

ISSUE 80 SUMMARY

MEETING NAME	Issue 80 Workgroup Meeting
Meeting number	2
Date of meeting	19 September 2019
Venue	ELEXON Ltd, 4th Floor, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AW
Classification	Public

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of our meeting was to:

- Review Outstation manufacturer feedback
- Address concerns and rationale for making proposed changes
- Agree and clarify Change Proposals

Outstation Manufacturer feedback

As an action from the first Issue 80 meeting, ELEXON engaged with Outstation manufacturer's to help determine the impact of increasing minimum data storage requirements in metering Code of Practices (CoPs). The Workgroup noted the following feedback:

- Some manufacturers confirmed their Outstations would be able to comply with the proposed change (17/32 Outstations could comply). In addition ELEXON's research helped determine Outstations likely to comply or not comply with the proposed minimum data storage requirements.
- Some manufacturers noted that they may not modify existing Outstations to meet the proposed requirements. The WG argued that if manufacturers are not required to make changes they won't. Placing a requirement will ensure new Outstations are CoP compliant.
- The WG were concerned that increasing the storage requirements may adversely limit the available choice of Outstations in CoPs 3, 5 and 10 for CT meters. However, they believed the market would respond and manufacturers would increase storage in its Outstations if the CoPs were amended. Further, the WG noted that a Registrant could raise a dispensation to allow existing Outstations to 'live out their life' even if a material change was made to the site.
- Timelines could be put in place for when Outstations minimum data storage should be changed. This will help limit the impact of increasing minimum data storage requirements.
 - **Post-Issue Group note:** we would like to propose an Implementation Date approximately 12 months after approval for the Outstation storage requirements Change Proposal. If you feel strongly that a different approach should be proposed, please let us know.
- The WG noted the risk that manufacturers may not be willing to change if they are focusing on other industry issues such as smart meters, but believed market forces would drive new Outstation offerings.

What is the rationale?

The WG discussed impacts and benefits of making the proposed changes:

Impact

- The proposed change will result in a material change to new/significantly modified Outstations. ELEXON noted that according to the CDCA there is no issue with data being overwritten for CVA Outstations. There

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are different reasons for estimated reads. It's difficult to know what is causing data estimation, for example it could be as a result of overwritten data, faulty meters or a lack of data.

- Manufacturers may be reluctant to produce Outstations in line with the proposed changes if they do not see the benefit. There is a risk that less Outstation manufacturers will be left in the market should other models become non-compliant leaving the industry with less and possibly more expensive choices. The remaining manufacturers could end up charging more for the few available CoP compliant Outstations.
- A member questioned whether manufacturer's would be able to adapt to new requirements. Also if the increase to 250 days per channel @ 30 minutes integration periods [or DPs] could have impact on Settlement. If an Outstation has short memory, Data Collectors (DCs) have more of an incentive to retrieve quickly before it's overwritten. The WG noted that most Suppliers require Data Collectors to provide 98% of reads in a short period of time through their SLAs.

Benefits

- Increasing minimum data storage requirements will mean MOAs have longer to fix meter faults without losing data. GPRS could be turned off in the next few years. Comms will need replacing providing an opportunity to replace old meters.
- Some Outstation manufacturers are currently producing Outstations that meet the proposed requirements. Changing the CoPs will improve and simplify industry standards.
- The change to 15 minute integration periods [or DPs] will be a transitional activity for the industry future proofing if it happens meaning less Outstations need replacing. They can simply be reprogrammed to 15 from 30 and preserve a decent amount of storage (125 days). Increase to memory could result in new and significantly modified Outstations more resilient to data loss resulting from communications failures.
- The proposed change will not impact but benefit Settlement by providing less estimated reads.

Workgroup Conclusions - Change Proposals

The WG recommended for the below Change Proposals to be raised:

Change 1 - Increase the minimum data storage capacity for Settlement Outstations to 250 days per channel at 30 minutes integration periods. Meters can be easily reprogrammed to if there is a move to 15 minutes intervals. There is no material change in costs regardless of number of days, as the cost for different memory capacities is negligible.

The WG is not proposing to change the BSCP601 testing requirements, as it believed the existing requirements were sufficient for testing clock drift and that the memory was storing data. Moreover, requiring testing of 250 days would be too burdensome and costly.

Change 2 - Mandate the number of Outstation channels to be used for data storage for Settlements purposes as follows:

6 channels for import/export - SVA sites

4 channels for import/export – CVA sites

Where there is a split between SVA/CVA follow SVA - 6 channels

The WG agreed the change subject to checking potential impacts with the National Electricity Transmission System Operator (NETSO) and Licensed Distribution System Operators (LDSOs).

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Change 3 - Mandate selectable DPs for CoPs 3, 5, and 10 and add a declaration for this requirement (and for CoPs 1 and 2) into BSCP601.

The WG agreed to make the selectable DPs for CPs 3,5 and 10 the same as CoPs 1 and 2.

Changes 1 and 3 are to be raised as part one Change Proposal (CP) and Change 2 as a separate CP.

Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Steps

The WG noted the below next steps for progressing Issue 80:

- ELEXON to update Issue 80 report and issue for WG review WC 23 September
- **Post Meeting** - During post meeting discussions ELEXON determined that the WG should agree lead times for implementing the proposed changes. ELEXON propose a lead time for CP1 and CP2 of 12 months – they should have the same Implementation Date, but may be raised at different times.
- The Issue 80 Final Report to be submitted to the October 2019 BSC Panel meeting
- WG Member / ELEXON to raise Change Proposals - we welcome any Parties to come forward and raise the proposed changes, as this will carry more weight. We are happy to draft the proposal form, so all you would need to do is 'sponsor' the change.