

Stage 03: Assessment Consultation

What stage is this document in the process?

01 Initial Written Assessment

02 Definition Procedure

03 Assessment Procedure

04 Report Phase

P255: 'Profile Administrator: creating flexibility in discharging the service'

This Modification will create flexibility in how the Profile Administrator service is discharged. It will allow ELEXON to bring all or part of the service in house if the Panel agrees this to be the most efficient/cost-effective approach.



Modification Group initially recommends **approval** of P255.



This change will not impact participants.

P255 is an enabling change and in itself has no impact on the Profile Administrator arrangements.

However, it has a high impact on ELEXON's forthcoming procurement by affecting the possible approaches we can recommend to the Panel.

P255
Assessment Consultation

16 April 2010

Version 1.0

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About This Document:

The Panel agreed to raise P255 at its meeting on 8 April 2010, on ELEXON's recommendation. You can find all P255 documents (including the Panel paper and a copy of the Modification Proposal) on our website [here](#).

The purpose of this Assessment Consultation is to obtain views or further evidence from BSC Parties and other interested parties on matters discussed in this document. The P255 Modification Group will then discuss the consultation responses before making its final recommendation to the Panel on 13 May 2010.

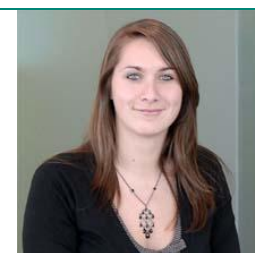
There are 2 parts to this document:

- This is the main document, which provides details of the solution, impacts, benefits, implementation approach and the Modification Group's initial views
- Attachment A is the Assessment Consultation Questions response form, which includes all the questions highlighted in this main document.



Any questions?

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Why Change?

The role of the Profile Administrator (PrA) comprises data collection and data analysis services. The current PrA contract includes both these elements of the service and ends on 31 March 2011. Re-procuring the service provides an opportunity to deliver increased value to our customers.

We believe that we can achieve significant cost-savings and efficiencies by splitting out the two distinct aspects of the role. This will allow us to undertake a focused and competitive procurement for the data collection service, whilst enabling ELEXON to bring the data analysis function in house.

The PrA is a BSC Agent. ELEXON cannot undertake BSC Agent roles under the Code. Previous Modification P133 introduced the ability for ELEXON to provide the PrA service (directly and/or via a subcontractor) under very limited circumstances. These are set out in Section C9 of the Code, and are that:

1. ELEXON must have attempted in good faith to appoint a PrA in accordance with the BSC Agent procurement process in Section E of the Code;
2. The Panel consents to ELEXON providing the service; and
3. ELEXON shall not provide the service for longer than a year without the Panel's further approval.

If ELEXON discharges the PrA role under these circumstances, it acts in its capacity as the Balancing and Settlement Code Company (BSCCo) and not as a BSC Agent.

Although we have not previously exercised the P133 ability, we have now identified the potential for significant cost and efficiency savings if we bring part of the PrA role in house. However, the P133 provisions restrict our ability to do this.

P255 therefore seeks to remove restriction (1) and relax restriction (3) in order to give us greater flexibility in how we can deliver efficiencies/cost-savings in the service. However, it will still retain checks and balances on ELEXON's ability to provide the service as described below.

Solution

The proposed solution will give the Panel 2 options in how the PrA service is discharged:

- The Panel can agree (on the basis of a business case presented by ELEXON) that ELEXON shall assume responsibility for discharging the PrA service. Under this option, ELEXON will assume responsibility for the entire service, but can subcontract part of it to a third-party provider via a competitive procurement; or
- The Panel retains the option to put the entire service out to tender by third-party providers through a full BSC Agent procurement.

P255 is purely an 'enabling' change to give ELEXON and the Panel additional flexibility in discharging the PrA service. Whether or not any part of the service is actually delivered in-house in future will depend on the Panel being satisfied by the business case for doing so. If P255 is approved, ELEXON will also be required to periodically present an updated business case to the Panel, in order to satisfy it that an in-house/subcontracted approach remains the most efficient/cost-effective option. The Panel will retain the ability to undertake a full BSC Agent procurement exercise in the future.

You can find more detail in Section 3.

What problem does P255 address?

The Code does not currently allow us the flexibility to deliver the Profile Administrator service in the most efficient/cost-effective way.

It therefore limits the cost-savings we can secure for our customers through both the forthcoming and future procurement exercises.

Impacts & Costs

P255 is a Code-only 'enabling' change, impacting Section C and potentially Section E. The costs to ELEXON of implementing the necessary code changes will be minor. Note that it is not part of this Modification to establish the costs of ELEXON assuming responsibility for the PrA service and bringing part of the role in-house, or to detail the overall cost-savings/efficiencies that this will achieve. This detail will form part of the business case which ELEXON will present to the Panel if P255 is approved.

