
P454 Workgroup Meeting 1 Summary

Summary

1. Meeting Objectives

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees and presented the meeting objectives to Workgroup Members:
 - Consideration of the background to P454 and scope of the modification
 - Consideration of the P454 Terms of Reference (ToR); and
 - Agree the solution to be take forward for Legal drafting and consultation
- 1.2 The Chair highlighted that we are at the start of the assessment process as demonstrated by the diagram on Slide 4 of the meeting slides. There is a nuance for P454 as it was raised by the BSC Panel who nominated an Elexon representative to be their Proposer's representative – this ultimately means the Workgroup will own the solution via a majority decision.

2. P454 Background

- 2.1 The Proposer's Representative explained the background to P454. As part of Issue 95, the Issue Group looked at the technology options which could replace TIBCO. The final recommendation from Issue 95 was to raise P454 which is in line with making the BSC more technology agnostic.
- 2.2 TIBCO is no longer an efficient or economic solution which is reflected by the fact that for around 10 years, there have been no new users signing up. The overall aim is to decommission TIBCO and replace it with a new technology solution. However, that is not in the scope of P454 which merely aims to enable this change.
- 2.3 Following the implementation of P454, Elexon commits to work with existing users to move to the new service. The Proposer's Representative stressed that TIBCO has been effectively closed for new business for a number of years. This is due to the requirement of a physical lease line which is impractical, costly and not feasible for many businesses that do not operate from a physical location.

3. P454 Proposed solution

- 3.1 The Proposer's Representative explained the solution of removing the Section V obligation to make BMRS available over the existing "High Grade Service", which requires the use of both a dedicated communications line and TIBCO software, thus making the BSC more technology- and vendor-agnostic. The Proposer's Representative highlighted that Elexon will not change the High Grade Service definition for access to other services, as this Modification is focusing only on the BMRS.

4. P454 Specific Terms of Reference

ToR (a) - Are the Workgroup comfortable with the removal of BSC obligations to provide BMRS Data via TIBCO and the High Grade Service

- 4.1 The inclusion of 'Service Standards' as part of this Modification was raised by one Workgroup member and discussed. They stated the BSC should have Service Standards put in to the BSC (which it currently has for the High Grade Service) for the new solution such that Elexon could be held accountable for any drop in service. They were however, not opposed to removing TIBCO and were supportive of the BSC being vendor agnostic. An action was raised for Elexon to consider including Service Standards for the new solution as part of this Modification and to consider the requirements when preparing the legal text and redlining.
- 4.2 There was no opposition from the Workgroup on the principle of removing the BSC Obligations to provide BMRS Data via TIBCO and the High Grade Service.

- 4.3 The chair highlighted that once the group have a fully developed solution (including completed legal text) the group will review the Terms of Reference prior to the issuing of any industry consultation.

ToR (b) - Should this Modification be approved, is it appropriate for Elexon to retire the TIBCO service? If so, what criteria should be met first?

- 4.4 A large part of the meeting was focused on the Transition Plan from TIBCO to the new solution. From the discussion, two key themes were noted, which were: Timings and Acceptance Criteria.

