Switching Programme Summary – Issue 7, May 2019

Latest news

L1-05 milestone decision

On 31st May the Delivery Group held a checkpoint meeting to discuss the progress towards the near term Level 1 milestone L1-05 (Baseline external physical interface design).
While acknowledging that a lot of positive work had been undertaken to date, the Delivery Group decided to accept the DCC proposal to bring the draft external physical interfaces to consult with industry on 28th June.

Ofgem, DCC, the System Integrator and the Programme Coordinator will undertake a replan of the industry consultation phase to ensure that there is sufficient time to consult with licensed parties in the lead up to the L1-05 milestone. This draft plan will be bought back to the Delivery Group at the scheduled meeting on 18th June.

For L1-05 and L1-06 (Programme Parties Mobilised) participants can expect an approximately 3-4 week delay. Further detail on the exact timeframe will be provided at the next Delivery Group meeting.

Salesforce

We are excited to announce that the Switching Programme Web-Portal went live on 4th June.

It will be accessible to the users provided by your organisation in the recent survey, and they should have received their login credentials over the course of 5th June. If you have not responded to our survey, and would like access to the Web-Portal, can you please respond to the survey here https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6BJZLCC.

When you receive your login, please try to log in within 24 hours to activate your account and set a new password. If you have any issues please inform SwitchingProgramme@ofgem.gov.uk, as if you cannot log in within the 24 hour window we will need to re-generate a password.

Please look out for WebEx and training drop-in sessions that we will be running to help you understand how to fully engage with the Web-Portal. If you haven't already received a guidance pack to help with using the Web-Portal, email us at SwitchingProgramme@ofgem.gov.uk and we will send this to you. If you have any feedback or questions, please either use the Web-Portal or email SwitchingProgramme@ofgem.gov.uk.

The Web-Portal will be a key tool in supporting the Programme Coordinator and Ofgem to collect information and communicate to all Participants involved in the Programme, and we are keen to get you all involved in actively using it as a single point of information for the Programme.

CSS contract award

After a competitive procurement process managed by DCC, we are delighted to announce that the contract for the Central Switching Service (CSS) has been awarded to Landmark Information Group Limited.

Landmark is a subsidiary of Daily Mail General Trust, with extensive experience in delivering managed services for data and IT in the Utilities sector.

Landmark has over 12 years' experience managing the Energy Performance Certificate system and their CSS solution centres around the flexibility and scalability of the underlying infrastructure platform Azure. Securing a solution which encourages adaptability and flexibility is a fundamental requirement of the Ofgem Full Business Case.

More information on Landmark can be found here https://www.landmark.co.uk/.

DBT entry

The contract award to Landmark enabled the Switching Programme Delivery Group to take a decision on 14th May for the Programme to enter the Design, Build, Test (DBT) phase.

This is a significant milestone for the Programme and allows us to now undertake a replanning exercise for the DBT phase, collaboratively with all our providers now on board. We have now published our Full Business Case, where we provide an update on all key developments since the publication of the Outline Business Case in February 2018.

Procurement wrap up

With the above news, we thought it timely to provide a summarised view at the various procurements that have now been concluded:

- Programme Coordinator: PwC were awarded this contract following the Ofgem-led procurement and on boarded to the Programme in January. They're now leading on industry coordination and E2E programme assurance, providing our PMO function as well as providing advisory services to the SRO and Programme Director.

- Core Systems Assurance and Licensed Party Assurance: Expleo have been appointed as the Core Systems Assurance provider and began embedding in to the Programme during April. They will be providing assurance to Ofgem over the existing systems providers, Landmark, Netcompany, and DCC. Moorhouse, part of the Expleo Group of companies, have been awarded the Licensed Party Assurance contract, and will be conducting assurance over licensed parties progress and readiness at key milestones in the Programme.

- Central Switching Service: Landmark Information Group Ltd, as detailed earlier in this newsletter.

- Systems Integrator: Netcompany, who began on boarding to the Programme in February. They will be responsible for coordinating the DBT phase activity between new and existing system providers.

DCC have just one more procurement ongoing:

- Service Management Tool: Contract negotiations are ongoing and we expect DCC to announce the winning bidder in June.

