

Stage 01: Modification

0487VS:

Introduction of an Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) and Advanced Meter Indicator

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. Currently central systems do not hold and identify Advanced Meters and associated Advanced Meter Reading (AMR) Service Providers (ASP's). This proposal looks to introduce these details within the central system and place an obligation on Shippers to populate and maintain the relevant information.

The Proposer recommends that this varied modification should be:



- subject to self-governance
- proceed to Consultation



High Impact: -



Medium Impact: -



Low Impact: -

At what stage is this document in the process?

- 01 Modification
- 02 Workgroup Report
- 03 Draft Modification Report
- 04 Final Modification Report

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- 3 Solution
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About this document:

This varied modification was presented by the Proposer to the Panel on 16 October 2014.



Any questions?

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1 Summary

Is this a Self-Governance Modification?

The Modification Panel originally determined that this modification is suitable for Self Governance as it is not likely to have a material impact on consumers and competition as the modification is only proposing to provide additional information at a change of supplier (CoS) event to the benefit of those involved.

Why Change?

Currently central systems do not identify if the in situ meter is operating in Advanced Mode and if so who the current Advanced Meter Reading Service Provider (ASP) is. This lack of information creates issue on CoS with the new Supplier unable to easily identify if the Meter is advanced and who the relevant service provider is.

Recognising that hundreds of thousands of Advanced Meter Reading installations are already in situ it is critical that we introduce a means of tracking meters operating in advanced mode as soon as reasonably practicable. However we must balance this against the currently scheduled switch over to Nexus and the short term nature of introducing a solution in pre Nexus Systems. Therefore this solution introduces a short term solution for the pre Nexus environment with a more enduring solution proposed for the post Nexus environment.

Prior to Nexus implementation (currently scheduled for October 2015) it is proposed that we introduce an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) within central systems.

Recent developments

In developing the proposal we determined that we needed to consider how arrangements would be managed in both in Pre Nexus and also post Nexus. This was necessary as with the major Nexus IT programme currently being undertaken any system changes required in Pre Nexus would be finite. Based on this principle we reduced the scope of the Pre Nexus requirements to facilitating an Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) within central systems. The approach, although not perfect, allows Shippers to infer where an AMR device is present, with a workaround designed to enable shippers to signal the presence of an AMR device where the ASP is unknown. This approach was identified as minimum impact within the Pre Nexus system.

This then led us to effectively split the proposals into 2 modifications: -

0487S – Introduction of an Advanced Meter Indicator and Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) service provider identifier in advance of Project Nexus go-live

0511 - Introduction of an Enduring Solution for managing Advanced Meters in central systems post Nexus

Two complimentary change proposals have been progressing through SPAA:

CP 14/283 – A transitional (pre-Nexus) change to record the ASP ID and the presence of an AMR meter.

This is proposed to be achieved by using the existing 'SMO' field to record the ASP ID using appropriate three-character organisation short codes, with a code also created to indicate where an AMR meter is present but the ASP ID is unknown. From these three-character organisation codes, it should be possible to infer whether an AMR device is present, as well as the identity of the ASP.

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CP 14/284 – An enduring change to be implemented from Nexus go-live to create a bespoke ‘ASP’ field to record the ASP ID, and to introduce a new Asset Class Code to record the presence of an AMR device separately.

In reducing the scope of 0487S we have removed the obligation to record the presence of an Advanced Meter Indicator prior to Nexus Go Live. As described above, pre-Nexus there will be a need for shippers to record the presence of an AMR device where the ASP is unknown. In order to be fully functional at Nexus go-live, CP 14/284 also requires an accompanying obligation in the UNC for shippers to keep the AMR device field up to date.

It is important that this obligation is included in UNC 0487S, to enable both SPAA CP 14/283 and SPAA CP 14/284 to be fully functional. Given it’s broader scope, UNC 0511 will not be deliverable for Nexus go-live, and so reliance on this to support SPAA CP14/284 would leave a gap in arrangements.

It should therefore be understood that UNC 0487S is intended to facilitate both a pre and post-Nexus solution, via SPAA CP 14/283 and SPAA CP 14/284. UNC 0511 is intended to consider whether any further changes on top of this are required to support a fully interoperable AMR market.

For the avoidance of doubt, we believe that the creation of the Advanced Meter Reader (AMR) Service Provider (ASP) Identifier (ASP ID) within central systems would not cease upon Nexus Go Live but would continue to be facilitated Post Nexus. AMR device presence should also be recorded as described both pre and post Nexus. UNC 0511 then, will look at whether any further changes are needed to provide a complete and enduring solution to AMR interoperability issues, including consideration of whether any further data items need to be held centrally, and how multiple AMR assets should be recorded.

To avoid the potential gap identified and to provide clarity on what requirements we believe should be in place both prior to and immediately upon Nexus go live, we are proposing to amend 0487S to address these concerns.

Solution

It is proposed that an obligation is placed on Shippers, where relevant, to populate and maintain the Advanced Meter Reading Service Provider (ASP) ID and Advanced Meter Indicator.

