

# ELEXON

**16 March 2023**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as a named contact for your organisation's TIBCO subscription, and communicating our intention to decommission the TIBCO Service and the High Grade line in March 2024.

A key component of the development of our new cloud platform, [Elexon Kinnect](#), is the replacement of the [Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service](#) (BMRS) with the [Insights Solution](#) which will deliver a more visual, detailed and customisable data service for all users. As a result, we expect to decommission BMRS in March 2024, and we intend this to include the removal of the TIBCO Service.

This letter is to inform you of the reason for decommissioning the TIBCO Service and the High Grade Service, and to request that you get involved in the BSC Modification process which will change the obligation to provide the BMRS data via the High Grade Service.

## **TIBCO & High Grade Service**

When BMRS was developed, Elexon recognised the need for access to real time BMRS data and provisioned the 'High Grade Service' (private WAN) for participants to sign up to. The current TIBCO Service is built on legacy systems and provides BMRS data close to real-time.

Customers receiving TIBCO data require both a High Grade line and a TIBCO license. These requirements have long been recognised as a potential barrier for new entrants, particularly the lead time, costs and bandwidth restrictions of the High Grade line.

Since 2014, the BMRS has offered a Data Push Service (DPS) as a cost-effective alternative to TIBCO and consequentially there have been no new TIBCO subscriptions since this date. The overall number of TIBCO users has also decreased by over 50%, leaving around 20 organisations with active subscriptions.

The ageing architecture has been unable to provide the required scaling to cater for our users and suffers from sporadic operational issues and unplanned outages. It is also incapable of accommodating industry changes at pace. The legacy architecture severely limits vertical and horizontal scaling and the constraint on bandwidth means users do not always receive the complete data updates<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 2-156 Weeks ahead by BMU is restricted to once daily updates on legacy endpoints.

Since launching as a Beta offering to wider industry in June 2022, early adopters<sup>2</sup> of the Insights Solution have sent in highly positive feedback about performance, functionality and availability of the new platform. During the recent unplanned BMRS outages<sup>3</sup> the Insights Solution provided a resilient service to Elexon data users.

The Insights Solution provides three endpoints for accessing data, a website for interactive users, RESTful APIs, and the new instant data facility, the Insights Solution Realtime Information Service (IRIS). The IRIS service has been available for organisations to sign up to since December 2022 and in total 108 subscribers have signed up so far. You can register to receive the updates on the [Insights Solution site](#).

## **BSC Issue 95**

Recognising the effort in maintaining current implementation and the Elexon drive to optimise costs for the industry with a cloud-based architecture, [Issue 95](#) was raised to assess the continued use of TIBCO and High Grade requirements for BMRS data. The Issue Group concluded in November 2022 with the recommendation to raise a BSC Modification to remove Elexon's obligation to provide BMRS data through the High Grade Service. Removal would result in significant savings for both BSC Parties and Elexon (as explained below).

The BSC Panel agreed to raise the Modification and we expect this to happen at its meeting on 13 April 2023. We believe that it is essential that you (as a TIBCO user) get involved in the process, by joining the Modification Group, or by responding to the consultation on the change. We will notify the industry of the consultation via our BSC Change mailing list and our weekly newsletter, Newscast. You can sign up to receive these on [our website](#).

Following this process, the BSC Panel will make a recommendation to Ofgem on whether to retain or remove the High Grade BMRS data requirements from the BSC. Ofgem will then make the final decision.

## **TIBCO License policy**

While Elexon has continued to maintain the TIBCO Service for subscribers, the service can no longer be sustained efficiently and economically. The current TIBCO set-up is based on "on premises" communications hardware and is not readily supported by cloud-based architecture. It is subject to third party infrastructure overheads from network providers.

Therefore, it continues to incur significant operational costs for BSC Parties. In addition to this, there will be limited support available for the legacy architecture unless a significant technical upgrade is carried out.

The TIBCO Service has also changed its licensing model and it is now requesting long term renewal of three years at the minimum. Elexon will renew its own license for another year until March 2024 and if you purchase your license directly from TIBCO and use the software solely for the use of BMRS data, it may be unnecessary to continue beyond March 2024.

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<sup>2</sup> 2.1 million hits on APIs and 84 IRIS subscribers in the last 30 days

<sup>3</sup> Since January 2023, the Insights Solution has average availability 99.98% across all endpoints compared to 99.8% BMRS

## Next Steps

The Insights Solution unifies data structures across all of its endpoints and we will ease on-boarding for all of our users through open-source protocols, avoiding proprietary licensed software. This will reduce both central and BSC Parties' operational and system change costs.

We understand that any system change is disruptive and our commitment is to support you through the transition. Furthermore we can provide technical support to customers who wish to adopt the new real time data service.

My team and I remain at your disposal to ensure a smooth transition. Please contact me to discuss any questions you may have.

We would appreciate it if you can confirm receipt of this letter by emailing [communications@elexon.co.uk](mailto:communications@elexon.co.uk). If there are any other TIBCO users in your organisation who should see this letter, please share it with them.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Harris, Head of Settlement and Insights

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