Public

BM to OBP
EDT / EDL Transition

Guide for Market Participants

V1.1, July 2025

NESO
National Energy System Operator

Contents

1. Background

Overview

A key part of the Balancing Transformation programme is the transition of EDL/EDT connections to OBP. It has been carefully planned to avoid a big bang cut-over. There are two main phases with a staged transition within each.

Phase 1 – application transition. The existing EDT/EDL connections with the BM system will be moved to the new OBP system.

Phase 2 – network transition. The network routing of all EDL connections will need to be updated due to the National Grid to NESO separation and to remove End of Life technology such as ISDN. This is being managed by a separate NESO workstream.

Note that users of Wider Access (WA API) are largely not impacted by these changes – see Section "Transition of Wider Access".

Any queries on this document should be addressed to the NESO EDL/EDT OBP Transition Manager at box.balancingprogramme@neso.energy .

This document will be reissued if necessary as a result of feedback or as new information becomes available.

System Impact

Overview

Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) and Electronic Dispatch and Logging (EDL) are a fundamental part of the NESO balancing services.

EDT and EDL are defined in several specification documents which are all largely unchanged as a result of this transition:

Guide to EDT, EDL and CT – no change as part of Phase 1. Will be updated for Phase 2.

Communications Standards – Phase 1 changes related to FTP. Further updates for Phase 2.

Data Validation, Consistency & Defaulting Rules – there is no change to this document, with the exception that QPN have been removed from the Grid Code and OBP will reject any submissions containing QPN. Other future change (See Section 4) may impact this document, but are not in scope of this transition.

EDT Interface Specification – Phase 1 changes related to FTP, see next section.

EDL Message Interface Specification – no change

EDL Instruction Interface Valid Reason Codes – no change.

The Grid Code does not exactly define the granularity/frequency of submissions. Guidelines have previously been shared with participants to limit impact to current BM system. These guidelines will need to remain in force until the BM system is fully decommissioned.

EDT FTP Changes

The FTP server that is accessed by Trading Agents is part of the BM system. When switching to OBP, Trading Agents will access a different FTP server. This will:

- Have a different fully qualified domain name (FQDN) which is defined in a different DNS server.
- Use DNS-based load balancing to direct Trading Agents to the IP address of an active OBP FTP server. Any Trading Agents that cannot support a new DNS at the start should discuss with the NESO Transition Manager (temporary addressing of the FTP server using an IP address with manual fallback may be possible).
- Use different IP addresses from the existing BM FTP server (we are reusing BM IP addresses that were previously in use for this purpose but discontinued in 2019)
- Not use the OpenVMS operating system in which all filenames are in upper case and updated files are versioned. However, to mitigate this, OBP will be tolerant of filenames in any case and generate filenames only in upper case. Submissions will be versioned but these version numbers will not be visible.

	Existing Behaviour with BM System	**Will OBP have the same behaviour?**
1.	Files can be uploaded using a temporary filename and then renamed to avoid incomplete files being submitted.	Yes, subject to caveat in #3
2.	The timestamp of the uploaded file can be read in order to confirm the notification time	Yes, subject to caveat in #3
3.	Uploaded files are moved by the system when they are processed. If a second file with the same filename is	No, uploaded files will not appear with version suffices ";n". If a second file with the same filename is uploaded before

	Existing Behaviour with BM System	Will OBP have the same behaviour?
	uploaded during this period then it is treated as a separate file and rejected	the first is processed then it will replace the first.
4.	Acknowledgement and response files all appear with version suffices ";n"	Yes

- Have a new login banner (details to be supplied later)
- Only support FTPS (FTP Secure) rather than FTP (any Trading Agents that cannot support FTPS at the start should discuss with the NESO Transition Manager)
    - A Public CA (Certificate Authority) issued certificate will be used for SSL encryption
    - TLS version 1.2 or higher will be required
    - OBP will be using "Explicit FTPS", hence the client must explicitly request a secure connection while establishing a connection with FTPS server
- Use different credentials which will be issued to Trading Agents ahead of testing and transition.

OBP will provide a test FTP server which will have its own FQDN, IP address, and Trading Agent credentials. The IP address will be from the same range as the existing BM test FTP server. Access to the BM test FTP server will continue to be provided until the end of the transition period.

EDL Connections

EDL maintains a continuous connection between NESO and Control Points.

The set of possible source IP addresses for EDL connections will be the same as the set of possible destination IP addresses defined above for EDT. However, although the set is the same across EDL and EDT, at any one time the individual address may be different across EDL and EDT.

The same is true of the connections from the OBP test environment.

