ReMCoWG Meeting Minutes

Date:	1st May 2019	Time & Location	12:30 – 13:30 – CRU Offices – Dublin	
Chair:	Lindsay Sharpe - ReMCoDS			
Attendees:	Name		Location	
	Alice Mooney		ReMCoDS	
	Alan Keegan, Lisa Fahy (Observers)		CRU	
	Kevin Shiels, John Magill		UR	
	Carl Murphy, Elaine Sexton		ESBN	
	Gemma McHale, Joan-Edel Smith		NIE Networks	
	Sarah Fuller		Gemserv	
	Neil Patterson		Power NI	
	Sean Doolin		Electric Ireland	
	Krystle Chapman, Cian Fitzgerald		Energia	
	Leola McErlane		Go Power	
	Siobhan Melvin		SSE Airtricity	
	Sarah Everett		Flogas	
	Niall Kelly		Click Energy	
	Andre Van Der Wes Thuizen		Budget Energy	
	Ben Lambon		BGE	
Apologies:				
Version Number	1.0			
Status	Draft			

Agenda:	
1.	Introduction
2.	ReMCoSG Meeting Feedback
3.	Actions from Previous ReMCoWG
4.	Actions – New ReMCoWG Actions
5.	Retail Market Design Update
6.	De-harmonisation Update
7.	ESBN/NIE Networks Update
8.	CRU SMART Metering Update
9.	Next Steps & AOB

1 – Introduction

L Sharpe enquired if everyone was happy to sign off and approve the last Working Group Minutes of 6th March 2019.

All Agreed.
Approved.

2 - ReMCoSG Meeting Feedback

L Sharpe presented the ReMCoSG Meeting Update.

There has been one ReMCoSG Meeting since the last ReMCoWG held on 10.04.2019.

Refer to slide for details.

L Sharpe reported that with regard to de-harmonisation, the NI Supplier Rep stated that it was the most comments he had received on one single issue. The ROI Rep gave a similar update. The UR gave their update on de-harmonisation in response. In summary, the key queries were around timings about when de-harmonisation would happen and about being kept informed and updated on progress. NIE Networks and ESBN are working on a plan at the moment and will share the plan with the wider group as soon as it is progressed in any way.

The following ReMCoSG Meeting is scheduled for 22.05.2019.

3. Actions – Previous ReMCoWG

L Sharpe provided the Action Items Update.

There are no open ReMCoWG Actions.

4. Actions – New ReMCoWG Actions

No new Actions were logged at this meeting.

5. Retail Market Design Update

L Sharpe provided the Retail Market Design Update.

Market Release v12.00.00

L Sharpe presented a slide on v12.00.00.

Refer to slide for full details.

- V12.00.00 Schema Release went live on 23rd April 2019.
- The Market Design documentation is now published on the RMDS Website. A post release conference call took place on Wednesday 24th April to talk through issues.
- Hypercare started on Tuesday 23rd April and will continue until 7th May 2019.

ReMCoDS Survey

The ReMCoDS Customer Satisfaction survey for 2018 was issued on 26.04.2019 with a closing date of 24.05.2019. The survey was issued to only one contact in each organisation. MPs should send a note to ReMCoDS in case the wrong contact received the survey. The survey is anonymous and ReMCoDS encourages MPs to give any feedback they may have.

Outages

- There are no planned outages for May.
- Full outage details are available, as usual, on the RMDS Website.

6. De-harmonisation Update

L Sharpe gave an update on De-harmonisation.

L Sharpe reported that De-harmonisation was discussed at the ReMCoSG on 10.04.2019 and as previously mentioned NIE Networks and ESBN are currently working on the plan.

S Melvin asked when NIE Networks expects to come back to MPs with the plan.

G McHale replied that whilst NIE Networks is working on bringing the plan forward, it has to look at a number of aspects and liaise with ESBN. As outlined in the Information Paper, NIE Networks will issue the plan out to Suppliers as soon as possible. NIE Networks needs to look at a technical solution that will cause the least impact on the Market. NIE Networks appreciates that there is a lot of work ongoing in the Supplier remit, which is why it is trying to find a set of arrangements which will cause the least amount of impact on the Market. NIE Networks and ESBN will engage with Suppliers to have a definitive plan by the end of the year with a view that it will played out by 2020 as per the steps in the information paper.

