Public

Technology Stakeholder Focus Group

20 Jan 2026

11:30 – 13:00

NESO
National Energy System Operator

Technology Stakeholder Focus Group Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Item Details	Presenter
11:30 - 11:35	Welcome	• Focus group session details • Audience participation	Nisha Bhamidimarri, OBP Senior Delivery Manager
11:35 – 12:25	EDT / EDL Update	• Background & Setting the Scene • Change in transition dates & the reasons why • Types of testing & timelines • Network Transformation • Next Steps	Nisha Bhamidimarri David Uzzell, Operational Manager Adam Tyler, Product Manager
12:25 – 12:35	Slow Reserve	• Migration Timeline • Next Steps	Nisha Bhamidimarri
12:35 – 12:55	Q&A	• Ask your questions to our SMEs	NESO Team
12:55 – 13:00	Closing Remarks	• March Balancing Programme webinar	Nisha Bhamidimarri
13:00	**Meeting Close**		

Audience Participation

There is time allocated to Q&A **towards the end of the session** - we will take all questions during this part of the agenda to ensure we get through all pre-prepared content.

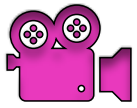
Please post any questions you have for our speakers in the Microsoft Teams Q&A ensuring to list both your **full name and organisation** - this will enable us to follow up with you after the webinar if necessary. During the Q&A section, you can also use the 'raise hand' function and come off mute to ask your question.

Out of scope questions will be forwarded on to the appropriate NESO team or expert for a direct response. We may ask you to contact us by email to ensure we have the correct contact details for the response.

We welcome your feedback & questions

For queries specific to EDT/EDL Box.OBP_EDT.EDL@neso.energy

For general queries Box.balancingprogramme@neso.energy



Today's Technology Focus Group will be **recorded and published online** after the session, along with the slide pack.

NESO National Energy System Operator

System Transformation – Where are we?

Previous landscape

System

Energy Forecasting System (EFS)

Electricity Balancing System (EBS)

Balancing Mechanism Systems (BM)

- SPICE (scheduling)
- SORT (dispatch)
- Vergil (dispatch)
- Demand Predictor
- Clogs (back-up system)

Ancillary Services Dispatch Platform (ASDP)

- Non-BM Response & Reserve services
- MW dispatch

January 2025

System

EFS

Platform for Energy Forecasting (PEF)

BM

- Scheduling
- Electronic Dispatch & Logging (EDL) / Electronic Data Transfer (EDT)

Open Balancing Platform (OBP Strategic)

- National Optimisation
- Bulk dispatch capabilities
- OBP is a fully integrated system
- New Secure Internet Gateway
- Market Services Deployed
- Manual instructions
- Ancillary Service instructions
- Constraint management
- Real Time Predictions phase 1

ASDP

- Non-BM Responses
- MW dispatch

April 2026

System

PEF

BM

15% of SORT functionality
60% of SPICE functionality

Fully Resilient OBP (OBP Strategic)

85% of SORT functionality
40% of SPICE functionality

Including:

- Constraint Optimisation
- National Optimisation
- BM & Non-BM Slow Reserve
- Network Services
- EDL/EDT Mastering
- New storage parameters
- Real Time Predictions phase 2
- PEF integration

April 2027

System

PEF

Fully Resilient OBP

- Complete migration of balancing functions to OBP
- Modern, resilient, adaptable and scalable system
- Reduced downtime
- More opportunities for Flexibility Providers
- No differentiation between BM and non-BM units
- Improved situational awareness
- More economic dispatch & lower consumer costs
- Reduced CO2 emissions

If you missed our Nov 2025 event, catch-up *here* to view more detail about where we are in our balancing & forecasting transformation journey.

Terminology Explainer

Term	Description
BMU – Balancing Mechanism Unit	Balancing Mechanism (BM) Units are used as units of trade within the Balancing Mechanism. Each BM Unit accounts for a collection of plant and/or apparatus and is considered the smallest grouping that can be independently controlled. As a result, most BM Units contain either a generating unit or a collection of consumption meters. The Grid Code obliges parties to register depending on type and size criteria with NESO. Each Party that has responsibility for Exports and/or Imports onto the Transmission System must ensure that the Plant and/or Apparatus which gives rise to those Exports and/or Imports are comprised registered as BM Units with NESO. Parties may also choose to register smaller BMUs in order to participate actively in the Balancing Mechanism. Interconnector Users are required to register BMUs, regardless of capacity, in pairs (Import & Export expressed as Demand & Generation BMUs).
Asset	Same as BMU.
Lead Party	Lead Party is the owner of the BM Unit. The party who has responsibility in the BSC and Grid Code for the operation of the BM Unit.

