Ofgem Design Forum – Day After Report
Monday 15th July 2019

This is the DAR for the Ofgem design forum that was held on Monday the 15th July 19. This meeting was the second design session dedicated for primary and secondary interface feedback following the industry consultation review which closed out Monday 8th July. Responses from parties were ranked as critical, high, medium and low.

The meeting was well attended with, approximately twenty five parties dialled in and fourteen in the room. Attendees in the room included representatives from:

Landmark

Netcompany

Ofgem

Electralink

DCC

SSE

British Gas

Xoserve

St Clements

Any questions/comments raised following the consultation period were forwarded to the appropriate party for response and presentation at the forum. Xoserve received fourteen questions against our secondary interface design.

The agenda for the day was as follows:

- CSSIA for design management services
- UK Link secondary interfaces
- ECOES secondary interfaces
- CSS interface specificiation

The meeting was chaired by Jenny Boothe from Ofgem. Jenny opened the meeting and advising for the CSSIA design management services and the CSS interface specification we would only be covering the questions/comments raised against categories of high and critical. For the ESP secondary interfaces we went through all questions raised.

For this DAR I am not going to detail every question/comment that was walked through during the day I will hi-light the main points of interest. All in all there were 286 comments raised against the primary and secondary interface design, 246 of these were for Landmark

for the primary. Only 26 comments were raised against the CSSIA for the design management services, these were only raised by two Organisations Xoserve and SSE.

<u>Core Systems and Services Integration Approach (CSSIA) - Design management services</u>

Main points covered for the comments raised:

For ease of review and due to the breadth of review, multiple CSSIA documents have been created and are under review or planned for review by Industry parties via the relevant industry workgroups. Once each CSSIA is baselined and approved they will be collated into a single CSSIA document which will detail the integration approach.

Abacus is currently being bought up to date by DCC. It now includes all CRs up to CR38, CRs 38 and 41 will be updated and reflective by the end of this week. Jenny Boothe raised a question to Industry parties on the relevance of Abacus going forward. Should this repository be baselined as the logical design artefact as the physical design will reside with technical specifications and held under REC, parties have been asked to consider and feedback to Ofgem switching PMO team.

Netcompany advised they are setting up an architecture review board, this board is not open to Industry parties and will made up of representatives from Netcompany, Landmark and DCC. The architecture board will conduct an initial review of any change requests raised against the switching programme physical design. The sequence of events for design decisions will be the architecture review board, Ofgem design forum and finally Ofgem design authority. The terms of reference for the architecture board will be shared via the design forum.

A data dictionary is being produced by Landmark. More information on the output and timeline for the delivery of the dictionary will be provided shortly. The SI have produced an interface specification document, this document will be provided to the data working group.

Landmark confirmed SLAs for document review would continue to be a five day review process. Xoserve raised a comment that this is a tight timescale for a thorough review especially given that this is not the only document parties have for review there are currently multiple documents in the cycle. This was acknowledged and agreed with by other parties. Jenny advised the review timescale for the CSSIA for the physical interface was agreed at Delivery Group however acknowledged the point. The SI have an action to provide a catalogue of all review documents, the scale and timelines to allow parties to plan effective review cycles.

<u>Xoserve secondary interface</u>

We talked through the fourteen comments raised. A number of the comments required clarifications that interfaces between Xoserve and Shippers were not changing, UK Link was still the correct system to continue to send reads into and that we will continue to operate batch processes. Xoserve confirmed NTS sites were out of scope and the rationale of them not being included.

A response comment had been raised in relation to APIs provision by Xoserve and the concern that CSS is moving to message based communications but Xoserve are still using

batch. It was acknowledged that Xoserve have planned DSG design sessions to discuss our API architecture and understanding may change on the back of the meeting.

