



Newscast

Issue 580, 7 December 2015

ELEXON



Coming up this week

10 December

BSC Panel at **10:00**

Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service (BMRS) performance issues

Background

Scripting (sometimes referred to as scraping data from a website) is the process by which users run automated programs on a website. These programs simulate interactive access by searching for and downloading data from displayed web pages at a set frequency, sometimes several times a minute. Heavy scripting can drastically slow a website which may lead to interactive customers experiencing timeout issues, resulting in the website becoming unusable.

Scripting has caused performance issues on Balancing Mechanism Reporting Service (BMRS) for a number of years, however since the November 2015 release, there has been a significant increase in levels of scripting (average of 260,000 additional daily hits in November compared to October). This activity, on top of the increased volume of data processed by BMRS, has caused a significant degradation in performance.

During November, ELEXON and the BSC Service Desk have seen a significant increase in reported incidents relating to degraded BMRS performance, which could have material impact on the business operation of the BMRS user community.

ELEXON's approach to web scripting

ELEXON has never encouraged scripting and will always prioritise interactive access for the benefit of market participants. So, we request users to minimise the retrieval of the BMRS data via scripting or any other method of screen scraping.

We have carried out some configuration changes which has improved the performance. However, ELEXON has now had to adopt a more robust approach towards monitoring the impact of scripters and has recently instructed its Service Provider to block a number of users who have contributed to a degradation in performance for BMRS users.

The new BMRS – an alternative to scripting

With the redevelopment of the BMRS onto a new platform, ELEXON has provided Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that offer programmatic access to BMRS data, and the Data Push Service which pushes near real time data to the connected user. The BMRS data that can be retrieved via the APIs is summarised in the [API and Data Push Guide](#).

When the new BMRS platform goes live in March 2016, the legacy BMRS will be decommissioned. As a result, all scripts against the old BMRS will become redundant immediately. Therefore users will need to adopt the APIs and/or the Data Push service to continue to receive BMRS data.

Factors impacting old BMRS accessibility

Please note that the current version of BMRS has been designed to work on Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) version 8 and Mozilla Firefox version 24. The recommended version for the Java Runtime Environment (JRE) on BMRS is JRE 1.7 (also known as 7). The Adobe Flash Player browser plugin is also required to display some of the graphs. Unless the above are implemented, there is no guarantee that BMRS will work. As the old BMRS will be decommissioned in March 2016, there are no plans to support additional browsers.

For further information, please email or call [Zaahir Ghanty](#) on 02073804362.

Ongoing issues with System Prices – post November 2015 Release

Since implementing the November 2015 Release, we have been experiencing issues with the performance of, and the data published on, the BMRS. We understand Parties' reliance on the data we publish and the need for clear and timely communications, so this article summarises the issues as reported in recent [ELEXON Circulars](#).

Problems with the accuracy and completeness of data on the BMRS are primarily related to two issues:

- i) National Grid inaccurately reporting Loss of Load Probability (LoLP) and De-rated Margin (DRM) data since 5 November 2015
- ii) National Grid erroneously reporting three Demand Control Instructions (DCI) on 30 November 2015.

i) LoLP and DRM

National Grid confirmed on 3 December that its calculation and reporting of LoLP and DRM data has been incorrect since 5 November 2015. The issues were most notable on 26 November when National Grid's calculations forecasted considerable shortages in system margin. On 27 November, National Grid, in consultation with ELEXON, suspended the calculation and reporting of LoLP and DRM data whilst it investigated. Whilst this data feed is suspended, ELEXON is setting LoLP, and therefore the Reserve Scarcity Price, to zero in the System Price calculation for all Settlement Periods.

National Grid has identified the source of the issue and developed a solution to resolve it. National Grid plans to recommence the calculation and reporting of LoLP and DRM data **early this week (7 December 2015)**. In the meantime, LoLP and DRM data is being defaulted to zero.

LoLP and DRM data only has a direct impact on System Prices where Short Term Operating Reserve (STOR) is dispatched in the same Settlement Period. Our analysis of System Prices suggests no impact to System Prices.

