

UK LINK Committee Minutes
Thursday 14 December 2006
held at Elexon, 350, Euston Road, London

Attendees

John Bradley	(JB)	Joint Office
Mike Berrisford	(MiB)	Joint Office
Caroline Purcell	(CP)	xoserve (for Transporters)
Dave Addison	(DA)	xoserve
Mick Curtis	(MC)	$e=mc^2$ (for Shell)
Tiago Vasconcelos	(TV)	TGP
Dan Simons	(DS)	EDF Energy
Arti Shah	(AS)	Statoil
Bryan Donnelly	(BD)	SAIC Europe Ltd (for Scottish Power)
Simon Trivella	(ST)	Wales and West Utilities
Martin Brandt	(MB)	SSE
Graham Wood	(GW)	Centrica

1. Review of Minutes and Actions

1.1. Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted.

1.2. Review of actions.

Appendix A contains a tabulated update on actions.

UKL1041 – please see item 4.0 below.

Action: Carried Forward.

UKL1055 – please see item 3.4 below.

Action: Carried Forward.

UKL1061 – xoserve (CP) advised members that TCS have commenced the 'Proof of Concept' work and that this is likely to be completed by the end of Q1 2007 with a view to implementation in November 2007. However, it is unlikely that the full contingency arrangements would be available in time for the next meeting, although it is xoserve's intention to provide an update at the January 2007 UK Link Committee meeting.

Members enquired as to what xoserve's intentions were, to which CP advised that they are looking into the feasibility of adopting a parallel running approach for example, along with other alternatives. Therefore this action was carried forward.

Action: Carried Forward.

UKL1063 – xoserve (DA) requested that, whilst this action was closed at the November 2006 meeting, Scottish Power provide an update in terms of the nature of the discussions pertaining to the potential treatment of the costs under a Class 3 UK Link Modification. BD, on behalf of Scottish Power, indicated that the modification was under consideration and was likely to be raised in January.

JB suggested that the earliest UNC Modification Panel meeting at which a new modification could be considered was January 2007, although February 2007 is a more realistic target and thereafter the Final Modification Report (subject to process route adopted) might be considered at the April 2007 panel meeting.

DA stated that due to the UK Link Technical Refresh and testing work commitments, initiation of the build on technical requirements are unlikely to be undertaken until UKLTR is completed in November 2007. Given the 6 month indicative build time previously communicated to the Committee the first potential release that could use such testing arrangements might be June 2008.

2. Other Industry Fora

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

- 0088 “Extension of DM service to enable Consumer Demand Side Management”. This has potentially major system impacts (possible implementation scheduled for 2008) and is out for consultation with a close-out of 22/12/06;
- 0090 “Revised DN Interruption Arrangements”. Members were advised that if Ofgem approved this Proposal the 6 month notice period would not be adhered to and as a consequence members would be asked to waive the 6 month notice period;
- 0091 “Extending Uniform Network Code to allow Users to raise Class 3 UK Link modification proposals”, Following implementation of this modification in Nov 06 Users are now able to raise UNC Modification Proposals in order to implement Class 3 UK Link Modifications;
- 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 of these modifications will be considered at the 21 December 06 Panel Meeting;
- 0099 “Management of erroneous Domestic AOs during the Registration process”. Transporters believe there may be system impacts, although the proposer (RWE Npower) does not. The modification will be considered at the 21 December 06 Panel Meeting;
- 0115 “Correct Apportionment of NDM Error”. System impacts have been discussed within the Distribution Workstream and they will report to the 18 January 07 Panel Meeting;
- 0116, 0116B & 0116C “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements” & 0118 & 0118A “Entry Capacity Transfers in the Constrained Period”. Members were advised of the new UNC processes surrounding alternate and varied modifications, and that as a consequence, these modifications have been withdrawn by their respective owners;
- 0116V “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. Final Modification Report issued 13/12/06;
- 0116VD “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. Some support from the DN’s. Final Modification Report issued 13/12/06;
- 0116A “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. Maintains the ‘status quo’. Final Modification Report issued 13/12/06;
- 0116BV “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. This is a RWE Trading GmbH modification. Final Modification Report issued 13/12/06;

