Members highlighted concerns in light of the anticipated migration of 27 million Sites & Meters Records. AG indicated that this would be ‘covered’ by the validation processes and suggested that this matter should be raised as a new topic and at the same time action UKL1061 should be closed, to which members agreed.

Action UKL1061: Closed.

Action UKL1081: Joint Office (MiB) to raise and record a new Topic item (008UKL) to cover the progress of the UK Link Technical Refresh.

5. Performance Reporting

xoserve (CP) reviewed the xoserve report pack by exception only.

5.1 IS Faults logged by Shippers (xoserve Report A).

The report was accepted.

5.2 UK-Link Business Support Agreement (xoserve Report B)

The report was accepted.

5.3 Liabilities Report (xoserve Report C)

The report was accepted.

5.4 Report on Performance Problems

The report was accepted.

6. File Format and Urgent Communications (xoserve Report D)

The communications had been discussed elsewhere in the meeting and thereafter the report was accepted.

7. Planned Outages (xoserve Report E)

The report was accepted. CP reviewed the forthcoming outage notifications and DA reminded members that 0.400 is actually 4:00am and not four minutes past midnight.

8. AOB

xoserve (CP) updated members on the following items:

- XP1 – is a new for old token change, and there will be no outage. Communication will be issued in due course to the Gemini Local Security Officers (LSO's). DA reminded members that this is a contingency arrangement for a Gemini failure - *please see NR/704/SK, dated 12/01/07*, DA then asked MB if this satisfied the outstanding action UKL1076, to which he agreed that it had.
Action UKL1076: Closed.
- Six (6) Shippers will be involved in UAT in Jan/Feb 07. CP asked Shipper members if they could check and confirm their LSO contact listings and provide confirmation to xoserve. A summary communication will be sent out on Friday 12/01/07. *please see NR/704/SK, dated 12/01/07*,
- Oracle Software Upgrade – Oracle upgrade from 9i to 10g. Implementation is planned for 12 August 07 and Shipper confidence testing is scheduled for 11 June through to 6 July 07. A summary communication will be sent out on Friday 12/01/07. *please see NR/705/SK, dated 12/01/07*.

BD raised concerns surrounding SCOGES seeking confirmation as to whether or not it was intended to display the data on the Shipper (Global) screens, in respect of the following:

“The Shipper screens display approx 68 data items whereas the M Number screens contain approx 19 data items. Therefore it would be more beneficial if registered shippers could view the iGT data via the shipper screens.”

In response, DA confirmed that the above statement is correct and based upon the BRS for SCOGES.

Finally, DA advised members that a Class 1 (RGMA related) communication on ‘ONUPD Dataset Hierarchy’ is to be issued within the change pack. *please see NR/699/DA, dated 12/01/07*.

Schedule of Future meetings

10:00am Thursday 08-Feb-07 at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London

APPENDIX A.

ACTION LOG UK Link Committee 11-January-07

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1041	13/04/06	4.0 (3.0) Topic 006UKL	Report back on progress of Topic 006UKL.	xoserve (DA/AG)	On track for March implementation for inclusion in April report. Carried Forward
UKL 1055	08/06/06	3.6 (2.0)	xoserve to provide an update on a new change request for CSEP's Invoices.	xoserve (DA)	To be covered under the implementation plan. Closed
UKL 1061	08/06/06	4.0 (AOB)	xoserve to examine the UK Link Technology Refresh contingency arrangements and provide an update on progress to the September &/or October UK Link Committee meetings.	xoserve (AG/CP)	Presentation given at Jan 07 meeting. Topic (008UKL) created in order to review progress. Closed
UKL 1075	14/12/06	3.3 (3.3)	xoserve to investigate possible implementation date for the Minor Amendment to CALMS System.	xoserve (DA)	Update due Feb 07. Carried Forward
UKL 1076	14/12/06	AOB (3.5)	xoserve to investigate possible contingency arrangements for utilisation of Gemini Internet in the event of a UK Link failure.	xoserve (DA)	Closed
UKL 1077	14/12/06	1.2 (3.9)	xoserve to issue a SCOGES related communication advising when data is 'released' and confirm the coding identifying each iGT.	xoserve (DA)	Issued. Closed
UKL 1078	14/12/06	1.2 (AOB)	xoserve to investigate how easy it may be to amend the IAD 'confirmation pending message' and what impacts this might have elsewhere on the system	xoserve (DA)	Agreed that existing message should be retained. Closed
UKL 1079	14/12/06	1.2 (AOB)	xoserve to investigate possible utilisation of email communications as defined within the 'SoS Query Management Operational Guidelines' & 'Supply Point Info' Service Guidelines' docs.	xoserve (DA)	Confirmed that email may be used. Closed

Action Ref	Meeting Date	Minute Ref (original ref)	Action	Owner*	Status Update
UKL 1080	11/01/07	1.2 (1.2)	xoserve to investigate SCOGES data transfer failure rates and issue a 'covering' communication	xoserve (DA)	
UKL 1081	11/01/07	4.0 (4.0)	Joint Office to raise and record new topic item to cover the progress of the UK Link Technical Refresh	Joint Office (MiB)	Topic 008UKL added to 18/01/07 UNCC Report

*** Key to action owners**

DA Dave Addison, xoserve
AG Annie Griffith, xoserve
CP Caroline Purcell, xoserve
MiB Joint Office of Gas Transporters