REC accession & RECCo invoices

We have been reaching out to organisations that have so far not been engaging with the Switching Programme requests to participate in mobilisation or DBT readiness surveys, to remind parties of their obligations under their licenses: to accede to and comply with the REC, and their duty to cooperate with giving effect to a Significant Code Review (SCR).

RECCo is in the process of issuing the initial invoices to the nominated REC contract managers and/or finance teams of Gas and Electricity suppliers, in accordance with the REC.   For the avoidance of doubt, this will include any suppliers who have not yet acceded and provided relevant contact details, but should have. The RECCo website will shortly go live, along with a mailbox where such queries may in future be directed. In the meantime, if you believe your organisation hasn't yet received an invoice and/or have any queries, you can contact us at switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk and we can advise.

Data updates

Electricity Stage 0 Update

As you will be aware on 27th June a major release to MPAS will take place to deliver a range of changes to support Transition Stage 0 activity for the Programme. This will see a new Related MPAN indicator included in MPAS, the re-direction of existing data flows from metering agents and the migration of data from ECOES, all in preparation for data migration to the CSS later in DBT.

The changes are being coordinated by Gemserv on behalf of the MRA's Faster Switching Expert Group (FSEG). Testing of the changes is well underway and a dress rehearsal is scheduled for the weekend of 15th June. Plans have been shared with impacted parties. Further details can also be found on a dedicated page of the MRA website here, as well via FSEG.

Data cleansing activity to support the Stage 0 work as well to improve switching reliability remains ongoing with cleansing reports available for suppliers and (i)DNOs. For more information on cleansing or to access your report please contact FSEG.

Data Management Principles

The Design Authority have now approved the Switching Programme's first set of Data Management Principles. These are available on the website here.

These have been developed to provide industry with clarity on our End to End approach to data and will be applied to the definition of new switching messages and associated formats

and structures. It is anticipated that these will be further amended ahead of go-live for enduring operations and included within the REC Technical Specification (Data Specification).

What's coming up

Readiness assessment

The next programme readiness assessment will be for the Programme Parties Mobilised Milestone currently due for 1st August 2019, but now expected to be mid-late August when the near-term milestone plan is baselined at the Delivery Group on 18th June. We will be adopting a similar approach to the Design, Build and Test (DBT) entry milestone and we will request self-assessment against a set of agreed criteria. The criteria are including the Programme Parties Mobilised Readiness Assessment Framework, which was issued as part of the supporting information for the Switching Programme Implementation group.

We will look to run 2 self-assessments ahead of the final decision, which will be taken by the Switching Programme Delivery Group. This will give us early visibility of issues and allow us to take mitigation actions where required. The self-assessment was expected to be launched on the 13th June with submissions deadlines of 28th June and 19th July 2019 however, these dates will now change based on the near term plan checkpoint on 31st May 2019 and are likely to be July and August.

We will schedule in briefing WebEx sessions in June to talk industry through the readiness assessment process; however, ahead of these if you have any questions on the framework please contact SwitchingPMO@ofgem.gov.uk.

As always we appreciate your support in completing the assessments as it is a valuable source of information to help us keep momentum in the Programme and inform key decisions.

What's coming up in diaries

Ofgem Meetings:

Data Working Group:
Wednesday 19th June – 10.30am at Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place
Wednesday 17th July – 10.30am at Gemserv, 8 Fenchurch Place

Switching Programme Design Forum:
Monday 17th June – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade
Monday 1st July – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade
Monday 15th July – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Switching Programme Testing Working Group:
Wednesday 12th June – 3pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade
Wednesday 10th July – 2.30pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade
Wednesday 7th August – 2.30pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade
 (All the Testing Working Group meetings will have WebEx available as well)

Switching Delivery Group:
The Pre Delivery Group WebEx will be at 2.30pm, Wednesday 12th June.
The Delivery Group meeting will be at 10am, Tuesday 18th June, *location to be confirmed*

Switching Implementation Group:
The Pre Implementation Group WebEx will be at 3pm, Wednesday 26th June.
The Implementation Group meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd July, *time and location to be confirmed*