P255 will not alter the role of the PrA in any way, or the responsibilities of any BSC Parties or Party Agents. There will be no change to the description of the service as set out in the Code, the PrA Service Description or any relevant Balancing and Settlement Code Procedures (BSCPs). If ELEXON assumes responsibility for the PrA service, the division of responsibilities between the in-house element and any subcontracted third-party service provider will be set out in the contract with that provider.

Implementation

The Group recommends that P255 is implemented 5 Working Days after an Authority decision. The Group invites your views on this approach as part of this consultation.

There is a dependency between P255 and the forthcoming PrA procurement exercise. If the Authority approves P255 within 25 Working Days of receiving the Final Modification Report (its usual KPI), then we will be able to use the P255 solution to give us the flexibility (if the Panel agrees) to procure only the data collection aspect of the service and provide the data analysis aspect in house.

The sooner the Authority decision, the clearer and 'cleaner' the procurement planning process will be, as in the meantime we need to plan for 2 possible outcomes.

If the Authority decision takes longer than 25 Working Days, there is a risk that we may have to default to a full BSC Agent procurement for the entire service in order to have a PrA in place by 1 April 2011.

The Case for Change

The Group unanimously agrees that P255 will better facilitate the achievement of Applicable BSC Objective (d). The majority of the Group also believes that there will be a consequential benefit to Applicable BSC Objective (c).

You can find the Group's full views in Section 6.

Recommendations

The initial unanimous view of the Group is that P255 should therefore be approved.

The Group invites you to comment on its views through this consultation.



Recommendation

The Group initially recommends that P255 is approved, and invites your views through this consultation.



Who is the Profile Administrator?

The Profile Administrator (PrA) is a BSC Agent who is responsible for the production of Non Half Hourly Load Profiles.

The Profile Administrator Service

All Non Half Hourly (NHH) sites are placed into Profile Classes. Each Profile Class has a specific Load Profile which represents the average pattern of electricity usage of supply market customers within that Profile Class. The Load Profiles are used to allocate the NHH energy to specific half hours in Settlement.

The Profile Administrator (PrA) gathers metered data across the course of the year from a representative sample of NHH customers. This data is then analysed and using regression analysis a series of generic Load Profiles produced. These profiles are subsequently used in Settlement by the Supplier Volume Allocation Agent (SVAA).

As such, the PrA service is broadly split into two parts:

- Data Collection

The PrA collects data from meters that make up the profiling sample. There are three different arrangements for doing this:

1. Collecting data from secondary meters that are installed and maintained by the PrA (approx. 2500 sites);
2. Receiving and validating data sent to the PrA by Suppliers (approx. between 150-250 sites – increasing by the same amount year on year going forward, as the older secondary meters are replaced by Half-Hourly capable Settlement metering); and
3. Offering agency services to Suppliers by collecting and validating data from the Half-Hourly capable Settlement metering on behalf of Suppliers, submitting this data to Settlement as well as using the data for profiling (approx. between 150-250 sites – increasing by the same amount year on year going forward).

- Data Analysis

This aspect of the service uses the collected data to produce the defined deliverables (Group Average Annual Consumptions, Regression Coefficients and Profile Coefficients) needed to determine accurate NHH profiles. These are produced annually and to a set timetable.

The analysis process involves inputting data into a bespoke application (owned by ELEXON) and manipulating the data using a series of specially designed spreadsheets to produce the values listed above.

How the Service is Currently Discharged

Currently, we have a contract with a single third-party provider to deliver both elements of the service (although the service provider separately subcontracts the data analysis aspect of the service). This contract ends on 31 March 2011.

Reasons for Change

The data analysis service requires skills and experience in statistical analysis which we already have within ELEXON. Furthermore, whilst the data collection aspect of the service is a full time role, the data analysis function only needs to be performed during a certain period of the year. Our initial estimates therefore indicate that we can obtain material cost savings for our customers by delivering this part of the service in-house. This may also help us achieve a more focused procurement, if the organisations who are able to provide the data collection role do not have data analysis expertise.

While at the moment we only intend to bring the data analysis aspect of the PrA service in house, P255 will also give the flexibility for us to deliver other aspects of the service in house in the future if the Panel agrees this is the most efficient/economic approach. Metering technology is continually evolving. Future planned developments in the market such as the introduction of smart metering highlight this. Enabling greater flexibility in delivering the PrA service ensures that as the market evolves, and what is the most efficient method of discharging the service changes, we can rapidly adapt to continue to provide the most efficient/economic approach.

3 Solution

Proposed Solution

P255 will allow ELEXON (if the Panel agrees the business case) to assume full responsibility for the PrA, and to either discharge all of the service in house or subcontract part of it to a third-party service provider. If the Panel does not agree, then we will put the entire service out to tender through a full BSC Agent procurement.