We published ELEXON Circulars [EL02337](#), [EL02340](#), [EL02348](#), [EL02349](#) and [EL02452](#) on this issue.

ii) Overstated System Prices due to erroneous DCI

National Grid erroneously sent three DCIs on 30 November 2015. These were processed by ELEXON and resulted in overstated Indicative System Prices being calculated for Settlement Periods 27 (£3000/MWh) and 48 (£954.13/MWh) on 30 November. National Grid subsequently confirmed that the DCIs had been sent in error and we notified the industry that the prices were incorrect.

National Grid has corrected the issue in its systems and ELEXON ensured that the erroneous DCIs were removed from BSC Central Systems. Therefore, the calculation of System Prices from the Interim Information (II) Settlement Run for SPs 27 and 48 will not include Demand Control Volumes.

Please note should any future DCI be published on the BMRS, BSC Central Systems will process these and

include them in System Price calculations. Similarly, Parties should take whatever action they consider appropriate should a future DCI be published.

We published ELEXON Circulars [EL02344](#), [EL02345](#) and [EL02452](#) on this issue.

Reporting of STOR Actions

ELEXON published ELEXON Circular [EL02352](#) on Friday 4 December 2015. EL02352 identified two additional issues with National Grid data related to the reporting of STOR Actions:

- i) Acceptances for BM STOR Providers are not being identified as such
- ii) Individual Non-BM STOR Actions are being aggregated and reported as a single Balancing Service Adjustment Action (BSAA).

National Grid is developing solutions to these two problems. For instance, National Grid has developed a solution to the Non-BM STOR issue, which ELEXON is testing. It is expected to be implemented by mid-December 2015.

In the meantime ELEXON and National Grid are monitoring the Acceptances and BSAs being taken. We have not identified any material impacts on System Prices to date. Also, National Grid is using existing BSC processes to ensure that erroneous Acceptances and BSAs are corrected for use in the SAA's calculation of System Prices.

Ongoing monitoring and correction or replacement of data

We understand that BSC Parties and other industry participants rely on the data published on the BMRS, and timely communication of issues. We have been working closely with National Grid to ensure that issues are understood, communicated and resolved as quickly as possible. We will continue to monitor System Prices and the publication of data and provide further information on the outstanding issue as soon as possible.

We are also exploring options to correct or replace erroneous data published on the BMRS and used in Central Systems. In the past, it has been typical to not update or correct the data on BMRS. However, we are working with National Grid to produce corrected LoLP and DRM data that can at least be published on the ELEXON website.

National Grid and ELEXON will also be providing an update to the BSC Panel at its next meeting on **10 December**.

For more detail, please see the [Circulars](#) page of our website.

ENTSO-E web-conference and Q&A

The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) is carrying out a [Cost Benefit Analysis on harmonising the Imbalance Settlement Period across Europe](#). A total of three time periods will be assessed: 30, 15 and 5 minutes.

To support industry and stakeholders in completing the cost benefit analysis questionnaire, ENTSO-E will be carrying out a web-conference and Q&A on **Thursday 7 January from 9:00 to 11:00 GMT (extension possible until 13:00 GMT)**.

Please visit the [registration page](#) to book your space and send your questions before the web-conference to cbaisp@entsoe.eu.

The deadline for submitting answered questionnaires is **14 January 2016**. Please send your completed questionnaires to cbaisp@entsoe.eu. ENTSO-E welcomes the provision of answered questionnaires as soon as

possible.

Outputs from the Industry Information Day on 16 November

On Monday 16 November, ELEXON, in collaboration with National Grid and Energy UK, held an [Industry Information Day](#) on the cost benefit analysis from ENTSO-E. The event was well attended by the industry, with Suppliers, Traders, Generators and Party Agents represented.

The following outputs from the event are available on the Industry Information Day page of our website:

- Minutes
- Event slides
- [Draft Cost Benefit Analysis assumptions for GB](#): industry members are invited to use these assumptions when responding to the cost benefit analysis questionnaire from ENTSO-E. ELEXON will be using them in its own response.
- **GB industry data response sheet**: this highlights where some market level data will be provided by ELEXON and National Grid. This will help respondents answer their share of the market questions.
Please visit the [Industry Information Day](#) page to download this spreadsheet.

