

HEADLINE REPORT

MEETING NAME	BMRS User Group Meeting 6
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Meeting number	2015/06
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Date of meeting	26 February 2015
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Classification	Public
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ATTENDEES

Zaahir Ghanty (ZG)	ELEXON
Tomos Edwards (TE)	ELEXON
Andy Howden (AH)	CGI (Part of Meeting)
William Hulse (WH)	Cognizant
Paul Coates (PC)	RWE
Peter Wood (PW)	RWE
Austin Sharman (AS)	Ofgem ¹
Peter Frampton (PH)	Ofgem ²
Graham Bunt (GB)	EDF
George Lear (GL)	EDF
Michael Oprych (MO)	Innovez (on behalf of Hetco)
Tom Bowcutt (TB)	Centrica
Julian Thacker (JT)	Vue Point
Kowshik NS(KN)	DataGenic (on behalf of EDF)
Ian Roberts (IR)	Drax
Phil Hewitt (PH)	EnAppsSys

APOLOGIES

Tony Osborne (TO)	DataGenic (on behalf of EDF)
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1. Introduction

1.1 The meeting was focussed on the following areas:

- Update on project
 - Recap from Meeting 5
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¹ Attending as a user of BMRS data

² Observer

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- BMRS & Transparency Regulation
- Data Push Solution
- Current BMRS Changes/Feedback
- REMIT/ETR Contingency
- BMRS & Transparency Regulation

2. Update on Project

- 2.1 ELEXON reported that BMRS **Phase 1** has been delivered. Most defects have been fixed, both cosmetic and core functional. CGI said that lower priority patches are waiting.
- 2.2 Users asked whether IE8 was a non-starter. ELEXON explained that as Microsoft are dropping IE8 from support, it did not make sense to support this. One participant explained that many participants run on old software and some are likely to get special extensions for IE8 support. ELEXON stated that it confirmed the browser support back in September Newscast ([Issue 518](#)) and did not receive any feedbacks from Market Participants.
- 2.3 ELEXON indicated that **Phase 2** currently involves the design for Data-Push and migration of existing flow to new BMRS; will be delivered End of May. **Phase 3** is now delayed to February 2016 due to Modification P305.
- 2.4 Users asked what the consequences are if P305 isn't approved, and ELEXON explained that this would not change anything in terms of delivery for Phase 3. ELEXON stated that BSC Panel recommended P297 to be delivered on the November 2016 Release due to the delay in implementation of National Grid new Electricity Balancing System (EBS). Subject to a decision from Ofgem, P297 will be de-scoped from BMRS project and treated as a standard release.

3. Recap from Meeting 5

- 3.1 A summary of the previous meeting was presented and update on the outstanding actions:
- Action: TIBCO Compression
 - User group responded to approach, wider engagement with Industry
 - Roll-out date to be confirmed
 - Action: Users to confirm whether they use current XML download and agree with improvements
 - Users commented changing the XML download on current BMRS data will not have an impact as it's not generally used
 - Action: Users to confirm their TIBCO architecture
 - This was used to validate some of the volumetrics for the Data Push
- 3.2 From the previous meeting, many actions are now complete/obsolete. The Action on TIBCO didn't get the required level of engagement from industry with only 5 participants responding.
- 3.3 AH said that there are discussions about initial testing in April, and for the users in June. Therefore, roll out will be six months from June. EDF said that participants, especially larger ones need a deadline to work towards. While preferred by participants, a big bang approach is not going to work because all participants will need to be alerted and coordination will be difficult
- 3.4 ELEXON confirmed that for the RVRD version 7.x would be supported for compression noting that some that some early 7.x versions are no longer in support.

