

CP1436 'EAC/AA and NHHDA Applications – Windows Server upgrade'



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About This Document

The purpose of this Change Proposal (CP) Consultation is to invite BSC Parties, Party Agents and other interested parties to provide their views on the impacts and the merits of CP1436. The Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG) will then consider the consultation responses before making a decision on whether or not to approve CP1436.

There are three parts to this document:

- This is the main document. It provides details of the solution, impacts, costs, and proposed implementation approach.
- Attachment A contains the CP1436 Proposal Form.
- Attachment B contains the specific questions on which we seek your views. Please use this form to provide your response to these questions, and to record any further views or comments you wish to be considered.

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Version 1.0

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1 Why Change?

NHHDA and EAC/AA software

ELEXON, via its Application Management and Development (AMD) service provider, provides Non Half Hourly Data Aggregators (NHHDA) with NHHDA and Estimated Annual Consumption (EAC)/Annualised Advance (AA) software on which to run the corresponding applications. These are designed to run on either a 'Solaris-only' or 'Solaris/Windows Server' platform. NHHDA have the choice to run their applications on either of these platforms. Currently 11 of the 13 NHHDA run their applications on the 'Solaris-only' platform with the remaining two running their applications on the 'Solaris/Windows Server' platform.

The current version of the Solaris platform used for this software, Solaris 5.10, will be supported by Oracle until January 2021. However, the current version of the Windows platform, Windows Server 2003, will only be supported by Microsoft until July 2015.

What is the issue?

The endpoint support to Window Server 2003 will cease in July 2015. Although the applications can still be run without this support, it means that they will be unprotected against cyber-attacks, virus and malware. This could leave Settlement data unprotected or exposed, and create risks to Settlement.

Note that the issue will only affect the two NHHDA that currently operate on the 'Solaris/Windows Server' platform. The other 11 NHHDA who operate on the 'Solaris-only' platform will not be affected.

Both NHHDA, who are currently running Windows Server 2003, have advised ELEXON that they have a preference to upgrade to Windows Server 2012, for which Microsoft will provide extended support until 2023.

Proposed solution

[CP1436 'EAC/AA and NHHDA Applications – Windows Server upgrade'](#) was raised by ELEXON. It proposes that ELEXON's AMD service provider will first upgrade its systems to Windows Server 2012 and provide new and fully tested versions of the NHHDA and EAC/AA applications to the two NHHDA who are currently running Windows Server 2003.

The CP will remove any risks that may occur from operating on unsupported software, and ensure compatibility between ELEXON and the relevant NHHDA.

Proposer's rationale

We believe that CP1436 would allow the NHHDA and EAC/AA applications that run on the 'Solaris/Windows Server' platform to be compatible with the latest and fully supported software, which would be supported by Microsoft until 2023. This would have the following benefits for both the developer and users of this software:

- maintain availability of full vendor support service for users of the applications;
- minimise risk of being unable to take advantage of defect fixes and other enhancements made available by the vendor;
- minimise reliance on reduced vendor support service for both developer and users; and
- minimise cost of vendor support for both developer and users.

CP Consultation Question

Do you agree with the CP1436 proposed solution?

Please provide your rationale.

We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

Proposed redlining

The proposed CP solution would require changes to NHHDA System Management Guide and NHHDA Installation Guide documents. The redlined changes to these documents will be provided by the AMD service provider and will be consulted upon as part of CP1436's implementation, should it be approved by the SVG.

3 Impacts and Costs

Central impacts and costs

Central impacts

CP1436 will require the AMD to develop, test and deploy new versions of the NHHDA and EAC/AA software applications, and will require corresponding updates to the NHHDA System Management Guide and NHHDA Installation Guide documents.

Central Impacts	
Document Impacts	System Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">NHHDA System Management GuideNHHDA Installation Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NHHDA systems

Central costs

There would be a total central cost of approximately £40k to deliver the technical solution to the CP and to implement the relevant document changes.

BSC Party & Party Agent impacts and costs

CP1436 would only impact the two NHHDA's that operate on the existing Windows Server 2003 systems. Costs would arise from upgrading their systems to the new Windows Server 2012 platform. No other BSC Parties or Party Agents are expected to be impacted by CP1436.

BSC Party & Party Agent Impacts	
BSC Party/Party Agent	Impact
NHHDA (who currently operate on Windows Server 2003)	Costs would arise from upgrading systems to the new Windows Server 2012 platform and installing and testing the new versions of the EAC/AA and NHHDA software delivered by ELEXON.

CP Consultation Questions

Will CP1436 impact your organisation?

If 'Yes', please provide a description of the impact(s) on your organisation and any activities which you will need to undertake between the approval of CP1436 and the CP1436 Implementation Date (including any necessary changes to your systems, documents and processes). Where applicable, please state which of the roles that you operate as will be impacted and any differences in the impacts between each role.

Will your organisation incur any costs in implementing CP1436?

If 'Yes', please provide details of these costs, how they arise and whether they are one-off or on-going costs.

We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

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4 Implementation Approach

Recommended Implementation Date

CP1436 is proposed for implementation on 5 November 2015 as part of the November 2015 BSC Systems Release.

The two impacted NHHDA's wish to complete their system upgrades as soon as possible, which could be done as soon as new versions of the applications are delivered by ELEXON. The upgrade to ELEXON's systems will require approximately 13 weeks' lead time and therefore the November 2015 Release would be the earliest possible Release this CP can be included in.

CP Consultation Question

Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach for CP1436?

Please provide your rationale.

We invite you to give your views using the response form in Attachment B

5 Initial Committee Views

SVG's initial views

CP1436 was not presented to the SVG for initial views.

Appendix 1: Glossary & References

Acronyms

Acronyms used in this document are listed in the table below.

Acronyms	
Acronym	Definition
AA	Annualised Advance
AMD	Application Management and Development
CP	Change Proposal
EAC	Estimated Annual Consumption
NHHDA	Non Half Hourly Data Aggregator
SVG	Supplier Volume Allocation Group

External links

A summary of all hyperlinks used in this document are listed in the table below.

All external documents and URL links listed are correct as of the date of this document.

External Links		
Page(s)	Description	URL
3	CP1436 page on the ELEXON website	https://www.elexon.co.uk/change-proposal/cp1436/