If ELEXON assumes responsibility for the PrA role, then it will do so in its capacity as BSCCo and not as a BSC Agent – and any subcontractor will be a service provider rather than a BSC Agent.

ELEXON will be required to present a revised business case to the Panel periodically (e.g. at least every 5 years) to satisfy it that this remains the most efficient/cost-effective approach. The business case can also be re-examined before then if necessary (at ELEXON or the Panel's request). The Panel will retain the ability to undertake a full BSC Agent procurement for the entire role.

The Group agrees that the Code shall not state which parts of the role ELEXON may perform in house. This will give us the flexibility to adjust the split between the in-house and service provider elements over time, if the Panel agrees that this will achieve further efficiencies/cost-savings. However, our current intention is only to bring the data analysis functionality of the PrA in house and we will complete a competitive procurement for the data collection service. Any change to this approach will require the Panel's agreement.

The Group's Discussion of the Solution

The Group notes that P255 is not intended to set a precedent for ELEXON undertaking any other BSC Agent roles. The Modification is building on the provisions already contained in Section C9 regarding the PrA rather than removing parts of Section E 'BSC Agents'.

The Group has queried why, where ELEXON assumes responsibility for the PrA role and subcontracts part of it, the subcontractor will be a service provider rather than a BSC Agent. ELEXON has clarified that it cannot be a BSC Agent, and will be acting as BSCCo when undertaking any in-house element of the role. For any sub-contracted element, there are advantages in contracting for this as a service provider (non-BSC Agent) role. One is that it potentially widens the pool of available bidders, because the restriction that BSC Parties cannot be BSC Agents will not apply. Another is that ELEXON will be responsible for the delivery of the entire service (including the subcontracted element), avoiding the potential for any disagreement or ambiguity over responsibilities. It also avoids the need to amend the PrA Service Description to separate out elements of the role, as ELEXON will assume responsibility for delivering the whole Service Description directly and through any service provider. Putting the division of responsibilities in the contract with the service provider gives the flexibility to adjust these over time if necessary



What checks and balances will there be if ELEXON discharges the PrA role?

ELEXON will only assume responsibility for the PrA service if the Panel agrees that this is the most efficient/cost-effective approach.

The Panel will periodically reassess the business case and will retain the option to undertake a full BSC Agent procurement for the entire role.

and if agreed by the Panel. Leaving the Service Description unchanged also means that if the Panel decides to put the entire role out to tender as a BSC Agent procurement then the Service Description can be quickly utilised for this in its current form.

The Group has queried whether the procurement of the data collection will be any less competitive or transparent if this is a service provider, rather than a BSC Agent, role. ELEXON has clarified that, although the procurement process will be slightly different the basic principles are the same. It will be a full competitive procurement following EU procurement guidelines, and the Panel will still have involvement and scrutiny.

The Group has discussed how ELEXON will continue to provide evidence of the efficiency/cost effectiveness of any parts of the role carried out in house. It is satisfied that the costs will be more transparent to industry than currently as they can be included in ELEXON's budget reporting and forecasting (currently ELEXON only has limited transparency over the costs of the data analysis service because this is a subcontracted part of the overall contract costs). The Group is keen that, while the Panel will be provided with a robust business case for ELEXON performing parts of the role, a proportional approach shall be taken when carrying out benchmarking exercises in the future.

The Group has noted that the Panel will consider the business case for ELEXON actually undertaking any part of the role before a competitive tender takes place for any part of the service.

The Group has discussed whether Panel agreement of the business case is necessary, or whether approval by ELEXON's Board is sufficient. The Group believed that it was still right that this fell under Panel governance to give assurance to industry that the business case was robust and in the industry's best interests. The Group believed that the Panel should retain the right to undertake a full BSC Agent procurement if it believed the business case was unproven.

The Group has asked what will happen if ELEXON later determines that it is no longer more efficient to undertake some of the work in house. In these circumstances a separate procurement could be carried out for that part of the work. It would not be necessary to wait until the end of any other PrA service contracts to end before procuring, although the Panel could choose to do so and then procure both elements together.

Overall, the Group is satisfied that there will be sufficient checks and balances to ensure that ELEXON only assumes responsibility for the PrA service (now and in the future) if the Panel agrees this to be the most efficient/cost-effective approach. The Group agrees that there will be no reduction in transparency or in the competitiveness of the procurement for any subcontracted element of the role.

Currently, the PrA calculates the Group Average Annual Consumptions, Regression Coefficients and Profile Coefficients, and ELEXON then checks these calculations. The Group notes that, if ELEXON delivers the data analysis part of the PrA service in-house, separate staff will calculate and check these deliverables in order to ensure there that the level of robustness in the calculations remains unchanged.

Alternative Solution

The Group has not identified any alternative solutions, but seeks your views as part of this consultation.