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- 3.5 Users raised issues with performance on TIBCO since transparency and queried whether this is something familiar on BMRS. They cited that there have been many disconnections without reason. CGI noted that there is a bug that requires a patch at both ends.
- 3.6 ELEXON also confirmed that all files sent to BMRS is being published noting that National Grid have not sent some reports yet. Flows for Article 16.1 a) are not being pushed down TIBCO as it is large and will cause issues. Users highlighted that there are many dependencies on National Grid and asked whether they should have representation at the User Group. ELEXON explained that the next few phases are less dependent on National Grid, particularly for this meeting's Agenda. One user also highlighted it will be useful to hold a REMIT workshop to ensure consistency in the GB market. ELEXON confirmed that this can be facilitated although such workshops will not be within scope of the BMRS user group.
- 3.7 From a TIBCO perspective it would be useful to understand when the data limit is reached. Users asked whether future participants should use data-push rather than TIBCO.
- 3.8 ELEXON confirmed that there are no issues with TIBCO but the issue lies with the ageing infrastructure which supports TIBCO.
- 3.9 A member confirmed that Traders principally look at REMIT data on BMRS and also other website for REMIT data. However, Transparency data is not viewed as useful as the UK market already has this data published (MIL/MEL, FPNs, etc.). From a user perspective, this is not an issue. Also, users highlighted that the way in which ENTSO-e presents the information without the details for time series is unfortunate.
- 3.10 **Action: ELEXON to speak to CGI about how far TIBCO is from maximum capacity**

4. BMRS & Transparency Regulation

- 4.1 ELEXON explained that xml is inherently hierarchical but it has been flattened. Therefore, it's difficult to relate 'parent' and 'child' rows. Rather than 2 rows, it would be useful to have parent adjacent to child data.
- 4.2 Users questioned the value of half-hourly rows being repeated for a given outage. Also, they stated that they can't make sense of the shape of the outage
- 4.3 AS stated his support for half-hourly blocks which should provide more granularity. However, users stated that half-hourly values make it confusing. Users were uncertain about what was trying to be shown with transparency as the shape can't be displayed in EMFIP. Drax thought that granularity on the site was meaningless as data being processed from information that people don't send. Therefore Participants did not believe the processing into HH chunks was helpful, if anything it creates confusion. [Another user pointed out that the systems do not allow to provide granular information and it is not currently required to be provided.](#)
- 4.4 ELEXON confirmed that BMRS was designed to process timeseries therefore if it is submitted in A01 curve type with 30 minutes resolution, the detail will be published. However submission using A03 curve type will only show one line and will not be parsed in HH chunks.
- 4.5 A more pragmatic approach would be for participants to submit A03 curve type and it is highly likely ENTSO-e/Acer would request more granular data in the future and this functionality is built in BMRS.
- 4.6 **Recommendation: Participants to submit their outages using A03 where possible as recommended by ENTSO-e**
- 4.7 Users feel restricted by EMFIP as they can only put in one MW value. Therefore it is difficult to get context. Users stressed that regulation has to be considerate of their position. Participants feel they require guidance to help solve the problem in order to get consistency across the piece.

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- 4.8 A user commented there are better ways to spend money than to invest in making changes to this page. As nobody uses it, users concluded that it is not adding value. It was concluded that there was no drive for significant investment in updating the page as users do not feel the transparency regulation in its current form is adding useful data for GB participants.
- 4.9 **Action: Include a message on the page indicating the purpose of the Market Participant Transparency Page**
- 4.10 **Action: Highlight the changes to filtering on the Market Participant Transparency Page. Explore the possibility of a Market Participant filter as well as BM Unit filter. There is also an interest in filtering by fuel type.**

5. Data Push Service Overview

- 5.1 WH provided an overview of BMRS Data Push; a data messaging solution to push near real time BMRS data to authenticated participants via HTTP. Features of the service were presented, such as Connectivity, Data Content, Provision of a Data Archive and Participant Testing Timescales. WH presented possibilities in either Connectivity from a single client or a broker.
- 5.2 ELEXON indicated that RESTful API data will span as far back as NETA Go-Live for relevant data items. This service will provide an alternative to scripting and TIBCO for provision of near real time information. This is not a replacement of the current TIBCO service. This provides a more cost-effective solution for new participants in particular.
- 5.3 Users asked what would happen if the infrastructure limit is reached on TIBCO. ELEXON answered that decommissioning of TIBCO/High Grade Service would require a BSC modification. Both solutions can be tried in parallel, and it will be left to participants to make a choice.
- 5.4 EDF noted that it would be useful to know how close TIBCO is getting to its infrastructure limit in order to get a clear steer. Participants stated that they would need to know as soon as possible. ELEXON confirmed TIBCO and High Grade service is a BSC obligation and will be required to provide this. However analysis is required to view the state of the existing infrastructure supporting TIBCO.
- 5.5 **Action: ELEXON to speak to CGI about how far TIBCO is from capacity**
- 5.6 Participants asked if they could continue to script, which ELEXON replied that their scripts will work until the front end is changed for Phase 3. ELEXON has always discouraged scripting and after phase 3, will expect participants would move to Data Push Service Apache ActiveMQ rather than changing their current scripting software.
- 5.7 WH discussed authentication for the Data Push Service and the requirement for an API Key. Participants asked whether it was possible to have a corporate API Key, to be shared between users should there be issues downstream with only one API Key associated with one user. Transferring API Key's amongst users is up to participants to coordinate.
- 5.8 Participants asked if they would have a test environment. WH replied that they would, it is part of OAT in Phase 2.
- 5.9 Durable Subscription was explained and there were no questions.
- 5.10 Participants queried whether there was any testing on message traffic. ELEXON and Cognizant replied that performance testing in OAT will address message traffic. Furthermore, testing had been carried out and performance was satisfactory; Description of the Preliminary testing of the Push Data Technology Components provided below as a post meeting update

