

5th December 2014

Briefing Note following the Change Overview Board on 1st December 2014

At the Change Overview Board (“the COB”) held on 1st December 2014, Xoserve presented the dashboard, reporting on the status of delivery of the UK Link Programme. A question was raised regarding how the detailed design activities could be considered as complete when the file formats for exchanging information with Shippers have yet to be signed off by the UK Link Committee (“the UKLC”) and some of the ‘Project Nexus’ UNC Modifications have yet to be approved by Ofgem.

As the outcomes of these matters could have significant implications for the Programme, we felt that it would be helpful to stakeholders to provide this briefing note in addition to the verbal explanation provided to attendees at Monday’s COB meeting.

The UK Link system’s core application detailed design has been completed based on the assumptions that no additional UNC Modifications will change the baseline requirements, that key ‘in-flight’ UNC Modifications will be implemented and that proposed file formats will not be rejected by the UKLC and UNC Committee.

As well as reporting the completed status of detailed design, the dashboard presented at COB acknowledges the risks and dependencies associated with file format approval and Modification implementation. The discussion at Monday’s COB brought into sharp focus the importance, if overall Programme timescales are to be preserved, of the UKLC approving file formats in a timely manner in line with the UK Link detailed design. Given the pace that is required to meet overall Programme timescale targets, re-visiting detailed design at this stage would have critical implications, in that the necessary re-work would be very unlikely to be achievable by Xoserve and other stakeholders whilst maintaining the October 2015 go-live.

The COB also discussed in more detail four ‘in-flight’ UNC Modifications that form part of the UK Link design baseline. The conclusion was that, with regard to delivery of the UK Link system, Modifications 440 (IGT Single Service provision) and 445 (Amendment to the arrangements for Daily Metered Supply Point Capacity) are considered to be critical, in that they form a fundamental part of the design, including associated file formats, whilst Modifications 473 (allocation of Unidentified Gas) and 466 (Daily meter Reading Simplification) are not, given that the design enables these new requirements, but would not need to be re-visited if the Modifications are not implemented. There was additional discussion around Modification 445, with the conclusion that if this Modification is not implemented, an interim arrangement with the same business requirements as Modification 445 would be necessary to support go-live with the current design.

Should this briefing note raise any questions, please contact Xoserve’s Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Sandra Simpson, sandra.l.simpson@xoserve.com.

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