- 0116CV “Reform of the NTS Offtake Arrangements”. Aims to include ‘Flat’ and not ‘Flex’ arrangements to which NG NTS are sympathetic. Final Modification Report issued 13/12/06;
- 0117 “Amendment to Invoice Billing Period”. Looks at historic invoicing periods. Awaiting an Ofgem decision;
- 0119 “Amendment to the Entry Overrun Charge”. This is expected to have some minor Gemini related system impacts. (*please refer to the Gemini Release 4 UKLC Overview presentation*). The modification will be considered at the 21 December 06 Panel Meeting;
- 0120 “Introduction of an SO Commodity Charge for NTS Storage Exit Flows”. Related to a Pricing Consultation document. The modification will be considered at the 21 December 06 Panel Meeting;
- 0122 “Restriction of invoice billing period to Price Control”. Awaiting an Ofgem decision;
- 0124 “Amendment to the window for acceptance of Meter Reads by the Transporter”. Parameter change, xoserve (DA) investigating system performance (Peak Loads) and the potential impact upon Monthly Read sites. Out for consultation with a close-out of 02/01/07;
- 0125 “Introduction of new balancing neutrality charge for cost of residual balancer collateral on the OCM”. This will be catered for by existing functionality, and
- 0126 “Restriction of Invoice Billing Period” New Review Proposal due to be considered at the 21 December 06 Panel Meeting.

JB updated members on the following:

- Operational Forum – met 06 December 2006 and received a Gemini minor impacts update. Discussed what type of data should be visible although Transporters are not planning to substantially extend the range of data provided via Gemini to include that which is already provided on the website, and
- xoserve Forum – ‘User Pays Models’ presentation given to the Authority by Transporters and one (1x) Shipper.

S Trivella, WWU advised members that the matter is still being debated following a meeting earlier in the week. Next meeting is due 10 January 2007 with the Final Report expected end of February 2007. As this is related to DN Price Control that is expected to end 27 January 2007, the timescales are challenging.

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

3.1 Provision of Testing Services for Electronic Code Communications

Displayed for information purposes only and discussed elsewhere in this meeting.

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.

Members pointed out that the SPAA are still discussing this matter and that no decision is expected until 2008.

DA advised members that there are no expected system changes to Transporter / xoserve systems as it is 'restricted' to procedural changes only.

3.3 Minor Amendment to CALMS System

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

Action UKL1075: xoserve (DA) to investigate and report back to the January 2007 UK Link Committee meeting.

3.4 CSEP Invoice File Format Changes (Action UKL 1055)

xoserve (DA) gave a presentation as an update to action 1055. DA advised members that the Transporters are in support of the principles and have asked xoserve to provide an update to, and solicit input from, Users on the two solution options identified. He went on to summarise the two options as follows:

- Option 1 would require all Users to amend their D38 Records, and
- Option 2 was developed in response to Shipper requests and may get 'broader' industry support as a result. As the costs for this were significantly more than the first option Transporters have asked xoserve to provide the presentation to ensure that this additional expenditure was merited.

DA went on to state that xoserve are looking for a very clear steer from members and that a communication would be issued on Friday 15th December, providing for a 10 day consultation. Additionally, xoserve intend to make a presentation to the February 2007 Billing Operations Forum and to include their feedback in any subsequent updates.

xoserve believe that commencing investigations now will enable them to have a better understanding of requirements and potential tensions between this and the UK Link Technical Refresh work. JB asked if attendees had any initial views on the matter. No initial view was expressed. It was agreed that this action be carried forward. *please see NR/692/DA dated 15/12/2006.*

Action UKL 1055: Carried Forward.

3.5 Gemini Release 4

xoserve (DA) presented the 'Gemini Release 4 UKLC Overview' presentation advising members that xoserve are keen to provide an early 'heads up' and in support of that approach that communication will be issued Friday. *please see NR/694/LF dated 15/12/06.*

DA went onto advise that the planned implementation is 29 April 2007 with the changes taking place where the appropriate modifications are approved. Members expressed their concerns surrounding what will happen if Ofgem are late in making their decisions on one or more of the modifications.

DA summarised the main points of the presentation as follows:

- Mod 0120 – the 1st invoice with these impacts on would be 25 May 2007
- Mod 0097 – will add a new column and make information visible to all
- Mod 0119 – introduces three (3x) new price type codes
- Mod 0118 (currently withdrawn but under review by owner) – no User amendments would be required.