Full details on the Consultation can be found on the [ENTSO-E](#) website.

New BSC Modification P330

On Tuesday 1 December, ScottishPower Energy Retail raised new BSC Modification [P330 'Allowing ELEXON to tender for the Uniform Network Code Gas Performance Assurance Framework Administrator \(PAFA\) role'](#).

[Uniform Network Code \(UNC\) Modification 506](#) seeks to introduce performance assurance arrangements into the gas market for the first time. It will require a competitive tender exercise to appoint an independent Gas Performance Assurance Framework Administrator (PAFA).

The P330 Proposer believes that ELEXON has significant experience and understanding of performance assurance techniques in the energy industry. They also believe that ELEXON has transferable skills and knowledge that potentially meet the criteria for the appointment of the PAFA, should Ofgem approve MOD506. This Modification therefore seeks to amend the BSC arrangements to allow ELEXON to bid for the Gas PAFA contract.

A copy of the P330 Modification Proposal Form is available on the [P330](#) page of our website.

Who is impacted?

As ELEXON operates on a not-for-profit basis, BSC Parties may be asked to fund a bid submission for the Gas PAFA role. The full impact on BSC Parties will be determined as part of the assessment of this Modification.

The BSC Panel will consider the Initial Written Assessment at its [meeting](#) on **Thursday 10 December** and agree on how to progress this Modification.

P330 Workgroup

The first Workgroup meeting is likely to be held during the **week beginning 4 January 2016**. If you would like to join the P330 Workgroup or attend as a non-voting attendee, please email bsc.change@elexon.co.uk indicating your availability for the week beginning 4 January 2016.

For further information, please call Talia Addy on 020 7380 4043 or email bsc.change@elexon.co.uk.

New Change Proposal: Aligning BSCP502 with amendments to the Electricity Supply Licence

We are issuing [Change Proposal 1452 'Aligning BSCP502 with amendments to the Electricity Supply Licence'](#) for Consultation. Responses are due by **8 January 2016** and implementation is scheduled for **30 June 2016** as part of the June 2016 Release.

For further information, please visit the [CP1452](#) page of our website.

Electricity Market Reform (EMR) update

Suppliers are required to lodge CFD Credit Cover

Suppliers are obligated to lodge CFD Credit Cover for the quarterly obligation period **1 January 2016** to **31 March 2016**. We have issued [EMR Circular 67](#) to support Suppliers in this task to provide further details in terms of how to lodge, calculate and monitor your Credit Cover.

[Working Practices 42 – Supplier CFD Credit Cover](#) and [Guidance G5 – Supplier CFD Credit Cover](#) will also support Suppliers in these areas. The obligations related to Credit Cover are detailed within the [Contracts for Difference \(Electricity Supplier Obligations\) Regulations 2014](#).

Updated Working Practices

We have updated a number of Working Practice documents. The updated documents and participants impacted by these are as follows:

- [WP022 - Applicant & Capacity Provider Registration](#) - Capacity Providers
- [WP025 - EMR Aggregation Rules](#) - All EMR participants
- [WP031 - Amending EMR Party Details & Amendment Form](#) - All EMR participants
- [WP032 - CFD Further Conditions Precedent \(Metering\)](#) - CFD Generators
- [WP033 - CFD Electrical Schematic Obligation](#) - CFD Generators
- [WP198 - EMR Site Testing Volumes and Selection Process](#) - Capacity Providers and CFD Generators

The changes made to these documents are summarised in the amendment record at the start of each document.

Keep in touch with what's happening with EMR

Visit the [EMR Settlement website](#) to view the latest news on EMR. Our EMR Circulars keep you informed of the latest changes, consultations and events. To register for EMR Circulars please subscribe to our mailing list on the homepage of the EMRS website. The [EMR Settlement Calendar](#) is also a useful way to check what is happening as it highlights key dates such as implementation events, deadlines for consultations and workshops. If you have any questions, please email contact@emrsettlement.co.uk.

