

CP Assessment Report

CP1592 'Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 12c to version 19.21'

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Committee

BSC Panel

Recommendation

Approve

Implementation

2 December 2024

(Special Release)

About This Document

You can find the definitions of the terms and acronyms used in this document in the [BSC Glossary¹](#).

This document is the Change Proposal (CP) Assessment Report for CP1592 which Elexon will present to the BSC Panel at its meeting on 14 March 2024. The Panel will consider the proposed solution and the responses received to the CP Consultation before making a decision on whether to approve CP1592.

There are three parts to this document:

- This is the main document. It provides details of the solution, impacts, costs, and proposed implementation approach. It also summarises the SVG's initial views on the proposed changes and the views of respondents to the CP Consultation.
- Attachment A contains the CP Proposal Form.
- Attachment B contains the full responses received to the CP Consultation.



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Panel 348/06

CP1592

CP Assessment Report

14 March 2024

Version 1.0.0

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¹ <https://www.elexon.co.uk/glossary/?show=all>

1. Summary



Not sure where to start?

We suggest reading the following sections:

- Have 5 minutes?
Read section 1
- Have 15 minutes?
Read sections 1, 4, 5 and 6
- Have 30 minutes?
Read all sections
- Have longer? Read all sections and the annexes and attachments

Why change?

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.

Solution

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

Impacts and costs

CP1592 is expected to impact BSC documents and systems with central implementation costs of approximately <£230k. The systems to be impacted are the Non Half Hourly Data Aggregation system (NHHDA), the Estimation of Annual Consumption/Annualised Advance system (EAC/AA) and the Erroneously Large EACAA Reporting Tool (ELERT) system. The documents to be impacted are:

- NHHDA System Management Guide, Installation Guide, Technical Specification, and Operations Guide
- EAC/AA System Management Guide, Installation Guide, Technical Specification, and Operations Guide; and
- ELERT Installation Guide, Technical Specification, Operations Guide for CP1592.

These documents will be developed, consulted on and approved upon completion of final scoping and system design with the relevant service provider ahead of implementation.

Implementation

CP1592 is proposed for implementation on 2 December 2024 as part of a Special BSC Release.

Recommendation

We invite the BSC Panel to:

- **APPROVE** CP1592 for implementation on 2 December 2024 as part of a Special BSC Release.

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2. Why Change?

What is the issue?

The current versions of NHHDA and EAC/AA 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 as continuing with unsupported software increases the security risk to the system.

If a problem were encountered in any of the Party Agent applications as a result of an Oracle defect, and Oracle support had expired, it could only be resolved via an upgrade to a fully supported Oracle release, which could not be completed quickly.

If a workaround were possible, it is likely that it would require daily manual intervention, which could be time consuming and prone to human error, and so would only be an interim solution pending an Oracle upgrade.

Background

Elexon, via its service provider, provides Party Agents with Non Half Hourly Data Aggregation (NHHDA), Estimation of Annual Consumption/Annualised Advance (EAC/AA) and Erroneously Large EACAA Reporting Tool (ELERT) applications. These are known as the Party Agent applications.

Upgrading the Party Agent applications to Oracle 19 will also require Party Agents to upgrade their environments to ensure that third party components are compatible.

The previous upgrade for NHHDA and EAC/AA applications occurred in 2018 following [CP1482 - Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 11g to version 12c - Elexon BSC²](#), upgrading from Oracle 11g to Oracle 12c (CP1482). 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 the 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 discussions were held internally to understand associated costs with this change, and it was not progressed. The change was not progressed due to the cost and expected decommissioning with MHHS.

More recently, an NHHDA has escalated the need to upgrade the Oracle software, with Elexon raising the required Change Proposal and has refreshed the Change Request/IA with CGI.

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² [CP1482 - Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA systems from Oracle 11g to version 12c - Elexon BSC](#)

3. Solution

Proposed solution

CP1592 proposes to upgrade EAC/AA and NHHDA to the latest available version of Oracle 19.21. Where possible, it leverages cost savings by aligning with Ellexon's planned update to other BSC central systems.

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 after the transition to Market Wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS) is complete.

Ellexon expect that, depending on the completion of final scoping for the system upgrade, several Settlement Software Documents (which are category 2 BSC Configurable Items that the Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG) are responsible for) will require amendment. These include the Installation Guides, Technical Specifications and Operations Guides for NHHDA, EAC/AA and ELERT, as well as the System Management Guides for NHHDA and EAC/AA.