Terminology Explainer

Term	Description
Trading Agent	The point, designated by a market participant, from where Physical Notifications, Export & Import Limits and Bid Offer Data prices are submitted to NESO via EDT.
Control Point	The point at which a market participant receives Bid Offer Acceptances and Ancillary Service instructions from NESO and submits Export & Import Limits and Dynamic Parameters to NESO via EDL. This would normally be a site from which the participant exercises real-time control of demand, or in the case of a power station, the point where this is physically controlled by the BM Participant.
Virtual Lead Party	Lead Party of Secondary BMU.
Wider Access Provider	Providers using Wider Access API to provide and receive data from NESO.
Market Participant	Market Participant is ANY participant in the UK electricity market. Market Participants can perform a number of roles within the market such as Lead Party, EDT Trading Agent or EDL Control Point or Supplier or Interconnector Party.

Terminology Explainer

Term	Description
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network – ISDN - is an older telecommunications standard that digitalized traditional copper phone lines, data, over the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) using distinct digital channels, it's largely being phased out globally, in UK this services will reach end of life by Jan 2027. This is mainly used as backup communication channel for EDL/EDT.
MPLS	Multi-Protocol Label Switching - MPLS - provides a faster, reliable Wide Area Network. Used in EDL/EDT. Vodafone is the current service provider for EDL/EDT.
Optel	Private Network Circuit using DarkFibre managed by National Grid, primarily used for EDL connectivity, especially for any Control Point situated at a Generation Site
Megastream	A legacy BT business-grade, high-speed digital leased line service designed for permanent point-to-point data links.
NAT	Network Access Test to prove E2E connectivity between NESO and Market Participants.
Type Test	Confirmation that software at both ends are compatible.
BPIT	Business Process Integration Test – E2E business data e.g., Maximum Export Limit (MEL) flow tests
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network - It's the traditional, copper-based telephone network used for landlines and fax lines. In the UK, PSTN (and ISDN) services are in the process of being switched off nationally by January 2027.