What is an 'enabling' change?

P255 is purely a change to the Code to enable the Panel to consider more flexible approaches to discharging the PrA service.

The business case for whether ELEXON should actually bring any part of the service in house is outside the scope of this Modification, and will be considered by the Panel separately if P255 is approved.

Costs

ELEXON Cost	ELEXON Service Provider cost
<p>Minor costs to update the Code.</p> <p>The costs of ELEXON bringing the data analysis service in house (and managing the data collection aspect as a subcontracted service) are outside the scope of this Modification and will be considered as part of the business case that ELEXON will present to the Panel if P255 is approved.</p>	<p>None – the Modification itself will not alter the PrA arrangements.</p>

Indicative industry costs

None, as there will be no change to the PrA service itself.

Impacts

Impact on BSC Systems and process

None – the Modification itself will not alter the PrA arrangements.

Impact on BSC Agent/service provider contractual arrangements

None – the Modification itself will not alter the PrA contract.

Impact on BSC Parties and Party Agents

None, as there will be no change to the PrA service itself.

Impact on Transmission Company

None.

Impact on ELEXON

Area of ELEXON's business	Potential impact
Service Delivery	Will potentially have the ability to perform parts of the PrA service and subcontract out others.
Commercial and Procurement	Will be able to propose an alternative procurement approach to the only existing option of re-procuring the PrA service in its entirety as a BSC Agent.

Impact on Code

There will be impacts on Section C and possibly Section E.

We are developing the Code legal drafting in parallel with this consultation. Once the Group has agreed this drafting, we will consult industry on it during the Panel's Report Phase consultation in mid-May.

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Impact on Code Subsidiary Documents

None. The description of the PrA service in the Service Description and BSCPs will remain unchanged.

Impact on Core Industry Documents and other documents

None.

Impact on other Configurable Items

None.

5 Implementation

Because of the interaction with the forthcoming PrA procurement exercise, an Authority decision is needed before we issue the formal Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the service. This will allow us to know which parts of the service we need to procure. If we do not obtain a decision in time, or if the Modification is rejected, ELEXON will undertake a full procurement for the role of the PrA as a BSC Agent.

Participants will not have to make any changes for implementation. Therefore the Group recommends that P255 is implemented 5 Working Days after an Authority decision. Note that, from the point of view of the procurement exercise, it is the timing of the Authority decision (rather than the point that the Code changes go live) which is important and gives certainty as to which procurement approach we recommend to the Panel.



What are the Applicable BSC Objectives?

(a) The efficient discharge by the Transmission Company of the obligations imposed upon it by the Transmission Licence

(b) The efficient, economic and co-ordinated operation of the national electricity transmission system

(c) Promoting effective competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and (so far as consistent therewith) promoting such competition in the sale and purchase of electricity

(d) Promoting efficiency in the implementation and administration of the balancing and settlement arrangements

Applicable Objectives

The Group unanimously agrees that P255 will better facilitate the achievement of Applicable BSC Objective (d). A majority of members agree that it will also better facilitate Objective (c), although this is more of a consequential impact than the main benefit.

The Group's views against the Applicable Objectives are as follows:

Applicable Objective (d)	
Benefits	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances efficiency by removing any constraints that prevent ELEXON from ensuring the efficient provision of the PrA service. Potential to provide material cost savings to industry, recognising natural efficiencies (e.g. existing ELEXON expertise) of bringing data analysis role in house. Allowing the data collection aspect of the role to be procured separately may widen the pool of bidders – allowing for a more competitive procurement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.

Applicable Objective (c)	
Benefits	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces costs to Suppliers which enables them to spend money elsewhere to the benefit of their customers, thereby promoting competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.

Further Rationale

The Group has discussed the changes in the market that will come with smart metering. It believes that building in flexibility to adapt to this and have the ability to take advantage of smart metering was the right approach. The Group also notes that, given the expectation that profiles will become obsolete in the future, it was possible that organisations will not want to undertake something so specific as the data analysis element in the knowledge that it may be a diminishing service.

7 Modification Group Membership and Attendance

Member	Organisation	12/04/10
Kathryn Coffin	ELEXON (Chair)	✓
Helen Boothman	ELEXON (Lead Analyst and Proposer's Representative)	✓
Gary Henderson	Accenture	✓
Colette Baldwin	E.ON	✓
Eric Graham	TMA Data Management	✓
Steven Eyre	EDF Energy	☎
Mo Rezvani	SSE	X
Attendee	Organisation	12/04/10
Diane Mailer	ELEXON (Legal support)	✓
Jodi Singfield	ELEXON (Operational support)	✓
Richard Westoby	SSE	☎
Jon Dixon	Ofgem	✓

8 Further Information

More information is available in:

Attachment **A**: Assessment Consultation questions and response form

You can also download all P255 documents from our website [here](#).