4.3 CP Form

Change Proposal – BSCP40/02	CP No: CP1592
	Version No: V0.1 (mandatory by BSCCo)

Title (mandatory by originator)

Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 12c to version 19.21

Description of Problem/Issue (mandatory by originator)

What is the issue?

The current versions of NHHDA (Non Half Hourly Data Aggregation) and EAC/AA (Estimation of Annual Consumption/Annualised Advance) system applications that Elexon provides to Party Agents run on Oracle 12c, for which Oracle Corporation withdrew application support in 2022. It is good practice to operate on a supported version of software.

Background

The previous upgrade for NHHDAs and EAC/AA system applications occurred in 2018, upgrading from Oracle 11g to Oracle 12c (CP1482 - Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 11g to version 12c). In September 2020, a Change Request (CR) was raised to assess a further Oracle upgrade, a decision was made at the time to remain on version 12 due to industry impact and the expected delivery of Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS).

Following discussions with Party Agent Group (PAG) concerning the need to upgrade Oracle from 12c to 19c, a new change request (CR14109) was raised. Following discussions with CGI, it was found that upgrades to other systems were required before this CR could be implemented; these were implemented via other CRs.

CGI issued an Impact Assessment in May 2022 for the Oracle 12c to 19c upgrade, which was reviewed by Elexon. Further clarification was sought from CGI over Summer 2022, and discussion were held internally to understand associated costs with this change, and it was not progressed.

An NHHDA escalated the need to upgrade the Oracle software. Elexon is raising the required Change Proposal and has refreshed the Change Request/IA with CGI.

Proposed Solution (mandatory by originator)

Upgrade EAC/AA and NHHDA systems to the latest available version of Oracle 19.21. Where possible, leverage cost savings by aligning with Elexon's planned update to other BSC central systems.

Justification for Change (mandatory by originator)

As the current version of Oracle is no longer supported, if problems were then encountered with the database products, they could not be resolved without recourse to an upgrade, which in turn could not be completed within a reasonable timeframe. Any proposed workaround may not resolve the issue and the only solution would be a full Oracle upgrade.

While there is a low probability of this risk occurring, it could have a significant impact on Settlement. After consultation with the Party Agents Group (PAG), we feel it is important to begin the upgrade now to give Party Agents sufficient time to implement.

Upgrading the NHHDA and EAC/AA systems to run on Oracle 19.21 would ensure compatibility with the latest fully supported Oracle release. As a consequence, the upgrade would have a number of material benefits for both the developer and users of this software:

- 1) Maintain full vendor support service for both developer and users of the applications;
- 2) Minimise risk of being unable to take advantage of any defect fixes and other enhancements

made available by the vendor;

- 3) Minimise reliance on reduced vendor support service for both developer and users; and
- 4) Minimise cost of vendor support for both developer and users.

The upgraded version of the NHHDA and EAC/AA systems will maintain compatibility with the latest fully supported Oracle Forms release for both server and client components.

Following this upgrade this system will be decommissioned prior to MHHS.

To which section of the Code does the CP relate, and does the CP facilitate the current provisions of the Code? (mandatory by originator)

N/A

Estimated Implementation Costs (mandatory by BSCCo)

The implementation costs for this CP will be approximately £230K. This is the sum of service provider costs and Elexon operational costs.

BSC Configurable Items Affected by Proposed Solution(s) (mandatory by originator)

EAC/AA, NHHDA and NHHDA Software and supporting Software Document

Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code (mandatory by originator)

No impact identified

Related Changes and/or BSC Releases (mandatory by BSCCo)

Upgrade of BSC Central Systems to Oracle 19.21 (internal change, no enabling CP required)

Requested Implementation Date (mandatory by originator)

Delivery proposed between July-November 2024 as a special BSC Release. Party Agents will need to agree to a deadline to go live with the latest version of the software.

Reason: The targeted release date allows for a four month test and deployment period and allow Party Agents sufficient time to implement the change.

Version History (mandatory by BSCCo)

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Attachments: N/A.