The Shipper shall be responsible for updating the ASP ID and Advanced Meter Indicator as soon as reasonably practicable once it becomes aware of the existence of Advanced Metering and/or an ASP associated with the MPRN. The triggers that are currently identified are as follows: -

- 1. Following the initial appointment and any subsequent appointment by the Supplier of an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider (ASP)*
- 2. Where the Supplier is aware of an Advanced Meter being in-situ and that an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider exists who is not appointed by the Supplier e.g. if the consumer has arrangements with an Advanced Meter Reader Service Provider*
- 3. Where an Advanced Meter is identified as being insitu*

For avoidance of doubt should multiple ASP’s exist then it is the ASP providing services to the Supplier that should be reported.

For clarity, it is anticipated that the Advanced Meter Indicator will only be available for population from Nexus Go live.

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Pre Nexus go-live, where the ASP ID is not known and no customer appointed ASP is thought to be in place, but an AMR device is known to be at site, the Shipper shall be responsible for recording this through use of the appropriate ASP ID code. This should be done as soon as reasonably practicable once the Shipper becomes aware of the relevant arrangements at site. This obligation should fall away at Nexus go-live.

From Nexus Go Live, Shippers will be obliged, where relevant, to populate and maintain the Advanced Meter Indicator, which identifies that the in situ meter is advanced.

The Shipper shall be responsible for updating the Advanced Meter Indicator as soon as reasonably practicable once it becomes aware of the existence of an Advanced Meter being present at the MPRN.

For avoidance of doubt, post NEXUS the ASP ID will continue to be required to be populated as well as the AMR device field.

Relevant Objectives

Pre Nexus holding the relevant information in central systems will improve the CoS process by ensuring the new Shipper has ready access to the current AMR Service Provider Identifier. This enables the new Shipper & Supplier to efficiently make the necessary arrangements in relation to the site, therefore further relevant objective d) by securing effective competition between relevant shippers.

Implementation

No implementation timescales are proposed. However, it would be desirable if implementation was as soon as reasonably practicable to support proposed improvements in change of supplier (CoS) process.

2 Why Change?

Currently central systems do not identify if the in situ meter is operating in Advanced Mode and if so who the current Advanced Meter Reading Service Provider (ASP) is. This lack of information creates issue on CoS with the new Supplier unable to easily identify if the Meter is advanced and who the relevant service provider is.

Recognising that hundreds of thousands of Advanced Meter Reading installations are already in situ it is critical that we introduce a means of tracking meters operating in advanced mode as soon as reasonably practicable. However we must balance this against the currently scheduled switch over to Nexus and the short term nature of introducing a solution in pre Nexus Systems. Therefore this solution introduces a short term solution for the pre Nexus environment with a more enduring solution proposed for the post Nexus environment.

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The Shipper shall be responsible for updating the Advanced Meter Indicator as soon as reasonably practicable once it becomes aware of the existence of an Advanced Meter being present at the MPRN.

For avoidance of doubt, post NEXUS the ASP ID will continue to be required to be populated as well as the AMR device field.

User Pays

Classification of the modification as User Pays, or not, and the justification for such classification.

This is a User Pays modification as it proposes to change or amend central systems.

Identification of Users of the service, the proposed split of the recovery between Gas Transporters and Users for User Pays costs and the justification for such view.

It is proposed that charging would utilize the Market Sector Flag to determine the allocation of costs. Those MPRNs populated with an "I" representing non domestic sites would be used to determine the population used to determine the Shipper's relevant market share and thus the relevant share of the costs based on that market share.

As at 1st October

Proposed charge(s) for application of User Pays charges to Shippers.

To be confirmed

Proposed charge for inclusion in the Agency Charging Statement (ACS) – to be completed upon receipt of a cost estimate from Xoserve.

To be confirmed

4 Relevant Objectives

Impact of the modification on the Relevant Objectives:	
Relevant Objective	Identified impact
a) Efficient and economic operation of the pipe-line system.	None
b) Coordinated, efficient and economic operation of (i) the combined pipe-line system, and/ or (ii) the pipe-line system of one or more other relevant gas transporters.	None
c) Efficient discharge of the licensee's obligations.	None
d) Securing of effective competition: (i) between relevant shippers; (ii) between relevant suppliers; and/or (iii) between DN operators (who have entered into transportation arrangements with other relevant gas transporters) and relevant shippers.	Positive
e) Provision of reasonable economic incentives for relevant suppliers to secure that the domestic customer supply security standards... are satisfied as respects the availability of gas to their domestic customers.	None
f) Promotion of efficiency in the implementation and administration of the Code.	None
g) Compliance with the Regulation and any relevant legally binding decisions of the European Commission and/or the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators.	None

Centralising the relevant information will improve the CoS process by ensuring the new Shipper & Supplier has ready access to the ASP ID. This enables the new Shipper & Supplier to efficiently make the necessary arrangements in relation to the site and will therefore further relevant object d) securing of effective competition.

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5 Implementation

No implementation timescales are proposed. However, it would be desirable if this modification were implemented as soon as reasonably practicable to allow as much time as possible for the benefits to be gained prior to the implementation of Project Nexus.

6 Legal Text

To be provided by Northern Gas Networks.

7 Recommendation

The Proposer recommends the modification should be issued to consultation.