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- 5.11 **Post Meeting Update:** A small test environment was commissioned incorporating the key components that will underpin the Push Data Solution. Whilst the analysis was not performed on the chosen target environment, the environment used is representative and does allow a level of extrapolation to take place
- 5.12 The results from this investigation were that in parallel, two producers were able to queue a total of 100,000 messages on the system in 3 minutes 18 seconds (505 messages/sec). The extrapolation of this would mean that we could expect the system to be able to queue 43 million messages in a 24-hour period.
- 5.13 Whilst the producers were running, 50 consumers were running. The consumers managed to read 50,000 messages in 18 seconds (2777 messages/sec). The extrapolation from this would mean that we could expect the system to process 200,000,000 read messages in a 24-hour period.
- 5.14 ELEXON stated that it would be useful to get an idea of what participants want from the User Guide.
- 5.15 Users commented that for the Broker to Broker Line, the possibility of an API Key being revoked will have a wider impact on the organisation and .. ELEXON also highlighted the onus will be on the user to ensure the API key is not misused and ELEXON will not generally revoke an API key without prior engagement with that specific user.
- 5.16 When asked by participants about the xml structure and content, WH confirmed that the content of the BMRS Data Push follows TIBCO content and demonstrated an example. RWE also commented that there could be more efficient formats such as JSON/JSONP. ELEXON confirmed that JSON was considered for this initially for the smaller payload but dropped as industry is adopting XML, e.g. EBS system has the capability to submit XML.
- 5.17 **Action: ELEXON to make Data Push user guide available before testing**
- 5.18 **Action: Participants to review and feedback comments when the user guide is issued**
- 5.19 Participants asked about how to get the data from the client into Excel. The response to this was that options will be looked at, but it is up to the participant on how they consume the data.
- 5.20 When asked about the coverage of the Data Push service, ELEXON stated that production go-live is end of May. However, some dynamic/physical data (due to the impact by P297) and derived data (migration of calculations engine on new BMRS will be in Phase 3), which will go-live on February 2016.
- 5.21 Participants were concerned about the TTL (16 hours), citing difficulties that could arise if it was too short or long (increasing workload if too long or not noticing an issue if it is too short). Participants asked the question of whether persisted messages could be switched off per subscription
- 5.22 Data Archive – Cognizant said that there will be no change in formats in the data archive. The data archive will be a self-service mechanism for participants to retrieve data beyond the TTL..
- 5.23 **Action: Cognizant to confirm whether TTL can be switched off per subscription.**
- 5.24 **Action: Cognizant to look into availability of RESTful API for Data Archive**
- 5.25 ELEXON said that participants would be using Data-Push, the following reasons were cited: Short term, Data Push will compliment TIBCO. The service should be faster than TIBCO, no large licensing fee, and the reliability of TIBCO has caused issues for Market Participants. Finally, users stressed that the length of testing is important, particularly for larger participants, although ELEXON highlighted participants could still use the test the service from the production service
- 5.26 **Action: ELEXON/CGI to look at the length of Data-Push testing**
- 5.27 **Action: Cognizant to find out if Apache ActiveMQ has a heartbeat function and what the best way to notify of topics going down**

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6. Current BMRS User Feedback