Ellexon will seek a decision on CP1592 at the BSC Panel meeting on 14 March 2024. The BSC Panel will make a decision on the proposed solution of CP1592 with the prerequisite that the impacted documents will be updated throughout the Implementation phase alongside development on the systems that are being upgraded.

Once the redlining for this change has been completed, it will be consulted on with industry and taken to the SVG for approval before go-live.

Proposer's rationale

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. Following discussions with the Party Agent 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.

4. Impacts and Costs

BSC Party & Party Agent impacts and costs

Participant impacts

BSC Party & Party Agent Impacts	
BSC Party/Party Agent	Impact
NHHDA	Install, test and implement upgraded NHHDA software and update guidance/technical documentation
NHHDC	Install, test and implement upgraded EAC/AA and ELERT software and update guidance/technical documentation

Participant costs

Central impacts and costs

Ellexon, via its Service Provider, will install, test and implement upgraded NHHDA and EAC/AA software, along with any required third-party software components, and deliver the upgraded software to Party Agents on the proposed BSC Systems Release Date.

The documents listed below will then be updated to reflect the upgraded software after an analysis by Ellexon’s Service Provider.

Central impacts

Central Impacts	
Document Impacts	System Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">NHHDA System Management GuideNHHDA Installation GuideNHHDA Technical SpecificationNHHDA Operations GuideEAC/AA System Management GuideEAC/AA Installation GuideEAC/AA Technical SpecificationEAC/AA Operations GuideELERT Installation GuideELERT Technical Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NHHDAEAC/AAErroneously Large EACAA Reporting Tool (ELERT)

• ELERT Operations Guide	
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Impact on BSC Settlement Risks

Impact on BSC Settlement Risks
None

Impact on Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement (MHHS)

Impact on MHHS
None

Central costs

The central implementation costs for CP1592 will be approximately <£230k. Due to this expected cost which exceeds the threshold for SVG approval, Elexon will bring CP1592 to the BSC Panel for approval rather than the SVG committee.

5. Implementation Approach

Recommended Implementation Date

Following engagement with industry stakeholders as part of the CP Consultation, Elexon are now proposing to implement CP1592 on the **2 December 2024** as part of a Special Release. This adjustment reflects the necessary lead times that market participants have identified to be able to support the systems update.

6. Initial Committee Views

SVG's initial views

At their meeting on 6 February 2024 [\(276/09\)³](#), the SVG was invited to note the progression of the CP and provide any comments or additional questions for inclusion in the CP Consultation. A clarification was sought on the decommissioning of the system prior to MHHS, a response was provided that the systems will continue to function until the MHHS transition is complete.

The committee made no further comments and did not provide any additional consultation questions.

The committee noted that, due to CP1592's expected costs exceeding the thresholds for SVG approval, the BSC Panel will be asked to make the final decision on whether to approve the Change Proposal.

³ [SVG276 - Elexon BSC](#)

7. Industry Views

This section summarises the responses received to the CP Consultation. You can find the full responses in Attachment B.

Summary of CP1592 CP Consultation Responses				
Question	Yes	No	Neutral/No Comment	Other
Do you agree with the CP1592 proposed solution?	2	-	-	-
Will CP1592 impact your organisation?	2	-	-	-
Will your organisation incur any costs in implementing CP1592?	2	-	-	-
Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach for CP1592?	2	-	-	-
Do you have any further comments on CP1592?	2	-	-	-

Two responses were received to the industry consultation, both of which were in support of the proposed solution of CP1592.

Both respondents noted potential impacts and costs ranging between Medium and Low. One respondent, a Supplier Agent, simply stated this upgrade will have an impact on them but believe that the benefits outweighed the costs and therefore are happy to proceed. They also made the exact same statement about the costs they would incur, noting they would be outweighed by the benefits. They supplemented this by saying that any associated costs would be incurred by testing and then implementing the upgrade within their production environment.

The other respondent, also a Supplier Agent, said that they would be impacted by CP1592 at a medium level. This is due to the fact that they're an NHHDA and EAC/AA user. They highlighted the need to test and deploy the new version of Oracle 19c onto the NHH servers. They also referenced one off costs of undertaking this testing, as well as deployment, updating work instructions and associated documentation.

As a further comment, this respondent reported that a 9 month lead time was necessary to enable them to fully test and move to the upgraded version of Oracle. Elexon have taken this feedback on board and extended the implementation approach, such that Elexon are now looking to implement CP1592 on 2 December 2024 as part of a Special BSC Release.

8. Recommendations

We invite the BSC Panel to:

- **APPROVE** CP1592 for implementation on **2 December 2024** as part of a Special BSC Release.