DA advised members that a communication would be issued Friday and any comments would be welcomed. *please see NR/694/LF dated 15/12/06.*

GW pointed out that depending upon Ofgem decisions, tensions may exist between respective timescales and enquired where the 29/04/07 date came from. JB responded by suggesting that it may relate to the SO Commodity Charge for which NG NTS want a 01 April 2007 implementation date.

MB pointed out that UK Link Committee approval would be required and reminded colleagues of the right to appeal process. JB advised members that if they were not happy with a less than 6 month notice period it would be referred back to the Uniform Network Code Committee (UNCC).

MB then enquired about contingency arrangements with regard to a UK Link failure and utilisation of Gemini Internet as a back up.

Action UKL1076: xoserve (DA) to investigate and report back to the January 2007 UK Link Committee meeting.

3.6 CR 13779 – Modification 080 – AMR Readings

xoserve (DA) advised members that this change was related to the UMR File and confirmed that there are no file format changes involved as the 'Unconverted Converter Index' was already optional. The change was already classed as a Class 1 UK Link Modification, but if required would reissue the format. He advised members that the possible implementation of modification 0088 "Extension of DM service to enable Consumer Demand Side Management" could impact on assumptions relating to implementation of modification 0080 and xoserve will be discussing this with the Transporters. Implementation remains on schedule for February 2007.

3.7 CR 13803 – Notification of New Charge Types – MOD026 (IDB file format)

xoserve (DA) advised members that there was no further update at this time and that implementation remains on target for June 2007.

3.8 CR 13723 – Objection Deadline SPA Rejection Code – OJT00018

xoserve (DA) advised members that this CR was implemented 04/11/06.

3.9 CR 13725 – Single Central Online Gas Enquiry Service

xoserve (DA) advised members that this CR was implemented 04/11/06.

MB enquired if this has been implemented, why is there no data being displayed. DA responded by confirming that the CR has been implemented, however, one (1x) iGT has yet to sign the Contract Agreement and once this has taken place data will be made available. He reminded members that the SLA (Service Level Agreement) allows up to two (2) days to complete this.

ST advised members that the final party has agreed to sign their contract.

MB then enquired how can iGTs be identified when looking at SCOGES to which DA advised that it is defined within the visible coding. MB also suggested that 3rd Party requests for access to the data may be forthcoming.

Action UKL1077: xoserve (DA) to issue a communication once data is released that will confirm the coding identifying each iGT.

3.10 CR 13730 – Post Closeout Amendments functionality for Gemini

xoserve (DA) advised members that this CR was implemented 05/11/06.

3.11 CR 13758 – Removal of Meter Asset at Dead Meter Points

xoserve (DA) advised members that this CR was implemented 04/11/06.

3.12 CR 13758.2 – Meter Pulse Value Adjustment

xoserve (DA) advised members that this CR was implemented 04/11/06.

3.13 CR 13780 – IFA Invoices via I’X

xoserve (DA) advised members that this CR was implemented 04/11/06.

4. Review of Topics Status Report

Topic 004UKL UK Link Testing Arrangements

Topic remains on hold.

Topic 006UKL Gemini Performance Monitoring

xoserve (CP) advised members that testing is scheduled to take place next week and that the February 2007 target will be clearer after its completion. An update will be provided at the January 2007 UK Link Committee meeting.

DA went on to add that it is anticipated that the trial will provide AT Link levels of information.

MC enquired if it was going to be a ‘big bang’ approach, ie both screen and API performance monitors in the same implementation, to which CP responded by stating that whilst that remains a possibility the update will provide more clarity. Therefore this action was carried forward.

Action UKL1041: Carried Forward.

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)

JB pointed out to members that the forthcoming Gemini outages had been discussed elsewhere in this meeting. The report was accepted.

8. AOB

JB introduced this item by referring to B Donnelly’s email entitled ‘Issues to be raised at 14 December 2006 UK Link Committee Meeting’ dated 13/12/2006 details of which are set-out below:

Item 1 IAD Functionality

“After a reconfirmation, currently the IAD has the functionality that is designed to display the message "New Confirmation Pending Reading Not Available" whenever the latest read date is lesser than the current confirmation effective date for any MPRN under Shipper Data Access screen. We believe this is inaccurate as the Confirmation is Live and not pending. We propose that either this text is removed or the last available read is shown on IAD (SCOGES).”

DA stated that provision of previous meter readings had been discussed in a number of industry fora in the past and that for confidentiality reasons xoserve could not provide the previous Shipper's readings. DA agreed that the message itself could be misleading, and to investigate the matter.