S Melvin stated that a plan by the end of the year which will be delivered by end of 2020, is a very short time and Suppliers need to understand what is involved. She also asked if it is the intention at this stage that one of the Networks companies will keep the existing TIBCO and the other Network company will have to procure a second TIBCO.

G McHale replied that NIE Networks will engage with Suppliers before that time. The date of the end of 2020 is essentially before Smart Metering will kick in which was highlighted at the last ReMCoSG. With

regard to TIBCO, G McHale replied that NIE Networks is looking at a number of options at the moment and she can't say what way the TIBCO will be at this stage.

C Murphy added that he echoes what G McHale says in that ESBN along with NIE Networks are looking at the technical options. Both ESBN and NIE Networks have heard what Suppliers have said with regard to de-harmonisation at the ReMCoSG and are very conscious of the workload involved and the timelines. Supplier's comments on de-harmonisation will be taken into consideration when making the plan.

S Doolin stated that it is very important that as part of the consultation process that Suppliers get adequate involvement and that the plan is not presented as a *fait de accompli*. He would like to see some genuine Supplier involvement in the planning process which will allow Suppliers to get some feedback for what is intended and not what is decided. Suppliers also have technical considerations on their side and have considerable investment in planning and resourcing on their technical side and may have plans that are going out for at least two years.

C Murphy replied that Supplier engagement is outlined in the UR Information paper.

G McHale added that S Doolin's comments have been noted. NIE Networks needs to look at the technical options to see what is possible before bringing them to Suppliers.

K Shiels stated that there is an iterative discussion needed between the regulators and the industry and we will do that going forward. We have a limited window to get this done before Smart Metering really kicks in. We need to do what's possible in the time constraints available. The ReMCoSG is going to continue to meet in the interim. One of the good things to come of the last ReMCoSG was a genuine desire to ensure an orderly and organised transition to a more de-harmonised platform. Hopefully we be able to do this constructively and organised through the ReMCoSG. The Supplier Reps at the ReMCoSG will be kept abreast of progress.

S Melvin asked if there is any intention to increase the frequency of the ReMCoSG as it only meets on a quarterly basis.

K Shiels replied that there is always the option to schedule further ReMCoSG Meetings in between if needed, but they are not needed at the minute. He hopes the Supplier Reps at the ReMCoSG will keep Suppliers up to date on how the progress is going but we are all waiting for NIE Networks at the moment to come up with options and the project plan.

7. ESBN/NIE Networks Update

G McHale presented the ESBN/NIE Networks Update.

TIBCO Performance

G McHale presented slides on the number of unplanned Supplier Outages in March.

Refer to slides for details.

There were fifteen unplanned Supplier outages in March which is in line with the normal figures. Some Suppliers are still having multiple outages. She reminded Suppliers to advise their IT Teams to use the facility on Webforms which allows them to advise Atos of any planned outages they have. Most of the outages are due to connectivity and the length varies from one hour to a couple of days.

She reminded Suppliers to do their normal housekeeping by completing their daily, monthly and weekly activities and also to carry out their database re orgs. These are all detailed in the Supplier Operational

Manual.

<u>TIBCO Roadmap 2019</u>

G McHale presented a slide on the TIBCO Roadmap for 2019.

Refer to slide for details.

Due to a number of components within the TIBCO application reaching an end of life, we need to update to the latest version of the components. The high level timelines for the upgrade is market assurance taking place in August and the TIBCO upgrade taking place in September 2019.

S Doolin stated that he said at the last ReMCoSG that it would be useful before committing to those timelines that Suppliers would be given some time to review them as Suppliers have considerations that Network Companies do not necessary take account of. Before these plans are finalised Suppliers should be given the opportunity to review them to make sure that they can deal with these timelines.

G McHale replied that NIE Networks needs to work out the level of scope and testing that is required. Once it is in a more detailed state NIE Networks will issue it out in the next couple of weeks to the ReMCoWG list.

S Melvin stated that this upgrade is only three or four months away. August is holiday season and Suppliers don't know how many resources and days will be required for testing.

S Doolin asked when it was known to NIE Networks that these support elements needed to be updated.

G McHale replied that as she already mentioned at the ReMCoSG, the timelines do differ. There have been a number of issues and with the Schema release just taking place, it is constantly changing picture in terms of end of life support dates. She appreciates that it is a short timeline but it is something that we need to deliver within this time period to ensure that we can have an available system.

