

Switching Programme Summary – November 2018, Issue 2

Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of the Switching Programme newsletter.

Our aim is to keep our stakeholders informed of recent and upcoming Switching Programme activity, in a format that can be shared with your wider organisational teams.

If you have any thoughts on the type of information you would like to see here, let us know by emailing switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk.

Latest news

Statutory consultation responses

In our last issue we mentioned we had published a [statutory consultation](#), which provided a draft text for the new Retail Energy Code (REC) and a near complete set of operational schedules for the new switching arrangements.

The response window closed on 16th November and we are busy collating responses to assist in our decision. We intend to publish our decision in the coming days. If the decision is confirmed, any subsequent licence changes would take effect no less than 56 days after our decision date.

Programme Coordinator procurement

The Switching Programme presents a complex delivery challenge, with over 100 organisations that will need to work with Ofgem to deliver the Programme's changes. We recognise the challenges and the expertise that will be required to coordinate and plan with all industry. Ofgem is therefore in the final stages of procuring for a Programme Coordinator that will support delivery through four key services:

- Industry Coordination
- A Programme Management Office
- SRO Advice
- Programme Assurance

We have now awarded the contract to our preferred bidder and will be able to announce the party once the contract signature is finalised. We are anticipating making this announcement in late December/early January.

We are tracking towards the on-boarding of the Programme Coordinator in January, which represents a significant milestone for the Programme.

Data Working Group stand up

We held our first meeting of the Data Working Group mid-November. We had a good level of interest in attendance for the first meeting, and held discussion on establishing the Terms of Reference, and clarifying responsibility for the objectives that are to be achieved.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday 11th December at 1.30pm. The agenda for this meeting will cover a progress update on the actions to undertake by various parties, and a prioritisation exercise.

A reminder that this is an open forum, so if you are interested in joining this or any future meetings then please let us know at switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk.

More information on data initiatives is available on our website here: [Stage 0 Data Products](#)

Governance structure stand up

We mentioned in our previous issue that we will be transitioning towards a new governance structure ahead of the Design, Build, Test (DBT) phase. In November we have been busy confirming the appointments of representatives to attend the Delivery and Implementation Groups. We are intending to issue an open letter to industry on the nominations and asking for any feedback before confirming the representatives.

We held a forum with representatives of the large supplier group mid-November, where we collected views on the representative model. We expect to publish a baselined representative structure, which we hope will address as many of those concerns as possible, as an attachment to the Open Letter.

Security Advisory Group stand up

We are looking to set up a stakeholder group on information security and data protection aspects of the new switching arrangements.

Its members should be able to understand and comment on information security requirements and be able to comment on them from the perspective of their organisation. We will consider at a future stage whether it will be required for members of the group to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Could anyone interested in joining this group please send contact details to switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk.

What's coming up

DBT decision preparation

Before we enter the DBT phase in April next year, we have a milestone decision scheduled in Q1 2019, which will confirm whether the Programme is ready to proceed to DBT.

We are now developing our high-level plan for all activity that needs to be finalised ahead of this decision. Before moving to DBT we need to ensure that the decision set out in the OBC remains valid in the light of the outcome of the CSS procurement and any other material developments since publication of the OBC. We will publish the results of that process in a Final Business Case (FBC) to be published in Q1 2019. Specifically, we will test that the services to be procured will deliver a CSS that will achieve all of the benefits set out in the OBC and reflected in the impact assessment. In addition, Ofgem will be inputting the costs of the CSS contracts into the impact assessment that we completed for our [Outline Business Case](#) (OBC) as well as any material changes to the existing system change costs. We will also model the impacts of a planned go-live date in Summer 2021.

We are confident that there have been no material changes to the proposals set out in the OBC and that the costs captured in the OBC are sufficiently accurate to support a decision to proceed. We will not be revising those costs except where they are known to be materially different - for example where the procurement process allows a much more accurate assessment of the build and operate cost of the CSS. To prepare for the development of the FBC, we have been engaging with existing system providers to confirm where they expect costs to materially differ than stated in the OBC. Where there are material differences these will be captured through new RFIs and fed into the FBC analysis.

The FBC decision also marks the point at which the Programme Governance transitions. At that decision point the Programme Board will demobilise and the Delivery Group will transition to be chaired by the SRO to the Programme.

Mobilisation Survey

Last week we sent out a mobilisation survey to all organisations that we have identified as key participants of the Switching Programme. Our purpose is to identify areas where we can be doing more now to help parties get ready for the DBT phase.

If you did not receive this email from us, it may be that we have sent it to another contact from your organisation. Please contact us at switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk if you have any questions about your organisation's role in the survey.

We have asked for this to be completed before Monday December 10th. We will be closely reviewing all responses received and identifying immediate actions for the Programme to help organisations get up to speed where needed. We plan to share with you some insights and our plan of action to help our stakeholders in our January issue.

What's coming up in diaries

Meetings:

Existing System Provider Forum:

Monday 10th December – 10am at Electralink, Northumberland House
(Note that the time and location has changed from what was stated in our last newsletter)

Monday 14th January – 3pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Monday 11th February – 10am at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Data Working Group:

Tuesday 11th December – 1.30pm at Museum of London, Canary Wharf

Tuesday 22nd January – 10am at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Switching Programme Design Forum:

Tuesday 11th December – 11am at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Monday 7th January – 1.30pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Wednesday 16th January – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Monday 28th January – 1pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Regulatory Design User Group:

Monday 10th December – 1pm at Electralink, Northumberland House
(Note that the location has changed from what was stated in our last newsletter)

Switching Programme Delivery Group:

Monday 14th January – 12pm at Ofgem, 10 South Colonnade

Other:

Mobilisation Survey

Responses to the survey are requested before Monday 10th December.

Contact us at switchingprogramme@ofgem.gov.uk if any questions ahead of this deadline.

Programme Coordinator meet and greet

Mid-January, date to be confirmed