

Electricity Balancing System Group (EBSG) (Paper by NGET to GCRP)

Introduction

National Grid is replacing its Balancing Mechanism system and this is currently planned to go-live in Q3 2013. The Balancing Mechanism system is the key information system used by National Grid to balance the system and manage real-time electricity supply and demand. It interfaces with market participant systems and settlement systems, and delivers data to the BMRS (Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service), Settlement Administration Agent (SAA) and Energy Contract Volume Aggregation Agent (ECVAA). The replacement system is called the Electricity Balancing System (EBS).

National Grid consulted the industry on the proposed system replacement in October 2008 and reported on the consultation in December 2008. Following further consideration of the industry's views and capabilities of various vendors' systems, in October 2010 National Grid agreed a contract with ABB to supply the replacement system. Once the core functionality of the vendor's system was known, National Grid carried out a further industry consultation on more detailed aspects of the system as part of the preparation for the design phase of the project. A report on this consultation was published in December 2010. All the consultation documents and associated reports (including industry responses) can be viewed on the EBS (BM Replacement) Project web page¹.

This paper details the Terms of Reference for an Electricity Balancing System Group (EBSG) that will facilitate the implementation of the EBS and the associated changes requested by the industry. The Terms of Reference are given in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

The GCRP is invited to establish an industry working group, in accordance with Terms of Reference in Appendix 1, to facilitate implementation of the EBS and the associated changes requested by the industry.

¹ <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Balancing/EBS/>

Appendix 1
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Electricity Balancing System Group (EBSG)
Draft Terms of Reference

Governance

1. The EBSG is established by Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP).
2. The group shall formally report to the GCRP.
3. GCRP may establish subgroups of EBSG to discuss specific aspects of implementation of the EBS e.g. industry interface testing

Membership

4. The EBSG shall comprise a suitable and appropriate cross-section of experience and expertise from across the industry, which shall include:
 - National Grid
 - ELEXON
 - Grid Code Users and BSC Parties (by open invitation through ELEXON)
 - Third-party IT providers if nominated by National Grid, ELEXON or Grid Code Users and BSC Parties
 - Ofgem

Meeting Administration

5. The frequency of EBSG meetings shall be defined as necessary by the EBSG chair to meet the scope and objectives of the work being undertaken at that time.
6. National Grid will provide technical secretary resource to the EBSG and handle administrative arrangements such as venue, agenda and minutes.
7. The EBSG will have a dedicated section under the Grid Code part of National Grid's website. A link to this section will be provided on the web page 'EBS (BM Replacement) Project'². This will enable EBSG information such as minutes and presentations to be available to a wider audience.

² The EBS (BM Replacement) Project web page can be accessed via <http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Balancing/EBS/>

Scope

8. The scope of this group is limited to that of the Electricity Balancing System, and the Balancing Mechanism and Ancillary Services data and instructions that it will support.
9. The group will consider the changes requested by the industry in response to National Grid's consultations and also any changes that are offered as part of the standard vendor system. It will draft any Grid Code modifications and supporting documents required to implement these changes. ELEXON will assist the group in highlighting any BSC implications, keep the BSC Panel updated on the group's work and conclusions, advise on the best BSC Governance route for progressing any consequential changes (e.g. as a Standing Issue or Modification Proposal), and assist in drafting any BSC proposals.
10. Any other changes raised shall not normally fall within the scope of this group but could be considered for delivery after system go-live.
11. The scope of the group shall include appropriate review and co-ordination of communications to the wider industry relating to EBS e.g. industry testing, transition and go-live arrangements and timescales.

Deliverables

12. The Group will provide updates and any reports to the Grid Code Review Panel which will:
 - Detail the findings of the Group;
 - Draft, prioritise and recommend changes to the Grid Code and associated documents in order to implement the findings of the Group; and
 - Highlight any consequential BSC changes which are or may be required, so that these can be progressed under BSC governance.

Timescales

13. It is anticipated that this Group shall be stood down after EBS go-live (currently Q3 2013). There will be timescales for the various activities within the scope of this Group, but it will only be possible to determine these after consideration of the specific activity or change.