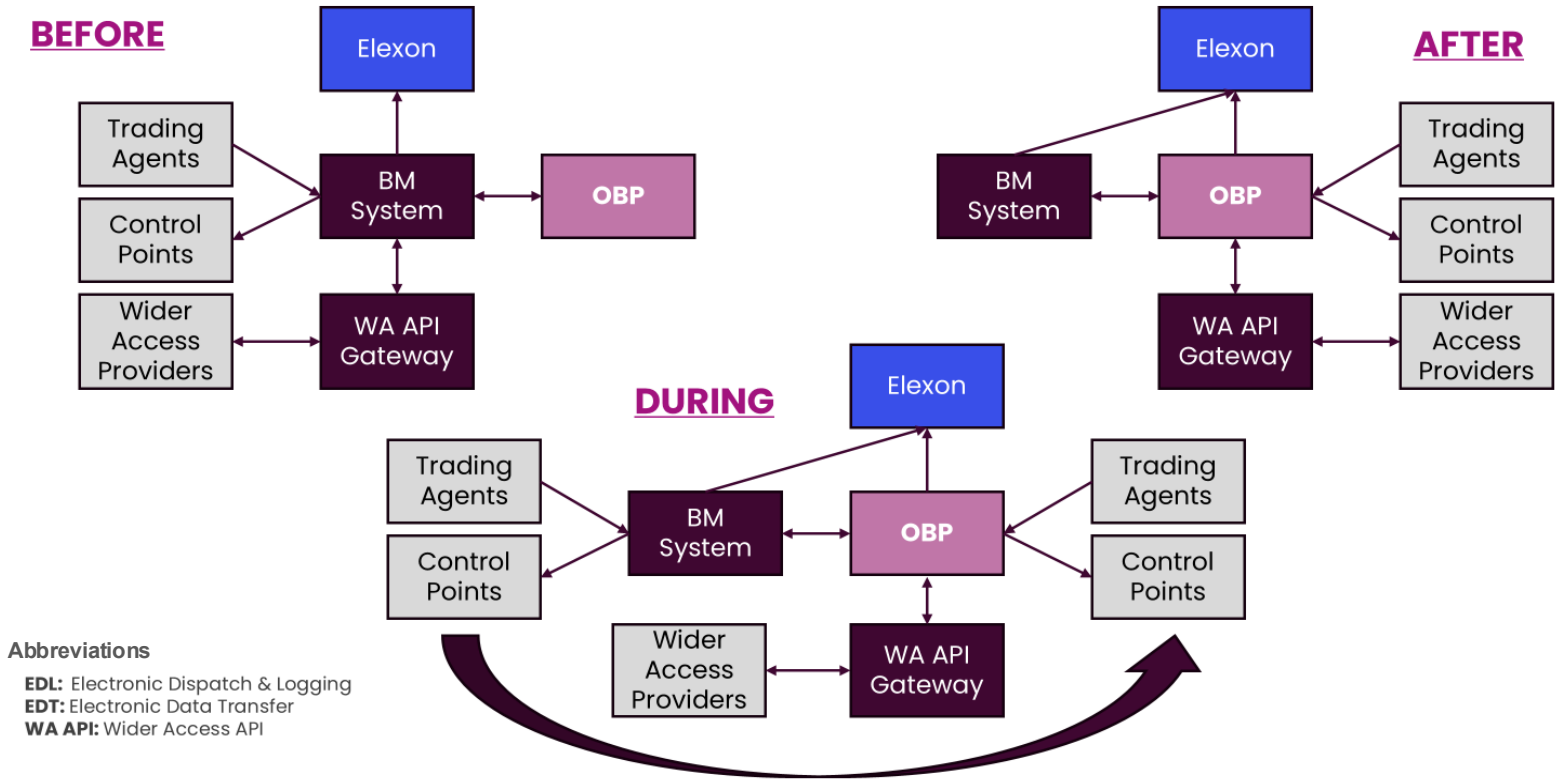
EDT/EDL Update

EDT/EDL Transition Update

NESO are updating their IT systems that enable BSC parties to send and receive Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) and Electronic Dispatch and Logging (EDL) data to/from NESO, as NESO transition BM system functionality onto the OBP.

As EDT and EDL are critical interfaces, NESO requires the support of Market Participants and Software Providers to ensure a smooth transition from the existing platform (BM systems) to the new platform (OBP).

The EDT/EDL transition, originally scheduled for Q4FY26 (March 2026), has been moved to Q1FY27 (April – June 2026)



The Rationale for the Move in Transition Date

NESO have been carrying out a comprehensive review of all EDT/EDL sites and have received feedback from industry that they would like network changes to increase the resiliency of the existing network design. To make sure the transition happens smoothly we have decided to take more time to complete the necessary network changes, testing, and training before moving EDT/EDL to OBP.

This revised timeline will:

- Provide more time for industry readiness – giving network and software providers the space they need to complete upgrades and testing.
- Implement network changes that take full advantage of the automatic failover capabilities of OBP.
- Enable improved system reliability – allowing extra testing to confirm resilience and performance across all connections.
- Create stronger operational confidence – ensuring Control Room teams are fully trained and authorised before switching systems.
- Ensure a smoother transition – enabling a coordinated move for all participants when everything is proven and ready.

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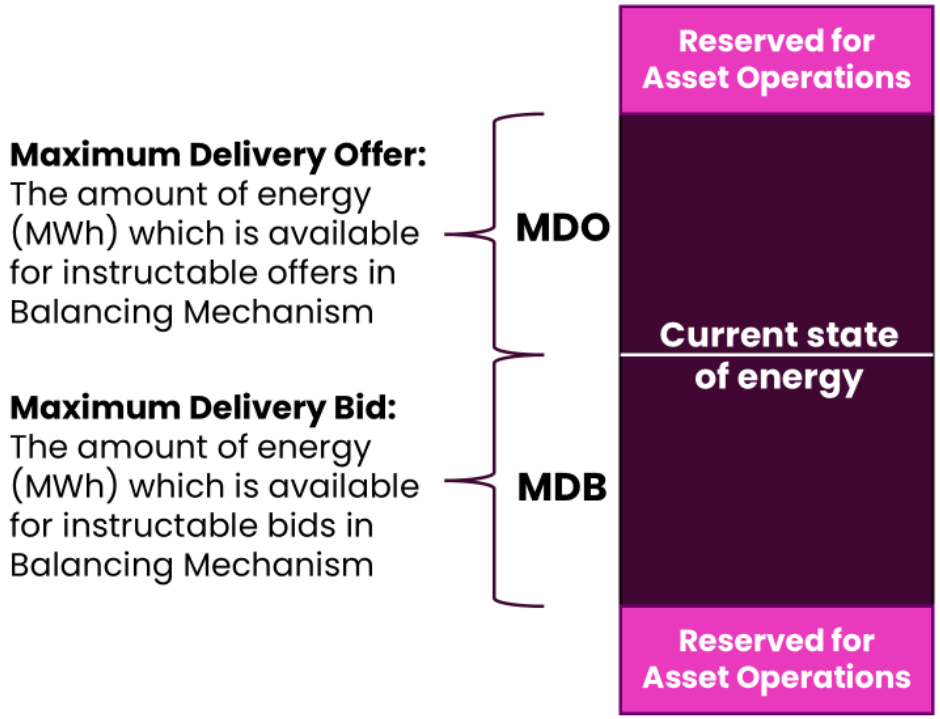
GC0166 Grid Code Change not Impacted

Implementation timelines for Grid Code change GC0166 — which introduces new data parameters for Limited Duration Assets - will not be impacted.

