ReMCoDS
Retail Market Coordination Design Service

ReMCoWG Meeting Minutes

Date:	13th January 2021	Time & Location	12:30 Conference Call	
Chair:	Lindsay Sharpe – ReMCoDS			
Attendees:	Name		Location	
	Alice Mooney		ReMCoDS	
	Lisa Fahy, Oisin O'Sullivan (Observers)		CRU	
	John Bracken, Alan Keegan, Siobhan Melvin, Catherine Leen		ESBN	
	Gemma McHale, Joan-Edel Smith, Kris Kennedy		NIE Networks	
	Simon Fox-Mella		Gemserv	
	Mark Phelan		Electric Ireland	
	Andrew McKinnon		Flogas	
	Darren Force		Budget Energy	
	Donovan Sheridan		Prepaypower	
	Eoin McGurk		BGE	
	Keith Donnelly		Naturgy	
	Aaron Currie		SSE Airtricity	
	Patricia Ventura		Community Power	
	Niall Kelly		Click Energy	
	Patricia Ventura		Iberdrola	
	Antoin O'Lachtnain		Pinergy	
Apologies:				
Version Number	2.0			
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 Minutes of the last Working Group on 4th November 2020.

All Agreed.

Minutes Approved.

ReMCoDS issued a link with the meeting details for MPs to see the slides.

2. ReMCoSG Meeting Feedback

L Sharpe presented the ReMCoSG Meeting Update.

There has been one ReMCoSG Meetings since the last ReMCoWG on 18th November 2020.

Refer to slide for full details.

The next ReMCoSG Meeting is scheduled for 17th February 2021.

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.

V13.00.00 Market Release - Update

L Sharpe presented slides on the V13.00.00 Market Release.

She presented slides on the Scope, Market Release Plan, V13.00.00 Update and V13.00.00 Market Release Documents (*This release was also discussed at the IGG which followed this forum).*

Refer to slides for full details.

L Sharpe reported that a communication issued back in December about the delay to the V13.00.00 Cutover due to an extension of the IPT window in ROI. The second IPT window started on Monday this week and will continue until Friday 22nd January. IPT2 is on track and is going well and is expected to be finished on time next Friday. Cutover is now scheduled for the weekend of the 12th to 15th February 2021. There are no changes to the MCRs that are included in the scope of the release for February.

V13.00.00 Market Update

The updated v13.00.00 Cutover Execution Plan was issued to Market Participants on 18th December 2020.

ReMCoDS will issue the updated v13.00.00 Hypercare Approach on week commencing 18th January 2021. ReMCoDS will issue the Cutover Approach and Cutover Plan for the ROI and Co-ordinated markets as well as information for the transition to v13.00.00 on week commencing 25th January 2021. The date of 28th January 2021 is scheduled and is in the cutover execution plan for a workshop for all MPs ahead of cutover. ReMCoDS will issue a note on this in the coming days.

V13.00.00 Market Release Documents

The market documentation will go live and will be put up on the RMDS website post go live. ReMCoDS will issue an email to MPs once this is done. ReMCoDS will issue a summary of any final amendments, since the last MCR re-versioning activity in September, which will include additional clarifications and some typos when it issues the final draft documentation.

2021 Statistics

L Sharpe reported the following statistics are now available on the RMDS website on the following link https://rmdservice.com/2021/01/07/rmds-statistics-2020/

- ReMCoWG Actions
- Change Requests
- Outages

Outages

- There are no outages scheduled for January as of yet.
- Full outage details are available, as usual, on the RMDS Website.

6. De-harmonisation Update

G McHale presented slides on system separation in Section 7 ESBN/NIE Networks Update.

7. ESBN/NIE Networks Update

G McHale presented the ESBN/NIE Networks Update.

TIBCO Outages

Refer to slides for details.

G McHale reported that there were thirty-one unplanned Supplier outages in December which is up from where we were trending throughout the year. Of the thirty-one unplanned outages, twelve Suppliers had one outage. Two Suppliers had issues throughout the period of December and had multiple outages for different periods of time.

G McHale reminded Suppliers of the general housekeeping reminder in terms of all the activities to ensure that their EMMAs are running as efficiently as possible. She appreciates that there may have been network issues or other issues that might have contributed to the outages. She re-iterated to all Suppliers to use the planned outage notification option and to continue to use all the documentation to carry out the housekeeping activities, database orgs, etc.

System Separation

G McHale presented slides on System Separation.

Refer to slides for details.

G McHale reported that a session on system separation took place in December. This presentation is for MPs who may have not been able to attend that session.

In October 2020, NIE Networks/ESBN was advised by the UR that the project scope of system separation should be revised. Previously, the process plan was that the ROI MPs would move to a new TIBCO Hub that would be located in Dublin. In the revised plan, NI MPs will move to a new TIBCO Hub that will be located in Belfast. The existing Hub will remain as it is. In addition, there is a new timeline of October 2021 for the implementation of system separation rather than the original timeline of May 2021 that had been in the original project scope.

ESBN and NIE Networks engaged with Atos to redefine the project scope and to devise a high-level plan for delivery in October 2021. As called out at the session with MPs, the October 2021 date is being driven by the Energy Strategy published in October by the DfE in NI. There was a reason why the UR picked the timeline of October 2021 and it is not up for movement at this stage and there won't be any flexibility in terms of the timeline.

