

High Level Cost estimate (HLC)

for

UNC Modification 0487S

Introduction of Advanced Meter Indicator and Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider Identifier in advance of Project Nexus Go Live

This Cost Estimate is Xoserve’s response to the above Evaluation Service Request. The response is intended to support Networks involvement in the development of industry changes.

Should the request obtain approval for continuance then a Change Order must be raised for any further analysis / development.

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Network reference:	NA
Xoserve reference:	NA
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Evaluation Service Date Provided:	NA

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Change Driver / Origin:

With the continuing rollout of Advanced Metering across the Non Domestic market and the extension till 2016 of the ability to deploy Advanced Metering, it is important to be able to identify the presence of Advanced Metering at customer sites. This is particularly important during Change of Supplier (CoS) events and in particular with proposals to optimise the CoS process (Faster Switching). Currently central systems do not hold and identify Advanced Meters and associated Advanced Meter Reading (AMR) Service Providers (ASPs).

Analysis:

Further to the Initial Response (Part B) published on Joint Office of Gas Transporters, 20th May 2014, the preferred Initial Response (Part B) option for implementation of a solution in advance of Nexus is Option A. The option proposes to populate the Smart Meter System Operator (SMSO) with a value that identifies the ASP and share this at CoS via a Smart file flow. The presence of AMR equipment will not be explicitly stated but can be inferred by the presence of an ASP.

Currently the SMSO is only communicated in the circumstances where SMETS compliant Meters are present, as denoted by the Meter Mechanism code. As an ASP will be present at sites with non-SMETS compliant Meters, the trigger of this file flow must be changed.

High Level Cost estimate & Timescales:

Note: High Level Cost estimate information is not based on any systems analysis and should be used with caution.

High Level Cost estimates and timescale include EQR, BER, Development, User testing support and Post implementation support.

	Up to £20k	£20k to £100k	£100k to £300k	£300k to £500k	£500k to £1m	£1m +
Up to 3 months						
3 to 6 months		Option A				
6 to 12 months						
> 12 months						

The above Option cost timescales are not durations, but an indication as to the time resource required.

The Initial Response (Part B) estimated that Option A would have a duration of over 12 months. However, following industry discussions, the accuracy of the cost estimate can be improved and a revised estimate is provided above.

Xoserve cost estimates not included:

- External Testing support

Analysis**Assumptions:**

- Currently the Smart meter flow is issued at Shipper Transfer – with Nomination and Confirmation response and also the TRF at D-7. It is assumed that the trigger timings are not changed.
- The effectiveness of this change is dependent upon Shippers / Suppliers updating the presence or otherwise of ASP organisations.
- ASP organisations would be required to register as such on MDD.

Concerns: (include any key issues, risks & dependencies)

- There is a concern that AMR equipment is not part of the Smart data set and to use Smart-specific file flows in this way may cause confusion in the future.
- AMR equipment is not the same as Smart.
- Meter Mechanism can only hold one value and any updates, including those to reflect the presence of an ASP, will overwrite the previously held data.
- More than one ASP may exist at site, however only the latest Shipper notified value can be stored (and will overwrite any other values, as above).
- It is not clear whether SMSO and ASP can co-exist at a site.
- The S96 record is flexible in as much as new Organisation types can be added, however the output file (S98) is not flexible in this manner.
- Consideration might be given as to whether the ASP ID code should intuitively communicate that it is an ASP organisation, for example through use of an agreed character. This is especially relevant in the circumstance where a given organisation may provide services as both an ASP and SMSO.