Transition plan: Timings

- 4.5 Although noting that the decommissioning of BMRS is not strictly linked to P454 (it is not a direct outcome of the P454 solution), the group fed back on wider discussions around the future of BMRS. One Workgroup member stressed that timing is an issue from when Elexon decide to switch off the old BMRS and that Elexon need to ensure that TIBCO users are not 'stranded' without a solution.
- 4.6 Another Workgroup member agreed, stating there needs to be a transition plan for the current TIBCO users to the new solution. They also did not want to have two simultaneous solutions and would want the new solution to be ready when they switch over. They were also concerned, as they perceive the timelines for the Insights project being tight for them.
- 4.7 One Workgroup member highlighted that there was little choice in the past for parties who wanted to get BMRS data and the High Grade Service was the only viable option. They agreed that there should be a transition plan, flagging that TIBCO would be embedded into systems architecture, hence there should not be a hard deadline on removing the service.
- 4.8 The drivers for the March 2024 target date for moving to the new solution were queried by the Workgroup. A few Workgroup members highlighted that industry would be focused on winter trading up until and within this period, therefore making the target date potentially difficult for some TIBCO users.
- 4.9 They asked what the plan would be if not all TIBCO users can accommodate the timeline and what the cost would be if the deadline was extended beyond March 2024. Another Workgroup member mentioned how the Insights project is being delivered in an agile approach and that if Elexon do not complete the project by December 2023, they will struggle to complete moving over to the new service by March 2024.
- 4.10 The Proposer's Representative assured the Workgroup that there would be engagement with the TIBCO users throughout the process and will work through a transition plan. The Proposer's Representative addressed the target of March 2024 – this is driven by the licence renewal date with TIBCO, therefore if March 2024 is not achieved then there would be extra cost (~£400k) of renewing the licence. However, the Proposer's Representative informed the Workgroup that if industry do not think March 2024 is achievable, then Elexon will need to look at what is feasible across the board and then work on a plan with BSC Parties. Elexon will also make a note of the transition plan in the P454 Modification report.
- 4.11 The Proposer's Representative stated how prioritisation is important and that they need understand from the Workgroup what is most important to them - some data sets/reports are more useful than others, these could be completed first. The Proposer's Representative welcomed the chance to talk offline to better understand these wider requirements.
- 4.12 The Market Design lead reminded the Workgroup that P454 is an enabling Modification, so P454 itself will not leave users stranded. Also, any changes to TIBCO obligations will need to be considered by the BSC Panel because they are in the BSC.

Transition plan: Acceptance Criteria

- 4.13 Two Workgroup members raised issues with the potential future alternative to TIBCO, IRIS. One stated IRIS does not currently cover the breadth of what they get from TIBCO and queried if it would cover all of TIBCO's services. While another said they had in fact experienced IRIS being slower than TIBCO. One Workgroup member stated that for their company IRIS worked well and were fully supportive of IRIS being the replacement service for TIBCO.
- 4.14 As part of the Acceptance Criteria, one Workgroup member stated that they need an easy way to recover historic data.

- 4.15 The Proposer's Representative affirmed that the IRIS will provide the same services as TIBCO and in practice would be much better. They confirmed that Elexon are looking into Service Standards, for example, latency is an important factor which Elexon are monitoring closely. The Proposer's Representative also emphasised that Elexon would not go live if the new solution did not meet the standards required of it from industry. They affirmed that access of historic data is part of the criteria.
- 4.16 Another Workgroup member asked what the condition is before Elexon retires the TIBCO service and stated there needs to be a definitive list. The Proposer's Representative suggested Elexon can ensure the Acceptance Criteria are communicated and signposted in this Modification and make sure the Panel are engaged with throughout. The Proposer's Representative would want to decouple the Acceptance Criteria for the new solution from P454 because it impacts all users (of BMRS) but can link it to P454 as a direct action.
- 4.17 One Workgroup member highlighted that although there are only 20 users of TIBCO, they are a large part of the Market. They would want to see a set of 'no-go or go' set of criteria. The Proposer's Representative noted this as an action and that it should be discussed with the Panel. The Workgroup member suggested it could be delegated to a sub-committee – just to ensure Elexon demonstrate to industry criteria have been met.
- 4.18 The Workgroup member highlighted how Elexon need to set expectations and require a cost benefit case to justify the cited savings in numbers. The key question is "what is the advantage to consumers?" – This is what Ofgem will want to see if they are to approve this Modification. The Proposer's Representative stated that TIBCO is £400k (pa) which is paid for by the market but with only around 20 users. For wider decommissioning of the current BMRS, Elexon can look at the wider stack.

5. P454 Standard Terms of Reference

5.1 The lead analyst went through the Standard ToRs.

ToR (c) - How will P454 impact the BSC Settlement Risks?