Within the scope the only thing changing is the location of the HUB and the fact that NI MPs are moving to it. As part of the project scope, ESBN/NIE Networks will be undertaking an upgrade of certain TIBCO components which are coming to the end of life support to ensure that it is the most up to date version being used within the solution to maintain the system availability and stability. There will be a webforms replacement which was in the original project scope also. There will be no functionality changes, it is purely a change of application and market messages will be sent the same way as previously. IPT Testing will be required in the project as per any schema release and there will be a four-week timeline for this.

With regard to the project plan, at the moment, ESBN/NIE Networks are in the design phase and are working through the initiation documents, the project plan and the EMMA Technical Specification Document. These will be able to be issued to Suppliers by Mid-February 2021. If they can be issued earlier,

they will be, as ESBN/NIE Networks appreciates that the sooner Suppliers get sight of this information they will be able to plan it into their work programmes for the year ahead. Once the design phase is finished, ESBN/NIE Networks will move straight into the build and test of the new EMMA Hub for NI and the deployment of these. The webforms replacement will follow for the new and existing HUBs and then the upgrade of the existing HUB will take place over the next six months. IPT is scheduled to start at the end of July 2021 for a four-week period. It is not expected that resources will be required from Suppliers for the full four-week period like any similar releases that have been conducted. There will be a timeline and window in which Suppliers will need to complete the tests, with a view that we will move and complete cutover on 11th September 2021, followed by a period of hypercare. ESBN/NIE Networks is trying to reduce any disruption to Suppliers with this program and will be conducting a number of engagements with all Suppliers to make the process is as seamless as possible. As part of IPT, ESBN/NIE Networks will have an assurance strategy and will issue the IPT plans throughout this process.

With regard to next steps, at the session last year, Suppliers had an opportunity to raise questions which we have responded to, or alternatively suppliers could have requested a one to one engagement session to receive clarity on the information that was issued out. One to one engagements have taken place and NIE Networks will organise individual sessions for the remaining NI Suppliers as there is more of an impact for them with regard for the need to procure the technology and the hardware for the new EMMAs. NIE Networks will conduct this in the next couple of weeks and will issue the project plan and the EMMA technical specifications to Suppliers by mid-February. Gemserv from an ROI point of view will issue the assurance Strategy for the project, but it will be more for an NI perspective at this stage. ESBN/NIE Networks will continue to provide updates at its individual jurisdictional forums and at the co-ordinated working group forums moving forward. ESBN/NIE Networks will also reach out to Suppliers for them to provide technical contacts who will be able to engage directly with Atos throughout the process to ensure that we reach the key milestones. If there are any issues or concerns that are identified as early as possible, we can plan to mitigate those issues or concerns so there will be a lot of engagement with Suppliers throughout the process.

A O'Lachtnain asked what the technical or other reasons are for not virtualising the Ireland TIBCO Hub and moving it to a datacentre in the Republic of Ireland.

A Keegan replied that with regard from the fallout from Brexit and to data, he would provide a response to this this query at the IGG Meeting which follows this forum.

A O'Lachtnain said that this is a technical question rather than a policy question. He also asked if the IPT will include the new Webforms application.

G McHale added that it will be. In system separation the two systems will be same and the EMMAs will be the same. As ESBN/NIE Networks is completing the upgrade of the TIBCO components and webforms replacement on the existing HUB, the IPT has to cover that as well. If you were testing a market message you would be able to test all of the elements that are included in the scope of the project, that the message can be sent from the correct EMMA through to the correct HUB, it will also test then that there is no impact in relation to the upgrade of the components because there is no functionality changes.

A O'Lachtnain added that there are a lot of functionality points within the webforms, and are we proposing that IPT will cover them all for small Suppliers or is ESBN/NIE Networks confident that the functionality is exactly the same? It is a completely new system and a new stack of codes so are we taking it that the functionality is the same? If you are happy that it is the same, that answers his question.

G McHale replied there will be no functionality changes and no changes to the market messages themselves it will just be through an alternative solution. ESBN/NIE Networks is looking to minimise the disruption as much as possible. There will be other sessions and touch points with Suppliers throughout the project which will look at how the new webforms is going to look which will help to provide some assurance.

J Bracken added that he echoes what G McHale is saying. ESBN/NIE Networks is more than happy to clarify as much as it can on this project for Suppliers. There will be a walk through for Suppliers to make sure that everybody is comfortable and happy with what's involved.

8. CRU Smart Metering Update

L Fahy provided a SMART Metering update.

- Deployment of Smart Meters has stopped as a result of Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions, which was clarified to Suppliers at the end of last week. As of the end of last year, there were around 240,000 Smart meters deployed. This is a great achievement considering the interruption to programs over the last year.
- At the end of December, CRU issued a Call for Evidence on Smart PAYG Policy. This is out until the end of January and CRU welcomes any responses by the response deadline.

9. Next Steps & AOB

No AOB was raised

Next ReMCoWG:

- Wednesday 3rd March 2021 was due to be in Belfast but can safely assume that we will be holding the meeting virtually.