Action UKL1078: xoserve (DA) to investigate how easy it maybe to amend the message text and what other possible context impacts there might be associated with this.

Item 2 IGT Data Refresh Dates

"We believe that the frequency and dates that the iGT data is refreshed for SCOGES is monthly. However we are unclear on which date in the month this will occur."

JB reminded the meeting that the 'day of the month' had already been discussed and would be identified by each individual iGT in due course.

Item 3 Email for Account Set-up/Update/Removal

"The issue was raised previously at UKlink on the acceptance of emails from systems other than Gemini. The requirement for xoserve to accept email communications is for the set up / update and removal of accounts to the IAD and Conquest. Facsimiles are not the most efficient means of communication as they are time consuming and tedious in nature. Documents "Standards of Service Query Management Operational Guidelines" and "Supply Point Information Service Guidelines" both state that email can be accepted. We therefore would argue that provided the requests for account set up / update and removal was from the LSO then email should be accepted."

DA replied by stating that he was not familiar with either of these documents but would investigate the matter with a view to reporting back to the January 2007 UK Committee meeting.

Action UKL1079: xoserve (DA/CP) to investigate utilisation of email communications.

MB suggested that the Joint Office should consider providing an advisory notice identifying a potentially 'light' agenda when issuing the meeting invitation. JB suggested that members might like to consider the appropriateness of teleconferences for 'light' agendas but where a formal decision on implementation is required. Any decision on whether there is insufficient business to justify a meeting at Elexon would be heavily reliant on xoserve being able to provide an accurate 'heads up' early in their preparation of reports. It was therefore agreed that as a matter of practice the Joint Office would consult xoserve on the Wednesday before a scheduled meeting and decided whether to go ahead with a meeting in Elexon and if not to decide whether a teleconference is required.

MB then raised the issue of the latest time for file format submissions (*previously considered and discussed at length under UKL 1071/1072 respectively*).

Lengthy discussions took place between members culminating in xoserve reiterating their previous position on the matter, as

"xoserve would contact Users by 'exception only' to advise them on when not to submit their respective file formats" and that "Users should consider that it is 'business as usual' when submitting their file formats" unless informed otherwise by xoserve.

DA went on to ask members whether or not they had any specific concerns relating to a previous implementation to which there was no response.

DA advised members that he was not trying to be difficult with regard to this matter but reminded members that there is no potential to 'squeeze' more through the system at present. JB asked for suggestions to overcome the differences between Transporters and Shippers on this point. DA suggested that xoserve review specific changes within

the February, July and November 2007 releases, where there will be changes in the format of files submitted by Users and suggest specific solutions, he indicated that a more generic solution may be available following the UK Link Technical Refresh.

Schedule of Future meetings

10:00am Thursday 11-Jan-07 at Elexon, 350 Euston Road, London

APPENDIX A.

ACTION LOG UK Link Committee 14-December-06

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)	Further update due 11 Jan 07. Carried Forward
UKL 1055	08/06/06	1.2 (2.0)	xoserve to provide an update on a new change request for CSEP's Invoices.	xoserve (DA)	Further update due Jan/Feb 07. Carried Forward
UKL 1061	08/06/06	1.2 (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)	Further update due Jan 07. Carried Forward
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 Jan 07.
UKL 1076	14/12/06	3.5 (3.5)	xoserve to investigate possible contingency arrangements for utilisation of Gemini Internet in the event of a UK Link failure.	xoserve (DA)	Update due Jan 07.
UKL 1077	14/12/06	3.9 (3.9)	xoserve to issue a SCOGES related communication advising when data is 'released' and confirm the coding identifying each iGT.	xoserve (DA)	When appropriate, with update Jan 07.
UKL 1078	14/12/06	AOB (AOB)	xoserve to investigate how easy it maybe to amend the IAD 'confirmation pending message' & what impacts this might have elsewhere on the system	xoserve (DA)	Update due Jan 07.
UKL 1079	14/12/06	AOB (AOB)	xoserve to investigate possible utilisation of email communications as defined within the 'Standards of Service Query Management Operational Guidelines' & 'Supply Point Information Service Guidelines' documents.	xoserve (DA)	Update due Jan 07.

*** Key to action owners**

DA Dave Addison, xoserve

AG Annie Griffith, xoserve

CP Caroline Purcell, xoserve