



Update on Outstation Testing on BT's Fibre Optic Network

Meeting Name	Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG)
Meeting Date	31 July 2012
Purpose of paper	For Decision
Summary	Following successful tests of Settlement Metering Equipment with BT's fibre optic network and Huawei optical equipment, the ISG and SVG had agreed that ELEXON would rerun these tests at a different BT centre using ECI optical equipment. BT has since advised that it has no further plans for such testing, although it has suggested an alternative option. This paper therefore seeks the ISG's and SVG's agreement on whether we should investigate this option further.

1. Background

- 1.1 BT is rolling out a fibre-optic-based network to customers' premises. It had set up a test centre in Milton Keynes to allow manufacturers of Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) to test their equipment on a simulated fibre optic network consisting of optical equipment supplied to BT Openreach by Huawei (one of BT's selected manufacturers). During December 2011-January 2012, the ISG ([ISG131/03](#)) and SVG ([SVG131/03](#)) agreed with ELEXON's recommendation to facilitate tests on some common CVA and SVA Outstation/instation/modem combinations at this test centre. This testing aimed to ensure that BT's rollout would not adversely impact the Central Data Collection Agent's ability to collect metered data from Outstations.
- 1.2 In March-April 2012, we presented the results of the Milton Keynes Huawei tests to the ISG ([ISG134/01](#)) and SVG ([SVG134/04](#)). We concluded that the tested CVA and SVA Outstation/instation/modem combinations should operate normally under the various network combinations which are likely to be encountered as customers begin to request fibre optic cables to be installed to their premises.
- 1.3 During the Milton Keynes testing, BT indicated that a new test centre would be established in York from June 2012. BT advised that the purpose of this new test station was to enable CPE manufacturers to test their products on a simulated fibre optic network comprising optical equipment from BT Openreach's second equipment supplier, ECI. BT recommended that, although the ECI equipment is manufactured to the same specification as Huawei, it would be prudent to retest the same common Outstation/instation/modem combinations using the ECI equipment at York.
- 1.4 On the basis of the information provided by BT, the ISG and SVG agreed with our recommendation to retest the combinations using ECI equipment at BT's proposed York facility.

2. BT Testing in York – No Test Facility Available

- 2.1 While trying to arrange the retest at York, we have since been informed by BT that it has no further plans for such Voice over Fibre to the Premise (VoFTTP) testing with industry associations and CPE suppliers.
- 2.2 BT has suggested that the only other possible option for testing would be to order a line as a consumer once VoFTTP becomes available in an ECI exchange area, and then to complete tests using that line. This option is unlikely to be available before Autumn 2012.
- 2.3 BT believes that it is responsible for ensuring that ECI optical network equipment is operated to the same specification as the Huawei equipment.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 We invite you to:
 - a) **NOTE** that BT has no further plans to test CPE;
 - b) **AGREE** whether we should investigate the alternative ECI testing option suggested by BT; and
 - c) If so, **NOTE** that we will investigate the practicalities and costs and will come back to the ISG and SVG for a final decision on whether to go ahead.

For more information, please contact:

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