Whilst originally, we had planned to include this update as part of the EDT/EDL move to OBP, we'll now first add GC0166 to the existing Balancing Mechanism systems to support Industry and to decouple the GC0166 transition.

The new parameters will still be passed to OBP for use, but this approach lets us separate the two changes for smoother delivery.



Current state of energy of an asset will change e.g. dependent on energy bought/sold in wholesale market, delivery of bids and offers and provision of services

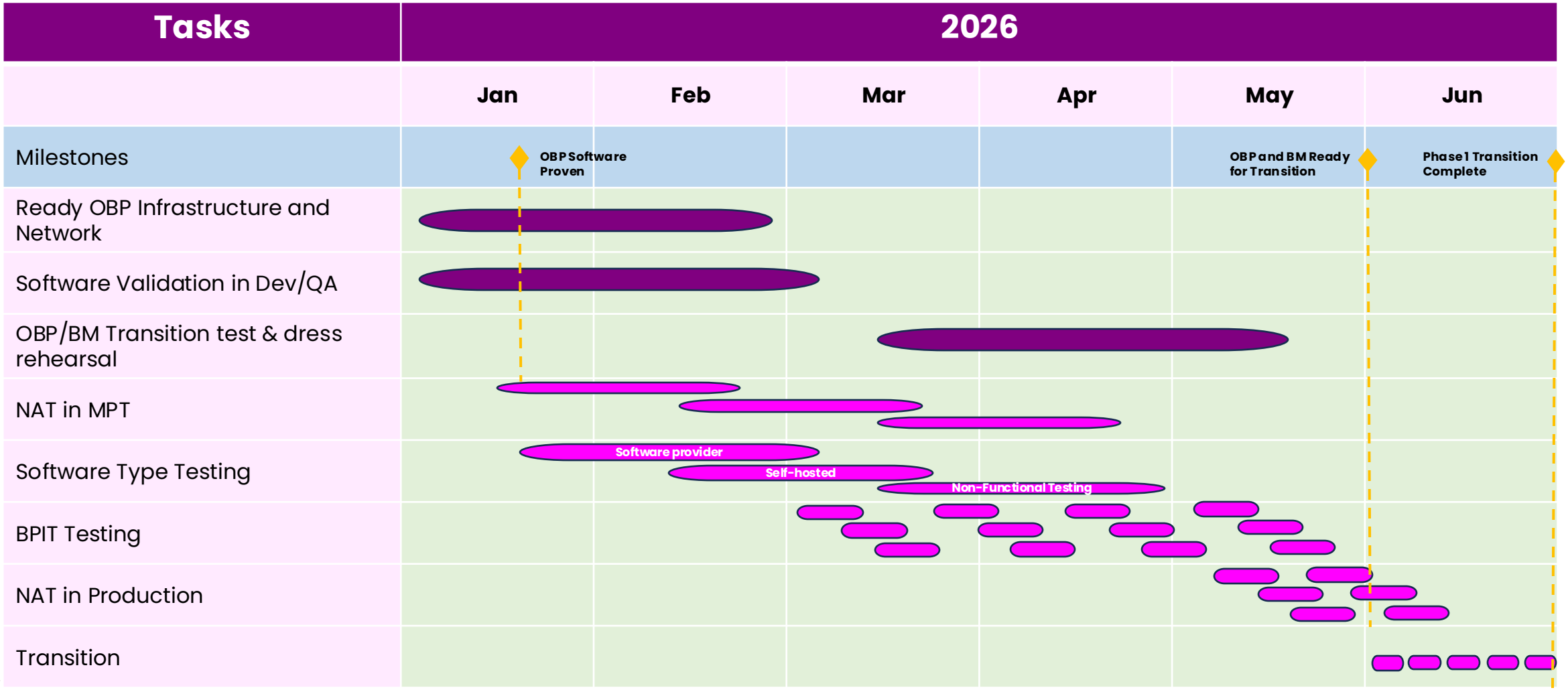
This will require **resubmission of MDO and MDB** to reflect recent activity