The existing BM system is built on traditional computing. The software responsible for the EDL connection is deployed on a fixed server which means that connections are relatively stable, but in the event of planned maintenance or a site failure there can be an extended outage.

The new OBP system is built on modern computing which provides a resilient platform and reduced need for any planned outages. However, it should be noted that the software responsible for a particular EDL connection may be moved automatically by the system in response to failures. The Control Point connection will necessarily break when this happens but will automatically reconnect in one minute and a maximum of two minutes. An outage of more than 5 minutes signifies a more significant problem that cannot be recovered automatically and support teams should be engaged.

2. Phase 1

Readiness Activities

Providers will need to complete the network and configuration changes outlined above.

Prior to connecting to the OBP Production System (Prod), providers will need to successfully connect to the OBP Market Participant Test (MPT) environment.

Software Vendors will perform Type Testing with OBP in order to confirm that their software works successfully with the OBP system.

Trading Agents and Control Points will perform BPIT Lite testing with OBP in order to confirm that their software and network works successfully with the OBP system.

In addition, providers will need to demonstrate connectivity to the production environment, Network Access Test (NAT).

Testing of the transition of Trading Agents from the BM test system to the OBP test system will also be undertaken.

Start of Phase 1 Transition

The start of transition will require a planned outage of the BM system.

Following this the transition of Trading Agents and Control Points will happen in tranches over a 6-week window between January ‘26 and March ’26. Every Trading Agent and Control Point must transition to OBP during this window.

There are no NESO technical constraints on order in which Trading Agents and Control Points are transitioned; this will be determined based on operational risk.

New EDT/EDL connections or new BMUs will not be allowed to join the production systems during this period:

- The normal SORT static process will occur outside this period and so in most cases this restriction is no different from the BAU process.

- However, there is a further restriction that existing BMUs cannot transfer between Trading Agents/Control Points and new Supplier or Interconnector BMUs cannot be added during the transition period (these activities do not need a SORT static update).
- Other registration activities for new BMUs, such as type testing and testing of IEMS metering points, can continue as normal.
- If the transition takes longer than expected the transition will stop and there will be a normal SORT static update with any new BMUs that have successfully passed testing being added to SORT and SPICE. After this the transition will continue.

A more specific window will be confirmed once we have finished our readiness activities. Further details will be provided.

Participants should have been invited to complete a questionnaire which will inform this process.

Transition of Trading Agents

Each Trading Agent will be allocated a specific timeslot during the transition period during which they will need to update their system to connect to OBP instead of the BM System. On first connection to OBP the Trading Agent's folder will be empty; there will be no migration of previously processed submission, acknowledgement, rejection or acceptance files.

This approach does not require any downtime by the Trading Agent by NESO (although Trading Agent's own system changes may require this).

The first submission to OBP will reset the sequence number and therefore following this no further submissions to the BM System should be made unless there is a need to revert, and this is notified by the NESO Transition Manager.

Transition of Control Points

Each Control Point will be allocated a specific timeslot during the transition period during which NESO will update the BM System to stop connecting and OBP to start connecting. This will involve a short outage for each Control Point and therefore this will be coordinated on the day by the NESO Transition Manager in consultation with the NESO Electricity National Control Centre (ENCC).

It is not expected that Control Points will need to make any changes during the transition timeslot. If there are any issues then the configuration will be reverted.

Transition of Wider Access

Some participants do not use EDL/EDT directly and instead use Wider Access API.

This interface is provided by a separate gateway which will remain in place. Users of the Wider Access API will therefore not need to update or test their systems in any way.

NESO will manage moving the internal connection between the gateway and the BM system to OBP, alongside other Phase 1 transitions described above.

All Wider Access participants will be notified of the short maintenance window to do this.

End of Phase 1 Transition

Phase 1 is complete once all Trading Agents and Control Points have successfully transitioned to OBP.

OBP is designed and operated as a continuously available system therefore participants will benefit from reduced planned outages of EDT/EDL.

New Trading Agents and Control Points and new BMUs will be able to connect again. Detailed process to be established.

3. Phase 2

Further details of the network provider transition and potential EDL impact will be given at a later date.

4. Other Changes

The proposed Grid Code change for State of Charge (GC0166) is not yet approved and therefore is not in scope for EDT/EDL changes at this time.

5. Revision History

Version	Date	Comments
0.1	28/04/2025	Presented on-line during Industry webinar
1.0	08/05/2025	Added information on EDT file versioning
1.1	30/07/2025	Updated contact email address Updated transition dates Added more information on EDT FTPS and file handling Added more information on transition restrictions