S Doolin stated that Suppliers have plans with allocated skilled resources. There is a very buoyant dynamic market out there at the moment and finding the resources to deploy to do this work at relatively short notice can be challenging. If Suppliers have to do these upgrades at short notice it can lead to difficulties and defects which then generate their own problems. It is not unreasonable to request from NIE Networks an appreciation from them as to what it involves from a technical perspective. Also the business perspective on the Suppliers side needs to be actually put into the planning for such changes. Suppliers need to be included in the planning process. NIE Networks is planning the scope of the Supplier testing but Suppliers are excluded from this planning.

G McHale replied that she appreciates that but as she has already said before there are no functional changes required as part of this upgrade. NIE Networks is looking to scope out the IPT so that there is the least impact required for Suppliers. In terms of the cutover approach, NIE Networks is looking at an approach that minimises the impact on Suppliers from a technical point of view. NIE Networks is aware that Suppliers have a lot of work planned and will take their comments on board.

C Murphy added that he understands that August is a bottleneck from a project perspective, but it is an IT compliance project and a technical upgrade and there are no functional changes. It has been put in the roadmap for TIBCO, both ESBN and NIE Networks have been communicating that it is coming but are not ready with firming up the dates as of yet.

B Lambon asked if the plan will be out within the month of May.

G McHale replied that both NIE Networks and ESBN will endeavour to have the plan out as soon as possible so will discuss Supplier's views on this internally

Market Schema Release v12.00.00

G McHale presented slides on the Market Schema Release status and plan and the details of the release.

A table on the slides showed the list of MCRs that will successfully implemented in v12.00.00 as well as the Smart Enhancement pack.

Refer to slides for details.

G McHale reported that the self service approach was very successful with no major issues experienced by Suppliers during the upgrade. We had the opportunity to complete the self service approach in IPT. Any of the lessons learnt along with any small tweaks that could be made to the system were made. All Suppliers completed within their relevant timeslots. She thanked Suppliers for engaging and facilitating the activities over the cutover weekend.

We are in hypercare now with no major issues identified. There was a slight issue on Tuesday 23rd April with the 602MM but this was resolved very quickly.

C Murphy added that from ESBN's perspective, he thanked Suppliers for cooperation over the course of the cutover weekend and even before that in bringing the MCRs to a finalised state for delivery. Along with the 11 MCRs, there was a big body of work that was also delivered that set out the foundations for Smart Metering in ROI going forward.

A Keegan thanked MPs and ESBN on behalf of CRU for all the work that was undertaken. This was a big release with a lot of changes so that is was great that it went off without any issues.

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8. CRU Smart Metering Update

A Keegan provided a SMART Metering update.

Firstly he introduced Lisa Fahy as the new Retail and Smart Metering Manager in CRU.

- As already mentioned by C Murphy in the V12.00.00 release, there were a number of underlying enablers for Smart which were delivered in the release so it is really positive that the release went off without any problems.
- The consultation on Meter Allocation and the suite of policy decisions that have been made to date will be transposed into the Supplier Handbook. CRU is targeting a July timeframe to get a consultation out on this.
- ESBN is working on its approach on the Communications and Awareness for the Smart Meter Rollout. He encouraged Suppliers to give their input to this.

9. Next Steps & AOB

1 item was raised in AOB.

Secure Meters Site Switch

G McHale reported that this matter was already discussed at the CDA Meeting and at the last ReMCoWG.

NIE Networks is conducting its Secure Meters Site Switch on 18/19th May 2019. NIE Networks has engaged with all Suppliers on this matter. Both NIE Networks and ESBN are the contact points as well as Secure Meters.

There are a number of key activity dates, the next one being Friday 3rd May at which point NIE Networks is expecting all Suppliers to have confirmed that they have the ability to vend to the main site and that they have submitted their contingency plans. Conference calls are taking place on a weekly basis right up to the point of the switchover.

With regard to ROI Suppliers, NIE Networks has a list of contacts for each Supplier. However, if there are any changes in contacts even up to the event of the cutover weekend Suppliers are urged to inform either NIE Networks, ESBN or Secure Meters immediately.

NIE Networks has made a couple of changes to the event based on the lessons learnt workshop. On the actual cutover weekend itself, NIE Networks has changed the time for the "go, no-go" decision to 04:00.

In general Suppliers are engaging quite well. The key date is following the conference call on 7th May. If there are any Suppliers that are not engaging or have not provided any of the details by 7th May, this will be escalated to the ReMCoWG contact within the businesses.

Next ReMCoWG:

- 26th June 2019 in Belfast.