Ofgem responded advising it is a challenge and the way forward for CSS is messages with switching activities being managed in this particular way. Organisations have systems and varying processing and as long as the switching arena was not under mined this is acceptable. If organisations felt that this was a particular problem and a material impact then they should let Ofgem know. Ofgem reiterated if Suppliers can go faster and can move to next day switching then they should. Messaging is going to be the future world and Ofgem are drafting criteria to move to next day, this will be coming soon. Ofgem are also working on a settlement approach, rationalisation and processes for settlement to be looked at.

MRASCO secondary interface

Governance is being managed through FSEG, existing registration files are being decomissioned there are no secondary interface changes.

ECOES

REL and RMP will be made available via ECOES, the switching licencing scope is an issue that needs resolution for detailed design. Technical specifications have not yet been created for secondary, these will be created and based on assumptions. The interfaces will be available for publication and industry review in readiness for the design authority review and approval at the end of August.

DCC switching network update

DCC advised a paper has been presented to the pre Delivery Group and a request had been made to update the design forum of the following options for interfacing with CSS, these are:

- Web based direct comms to CSS
- Flow of messages via IX
- Third party adaptor service for comms to CSS

A paper has been produced and is currently with Ofgem for review. The paper will be published and issued to the Industry in the next week or so.

CSS Interface Specification

There were a large number of comments against this specification. I have summarised areas of interest below:

Documents within the CSSIA interface specification that have been called out as out of scope are the responsibility of the SI and co-ordinator. An action has been taken by the SI to confirm when these documents will be released for review. These documents include business rules, data dictionary, security and environments.

Traceability between the abacus high level design and the proposed physical design has been requested. A point was raised that the physical design is not reflective of the high level

design in areas, examples have been raised via industry comments. An action was recorded against Landmark to record traceability.

Xoserve had raised a review comment on the on the message design and the use of web-hooks. The current design specified a single outbound message (web hook). Xoserve explained the rationale for the use of multiple end points. A single outbound message requires the receiving Organisation to open the message and decipher how to process. This method could add cost and complexity for the receiving Organisation. Ofgem have asked the Industry to consider this design and respond to Ofgem PMO by end of play Wednesday on the pro's and con's of flexibility and benefit of multiple web hooks. Costs are to be included in the rationale.

Multiple comments were raised against the Ordnance licence condition requesting an understanding of the constraints of the licence and the impacts to the secondary interface designs, specifically DES and ECOES. Xoserve raised the point that approved CR12 allows us to pass REL data to IGT's and the current licence condition may restrain this. Ofgem acknowledged this fact and have taken away an action to define the licence condition of 'for switching purposes'.

In relation to display of REL address data in DES and ECOES, it was confirmed that there may be up to four potential REL addresses that need to be displayed. Landmark had previously produced a REL presentation at design forum and the format of address defined in the presentation as a one line address was a preferred style for the enquiry systems. Xoserve asked the questions of how this data will be presented to us and could a real example be provided of how this would look particularly where there are multiples of the same address. Action taken for Landmark.

CSS data definitions need to comply with the Switching Programme data management design principles and need to align to the terms used in REC. Landmark to ensure this is reflective in their design.

Underlying business rules and sequencing of messages needs to be understood with a document produced that defines the individual messages. If a party submits a message we need to know what response to expect. Landmark confirmed a business rules/processing document is required but this is not a Landmark deliverable they are contracted to produce the physical interface only. The SI has taken away an action to understand who is delivering and owning.

Landmark have introduced a correlation ID into their design which can be used to tie messages together, parties are to use this. The use of this ID is unclear Landmark will document further to explain the ID and how it can be used.

Any comments raised against environments are being forwarded to the testing working group for progression. Comments raised against security and comms network will be reviewed against the comms/security paper that is being released shortly.

On the back of the comments review Landmark have a number updates to make for the next release of the interface specification. On the release of the comments spreadsheet industry parties are to review the medium and low comments against the responses provided by the

owning organisations. This will be an ongoing cycle at the fortnightly design forums, approval is being sought for the interfaces at design authority on the 23rd August.