5.2 The Workgroup agreed that P454 would not impact Settlement.

Tor (d) - What changes are needed to BSC documents, systems and processes to support P454 and what are the related costs and lead times? When will any required changes to subsidiary documents be developed and consulted on?

5.3 There was one question if the IDD CSD would be deleted to which the Proposer's Representative said that Elexon would not clean up the IDD just yet as this modification just concerns the grades of service. Elexon however do need to account for the service to continue until such a time it is agreed to stop. The message formatting in the IDD will not be impacted.

5.4 The Workgroup member noted they had seen some differences in the potential new service, IRIS, and have raised it already and the IDD could be inconsistent post implementation. The Proposer's Representative said this could be handled via separate communication. They offered to have a conversation offline with the Workgroup member on what to prioritise.

ToR (e) - Are there any Alternative Modifications?

5.5 The Chair highlighted to the Workgroup that they have the right to raise an Alternative Solution to the Modification. However, as the BSC Panel raised the Modification (appointing an Elexon representative as the Proposer's Representative), the P454 Workgroup effectively control the Proposed solution by majority vote anyway.

5.6 One Workgroup member said that as part of the P454 there should be commitment to a solution, documented in a way so that Elexon are accountable. Another Workgroup member agreed, stating that at a minimum the legal text should reference a set of criteria as to whether the existing service could be turned off. They said however it is up for debate if it is hardwired into this modification as it would provide certainty but may risk things being missed – there could be an obligation on Elexon and Panel to develop the criteria at a later stage.

5.7 The Proposer's Representative agreed with the sentiment, but would prefer to have it separate as this Modification is only focused on removing the High Grade Service. The fundamental nature of the change is to set the code up for the future and making the BSC vendor agnostic. Elexon can articulate some options with their impacts and benefits as part of this Workgroup.

ToR (f) – Should P454 be progressed as a Self-Governance Modification?

5.8 There was no discussion on ToR (f). The agreed that P454 would not be suitable for Self Governance, as it involves the removal of an obligation on BSCCo from the code, which would be most suitable for Ofgem to make a decision on.

ToR (g) - Does P454 better facilitate the Applicable BSC Objectives than the current baseline?

5.9 One Workgroup member mentioned that this Modification could be expected to improve competition as it would remove barriers to entry and create a more efficient market, therefore aligning with objective c). The Proposer's Representative agreed that if it this Modification were to achieve its stated aims then c) would be correct as it would level the playing field. Moving forward, objective c) will be noted as a potentially strengthened objective, which the Workgroup will revisit to provide views on once the solution has been fully developed.

ToR (h) – Does P454 impact the EBGL provisions held within the BSC, and if so, what is the impact on the EBGL Objectives?

5.10 One Workgroup member said that they believe this to be correct and P454 would not impact EBGL. No Workgroup members disagreed with this view.

Additional consultation question (non ToR)

5.11 One Workgroup member suggested an additional question about industry's capacity to meet the preferred date and to outline any perceived issues around transition. The Proposer's Representative agreed and stated it would be worth framing the question as: if we deliver the new BMRS by the end of December 2023, then what is the likelihood of completing the transition to the new solution by March 2024. This is an action for Elexon to take away when writing up the consultation.

6. Next steps

6.1 Elexon to draft Legal text and Code Subsidiary Documents and start preparing consultation document.

6.2 Elexon to organise the second Workgroup meeting to follow up on actions and for the Workgroup to review the drafted legal text.

Actions

No.	Workgroup raised	Action	Owner	Due by	Status
1.	WG1	To consider the practicalities of raising an alternative solution to P454 and present to the Workgroup how this interacts with the modification process.	Elexon	WG2	Open
2.	WG1	Consider service standards in the redlining and legal text, presenting options and their impacts the Workgroup for discussion at the next meeting	Elexon	WG2	Open
3.	WG1	Drafting of the redlining and legal text	Elexon	WG2	Open