

**Industry Dialogue on xoserve Services and their Funding**  
**Minutes of Workgroup Meeting**  
**10:00 Tuesday 24 October 2006**

**Attendees**

Tim Davis	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Julian Majdanski	Joint Office of Gas Transporters
Jenny Rawlinson	Association of Independent Gas Transporters
Claire Walsh	BGT
Collette Baldwin	E.On UK
Santina Curtis	ENI UK
Steve Ladle	Gemserv
Nicola Rigby	National Grid
Laura Doherty	RWE npower
Pete Ratledge	RWE npower
Joel Martin	Scotia Gas Networks
Lorraine Goodall	Scotia Gas Networks
Martin Brandt	Scottish & Southern Energy
Gareth Evans	Total Gas & Power
John Edwards	Wales & West Utilities
Chris Smith	xoserve
Nick Salter	xoserve

**1.0 Introduction and Workgroup operation**

The Chairman explained that the objective of the group was to reach an agreed industry position on what central information system services are required, the level of costs, how the associated costs should be met, and the service standards that should apply to key services. All papers produced with respect to the group would be published on the Joint Office website, [www.gasgovernance.com](http://www.gasgovernance.com), under Industry Information, xoserve Services Workgroup. He detailed how the group would operate and the proposed timescale to be followed to enable an initial position to be produced for presentation to Ofgem on 5 December 2006. The Chairman highlighted that at least one Transporter and one User representative would be required to make the presentation, and invited volunteers.

**2.0 Discuss and Agree Work Plan**

xoserve presented a draft timetable and work plan (see presentation 'Proposed Work Plan'), which was discussed and agreed by the meeting attendees (see 'Work Plan Deliverables').

**3.0 Overview of Relevant Service Lines**

xoserve gave a presentation on the services that are currently delivered and how they are delivered, summarising the detail in schedule 2 of the Agency Services Agreement. (see also presentation 'Industry Dialogue 9 October 2006' and 'Systems Diagram').

#### **4.0 Consider Changes to these Services and New Services**

Attendees were invited to consider which were core services and options for new services or the de-scoping of any existing services. The consensus of the meeting was that all the services were core in so far as they were required to operate effectively under the terms of the UNC. There was also consensus that when the work is commissioned to replace UK Link it is important that the architecture should be flexible and scaleable to allow the continued evolution of the UNC regime at reasonable cost. For example, it should allow for internet based communication and the possibility of shortening customer transfer timescales. However, the consensus was that the replacement should be looking to replicate existing services and functionality, with no appetite expressed for new services or de-scoping. It was also agreed that it was appropriate to retain a single database covering all GB gas supply points, preferably including iGTs. There was also debate regarding the appropriate ownership of the main sites and meters database – if the data is used primarily for the benefit of Shippers rather than Transporters, should they manage at least some of the services xoserve provide?

#### **5.0 Standards of Service**

The meeting considered impacts to three forms of Standards of Service:-

Transportation Standards as defined in the UNC.

Availability and recovery standards as defined in the UK link Manual

Volume constraints as defined in both the UNC and UK Link Manual

There was consensus that it would be beneficial if the replacement UK link system had improved upper limits for the Service Standard on volume constraints. No other suggestions for change were put forward.

#### **6.0 Inputs Required for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would consider the three items, 'Cost Implications of Service Lines', 'Principles of User Pays' and 'Governance of User Pays'. The Transporters and xoserve will bring their thoughts on these items and other attendees were encouraged to explore them within their companies prior to the meeting.

#### **7.0 Diary Planning for Work Group**

Meeting dates booked are:

8 November 10:00 (Elexon)

22 November 10:00 (Elexon)

12 December 10:00 (to be confirmed)

10 January 10:00 (to be confirmed)