Trading Disputes Committee (TDC) meeting headlines: 3 December 2016

At its December 2015 meeting, the TDC heard four Trading Disputes:

DA741, upheld. The Technical Assurance Agent (TAA) identified an unregistered circuit during its site visit. The Supplier registered a new Meter Administration Point Number (MPAN) for the identified circuit, and the Meter Operator Agent (MOA) submitted the Meter Technical Details (MTDs).

DA744, upheld. The Supplier raised Trading Dispute DA744 following a voltage transformer (VT) ratio correction at a High Voltage (HV) Half Hourly (HH) site. The HH Data Collector (DC) rectified the erroneous data.

DA747, upheld. The Supplier raised Trading Dispute DA747 in relation to an issue with a VT at a HH HV site.

The Licensed Distribution System Operator (LDSO) rectified the fault and the HH DC corrected the erroneous data.

DA752, upheld. ELEXON raised Trading Dispute DA752 following a TAA visit to a HH Metering System. The TAA raised a Category 1 non-compliance having identified an open circuit Current Transformer (CT).

The full Headline Report will be available on the [TDC meeting page](#) later this week. For more information, please contact disputes@elexon.co.uk.

2016 Credit Assessment Load Factor (CALF) calendar published

The new CALF 2016 calendar has been published on the [Credit Assessment Load Factor](#) page of our website and details appeal and submission deadlines for the preceding 2016 seasons.

CALF is a parameter used in calculating Credit. It estimates a Balancing Mechanism (BM) Unit's average performance in a given BSC Season, which is applied to the Generation Capacity (GC) or Demand Capacity (DC) value to estimate the BM Unit's performance in a Settlement Period. This estimate is used in Credit calculation until actual data becomes available.

For further information, please see the [CALF Guidance document](#) or email Jordi Brown at SettlementOperations@elexon.co.uk.

CALF values for the Spring 2016 BSC Season published

CALF values for the Spring 2016 BSC Season, which runs from 1 March - 31 May 2016 are now available on the [ELEXON Portal](#) in the Credit/Credit Alerting section under the Financial and Credit menu.

If you are the Lead Party of a non-Credit Qualifying BM Unit, you can appeal an assigned CALF value if you believe it does not accurately represent your expected activity.

To raise an appeal, please complete the CALF Appeals pro forma in Appendix 5 of the [CALF Guidance document](#) and email it to bscservicedesk@cgi.com by **Monday 1 February 2016**. To find out more about CALF appeals, please see Section 12 of the CALF Guidance document.

If you have any questions, please email Jordi Brown at SettlementOperations@elexon.co.uk.

ELEXON Circulars published last week

Since Monday 30 November, we have published nine ELEXON Circulars. These Circulars were for information and related to:

- [EL02352: Update on Post November 2015 Release Imbalance Pricing issues](#)
- [EL02351: Error in the Production of the Daily Profile Production \(DPP\) Run: Resolved](#)
- [EL02350: Cancelled: Planned BSC Agent downtime on 5–6 December 2015](#)
- [EL02349: Update on National Grid's issue with calculation and reporting of De-rated Margin and Loss of Load Probability data](#)
- [EL02348: Update on National Grid's issue with calculation and reporting of De-rated Margin and Loss of Load Probability data](#)
- [EL02347: Planned BSC Agent downtime on BMRS: 5–6 December 2015](#)
- [EL02346: Missing Aggregated DUoS Report \(D0030\) flows](#)
- [EL02345: Erroneous System Price of £954.13/MWh – 30 November 2015](#)

- [EL02344: Erroneous System Price of £3,000/MWh – 30 November 2015](#)

[Circulars](#) are published in the News & Events section our website.

Upcoming meetings and events

10 December - [BSC Panel](#)

15 December - [Imbalance Settlement Group](#)

17 December - [Performance Assurance Board](#)



If you have any feedback on Newscast or any of our other publications, please email communications@elexon.co.uk

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