

Change Proposal – BSCP40/02	CP No: 1217 Version No: 1.0 <i>(mandatory by BSCCo)</i>
Title <i>(mandatory by originator)</i> : Discontinuing the BMRS High Grade Website	
<p>Description of Problem/Issue <i>(mandatory by originator)</i></p> <p>In recent years the cost of amending the Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service (BMRS) to implement new reporting requirements has come to be perceived by ISG and industry participants as unreasonably high. As a result, BMRS has tended not to be considered as an implementation mechanism for new reporting requirements. The following are examples of Balancing Mechanism data which would probably have fallen within the scope of BMRS (as originally perceived by the NETA Programme); but which in fact were implemented on the National Grid website (without asking for an assessment of the cost of changing the BMRS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic demand (INDO) data (http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Data/Demand+Data/) • Breakdown of BMRS Surplus (SPLD) into components (http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Data/reserve/) <p>Particular past events which may have contributed to this perception that the cost of BMRS change is unacceptably high include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005, the cost of increasing the number of BMRS Zones for which demand data is published from five to eight was assessed as £260,000. As a result, it was decided not to progress the change. See http://www.elexon.co.uk/documents/issues/17/96_001e.pdf. • In 2001, Modification Proposal P22 sought to amend the BMRS to publish 'Output Usable' data i.e. National Grid forecasts of how much generating plant is expected to be available (on a National and Zonal basis). The impact assessment for adding this new data item to BMRS was £655,000, while the cost of implementing the same functionality on the ELEXON website was estimated at £52,000. The ELEXON website route was therefore selected (even though ELEXON had no wish for its website to be used for operational data). <p>The inability to deliver change to the BMRS impacts participants in a number of ways (as described in the 'Justification' section below). To address these issues, ELEXON and LogicaCMG (as developer and operator of the BMRS) have over the past twelve months put in place a number of measures that are intended to lower significantly the cost of change. The effectiveness of these measures has already been demonstrated in the relatively low-cost delivery of web caching (to improve the performance of the Low Grade web service) and downloadable daily files of Tibco messages.</p> <p>This Change Proposal aims to achieve further savings in the cost of changing (and operating) the BMRS by rationalising the current three delivery routes (i.e. Low Grade website, Tibco Rendezvous® messaging and High Grade website) to two.</p> <p>Note that this change was first proposed in paper ISG77/05, which recommended that it should be discussed by a Working Group. The recommendation of the Working Group to ISG was that this Change Proposal should be raised and issued for industry assessment.</p>	

Proposed Solution *(mandatory by originator)*

The proposed solution is to discontinue the private ('High Grade') BMRS website i.e. the servers that run it would be turned off, and the source code (where different from that for the public site) would no longer be maintained.

The BMRS infrastructure would be reconfigured to provide access to the public ('Low Grade') website over the private ('High Grade') network. (Currently the 'Low Grade' website is available only over the public internet, and the 'High Grade' website only over the private 'High Grade' network). This would allow continuing access to the BMRS website for users connected only to the High Grade network. However, there would no longer be any difference in website functionality between the High Grade and Low Grade services.

For the avoidance of doubt, there would still be a High Grade BMRS Service, providing access to the private network, Tibco messaging, and the BMRS website. The change is that the BMRS website accessed by High Grade users would be the same website as that accessible over the public internet (and would not include functionality for automatically refreshing the contents of graphs and data tables).

Justification for Change *(mandatory by originator)*

The High Grade website is relatively little-used, with most BMRS Users relying on either the public Low Grade website or Tibco messaging over the private High Grade network. However, the requirement to develop, test and deploy separate High Grade website pages adds significantly to the cost of delivering new BMRS requirements. The BMRS developer estimates that removing the High Grade website requirement would reduce the total delivery cost of a typical BMRS change by 20%. For some changes, where the impact on the High Grade website is larger, this could rise to approximately 25%.

It is hoped that reducing the cost of BMRS change (through this and other initiatives) will contribute to a reversal of the tendency for BMRS to be bypassed as a mechanism for delivering new reporting requirements. This would be of benefit to Parties, as the bypassing of BMRS has had a number of potentially undesirable effects:

- It has led to a fragmentation of industry data across multiple websites. At NETA Go-Live it was envisaged that BMRS would provide a single 'window' onto the Balancing Mechanism (and to some extent the operation of the Transmission System), but now this role has become split across a number of different websites (i.e. the BMRS, the National Grid website, and the ELEXON website). This makes it more complex for participant systems to access market data.
- This fragmentation has led to data being reported using mechanisms that are less robust than the BMRS, and offer less rich functionality. For example, Generating Plant Demand Margin and Output Usable data is reported on the ELEXON website as CSV data files. The ELEXON website was not originally intended to support operational reporting of this type, and does not have the rigorous service levels in place that BMRS does. Additionally, data reported in this way cannot be accessed via Tibco messaging, or graphical interfaces, which data reported via BMRS can.
- In some cases, reporting requirements which would have been of value to participants (if delivered at the right price) have not been delivered at all, due to the high cost of change.

This applies to many of the changes discussed by the Issue 17 group.

Lowering the cost of change will allow these unfortunate trends to be arrested (and, in some cases, reversed). For example, data currently reported on the ELEXON website could (subject to approval of an appropriate Modification Proposal) be consolidated on the BMRS. It would also ensure that the market reporting arrangements are flexible and can (where appropriate) adapt to changing requirements. Moving back towards a single, flexible reporting service in this way would increase the transparency of the electricity market; and lower the barriers to entry for potential market participants.

It should be noted that National Grid has recently consulted industry on a number of new reporting requirements for electricity market data¹. This Change Proposal is intended to facilitate the use of BMRS (where appropriate) for implementing new reporting requirements arising from that consultation.

To which section of the Code does the CP relate, and does the CP facilitate the current provisions of the Code? *(mandatory by originator)*

This Change Proposal relates primarily to Section V of the Code, and will allow the BMRS reporting requirements to be met more efficiently and cost-effectively.

It also relates indirectly to Section F, in that it will allow any future Modification Proposals relating to BMRS to be implemented more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Estimated Implementation Costs *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

The estimated ELEXON implementation cost is £4,510.

Configurable Items Affected by Proposed Solution(s) *(mandatory by originator)*

Section 4 of the NETA IDD Part 1 (Interfaces with BSC Parties and their Agents) will be amended to refer to data files being downloaded from a single website (available over the High Grade or Low Grade websites), rather than two separate websites.

The BMRA User Requirements Specification and the Communication Requirements Document will also require amendment.

Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code *(mandatory by originator)*

None.

Related Changes and/or Projects *(mandatory by BSCCo)*

None.

¹ http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/FED719EF-3FC8-4CD6-BBC5-BC13EA18759B/18819/Market_Information_Summary.doc

Requested Implementation Date (*mandatory by originator*)

June 2008 release

Reason:

This change should be implemented as soon as practicable in order to achieve the benefits of a more cost-effective BMRS service.

Note that, even before implementation of this Change Proposal, it may be desirable for any future BMRS Change Proposals or Modification Proposals to be implemented on the Low Grade website only. However, the merits of this can be considered while assessing the Change Proposal or Modification Proposal in question, and will not be considered further here.

Version History (*mandatory by BSCCo*)

N/A

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Attachments: Y

CP1217 Attachment A – Communications Requirement Document v13.0 Redlined v0.1 (1 Page)

CP1217 Attachment B – NETA IDD Part1 DCR v0.4 (4 Pages)