- 6.1 The discussion centred on feedback regarding the UI for the BMRS website. ELEXON explained that balancing, transmission, demand and generation would be separated. The user group noted that this was useful as the data tends to overlap. Therefore, duplication is not necessarily a bad thing.
- 6.2 Participants noted that it would be useful to have market communications, such as system warnings, available on the landing page as this gets used frequently.
- 6.3 For retail and generation BM units, participants wouldn't want to see every unit on one page. Furthermore, it would be useful to group data and show it "heat-mapped" a cross-tabular format. Participants would also like to be able to access a view in merit order. Centrica noted that the categories make sense but it is still fragmented - a dashboard would be useful. ELEXON noted that users' previous feedback has indicated that they would like to see data only rather than reporting/analysis. Also, ELEXON stated that the websites scope is to achieve quick wins rather than spend large amounts on presentation of data.
- 6.4 Electricity Data Summary – ELEXON discussed its approach to display top 6 data items from the list in the main tab of summary page and the remainder in separate tabs. Users explained that they tend to focus on 3-4 versions for bits of data. A method of monitor most viewed areas could be look at page analytics or conducting a quick poll.
- 6.5 NH suggested splitting by short term and long term; e.g. Operational metering data which is updated frequently in short term view.
- 6.6 ELEXON also requested additional feedback on which data participants would like to feature on the Electricity summary page notwithstanding that some recent change proposal such as CP1397 (Triad data) specifically requested it to be on the Electricity Data Summary Page.
- 6.7 **Action: Users to comment on the data they would prefer to go on the EDS**

7. REMIT/ETR Contingency Discussion

- 7.1 PC gave an overview of the GB arrangement for ETR and REMIT. He commented that this did not provide them with the ability to manage contingency situations. Users noted that if they lose their systems, there needs to be a way to get their message out to the ETR and REMIT websites. He also commented that traders would not use the MODIS screens and it is not as intuitive as the ELEXON portal. The MODIS screen relies heavily on the user being aware of the interface documentations. Therefore, they need to know where to report and in a contingency scenario as quickly as possible without the detailed knowledge of XML/Interface documentations
- 7.2 ELEXON Portal GUI is available and is useful, but currently only covers REMIT submissions.
- 7.3 The participants noted that the front-screen must have a minimal impact on existing solution
- 7.4 The current screen allows users to submit Start to End time and minimum capacity for REMIT and this could also be used for ENTSO-e ETR outages.
- 7.5 ELEXON noted that work needs to be done on an Impact Assessment and that it was unlikely to result in a modification and will be working with RWE to for a simple and practical solution that can be adopted in outage situations or new entrants not having system in place to generate XML by webservice. This may result in an ISG paper to approve the change and Industry consultation if required.

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- 7.6 EDF discussed 2 main concerns – article version management and reason codes. The concerns being that it is difficult to determine whether they're the same and the ability to report once only. Furthermore, it was noted that it would be good to have a review of translation rules, looking at consistency of information presentation. However, caution from a regulatory perspective was highlighted as there would be many things to be considered. Users stated that the solution needs to be pragmatic, but consistency is important. ELEXON agreed with this statement.

8. AOB

- 8.1 Users stated that in some cases BMRS shows messages that have been rejected by EMFIP. ELEXON explained that messages are published as soon as they are received and if it hasn't been published by EMFIP, contact the service desk.
- 8.2 Participants asked if there has been any improvement in ENTSO-e and EMFIP late notices as these tend to be short notice.
- 8.3 **Action: ELEXON to raise issue with short notices for EMFIP outages with ENTSO-e**
- 8.4 **Next Meeting:** Suggested date - 16 April

9. Summary of Actions

- ELEXON/Cognizant to speak to CGI about how far TIBCO is from maximum capacity
- Participants to submit their outages using A03 where possible as recommended by ENTSO-e
- Include a message on the page indicating the purpose of the Market Participant Transparency Page
- Highlight the changes to filtering on the Market Participant Transparency Page. Explore the possibility of a Market Participant filter as well as BM Unit filter. There is also an interest in filtering by type
- ELEXON to speak to CGI about how far TIBCO is from capacity
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- Cognizant to look into availability of RESTful API for Data Archive
- ELEXON/CGI to look at the length of Data-Push testing
- Cognizant to find out if Apache ActiveMQ has a heartbeat function and what the best way to notify of topics going down
- Users to comment on the data they would prefer to go on the EDS
- ELEXON to raise issue with short notices of EMFIP outages with ENTSO-e