Future State of Energy is a **forward projection of energy stored** in module

Revised EDT/L Plan on a Page

NESO

NESO and Market



EDT/EDL Transition

Start of Transition

BM Release to start transition

Planned Outage to market

Phased Approach

Each week we will transition TA & CP in tranches

Tuesdays and Thursdays

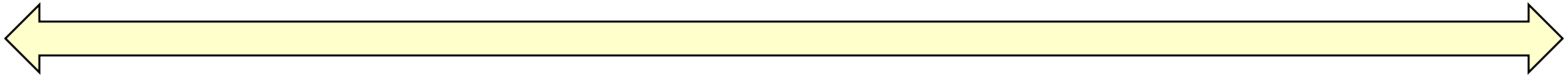
There will be a short outage for the TA & CP doing the transition

Transition Complete

All TA & CPs transitioned from BM to OBP for EDL/EDT communications.

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

Transition to take place within Q1 FY27 (April – June 2026)



During transition the usual SORT Static process will continue as normal for new BMUs

Impact on Software Vendors & Market Participants

EDT Changes:

- A new Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN)
- A different DNS server
- New IP addresses to be whitelisted
- A new security protocol for file transfer – FTPS; access to the BM test FTP server will continue to be provided until the end of the transition period
- Updated credentials for login to new system
- Additional routing to enable connectivity via Vodafone MPLS via Change Request raised with Vodafone – more on this later!

EDL Changes:

- Connection established from a different IP address compared to BM
- Same pool of IP addresses as EDT - may be a different IP address
- Change in pattern of outage

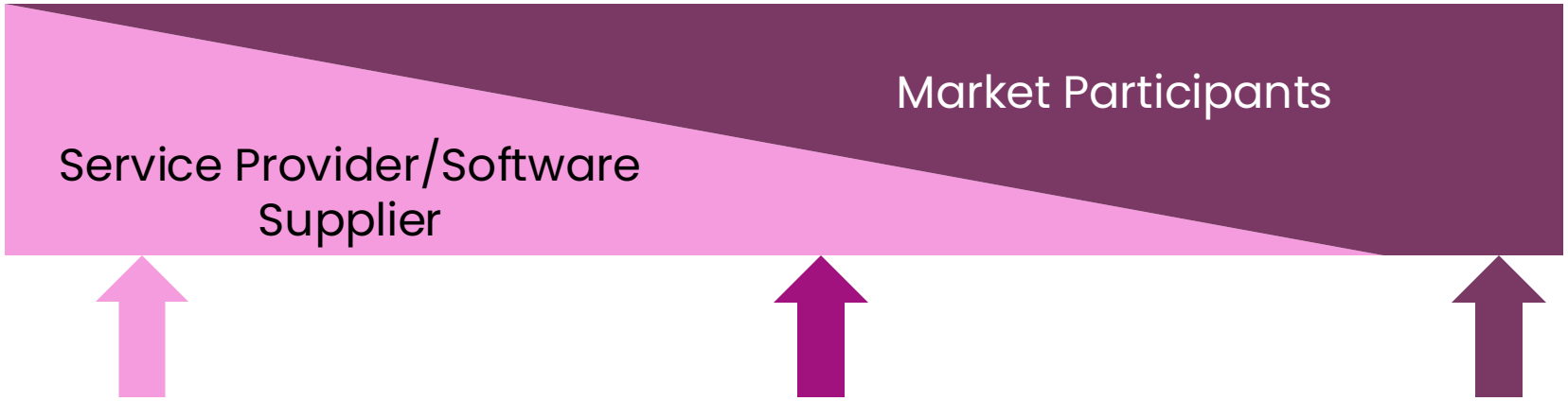
Guidance Document

- Details on transition phases
- Impact on Software Vendors and Market Participants
- Overview of Testing Requirements
- Access the Guide for Market Participants **here**

**** A new version of EDT/EDL Transition Guide for Market Participants will be published toward end of this week, containing details of additional network changes ****

Patterns in Connectivity Solutions

Each Market Participant will either have developed their own bespoke software for EDT and EDL or use Software supplied by an approved Software Supplier



Managed Service Provider
- Host Software for Trading Agents & Control Point Agents
- Connect to NESO

Market Participant
- Generate Data

Software Service Provider
- Write software of Trading Agents and Control Points

Market Participant
- Establish Connectivity with NESO
- Host Software purchased from software provider
- Generate Data

Market Participant
- Write Software as trading agent or control point agent
- Establish connectivity with NESO
- Generate Data

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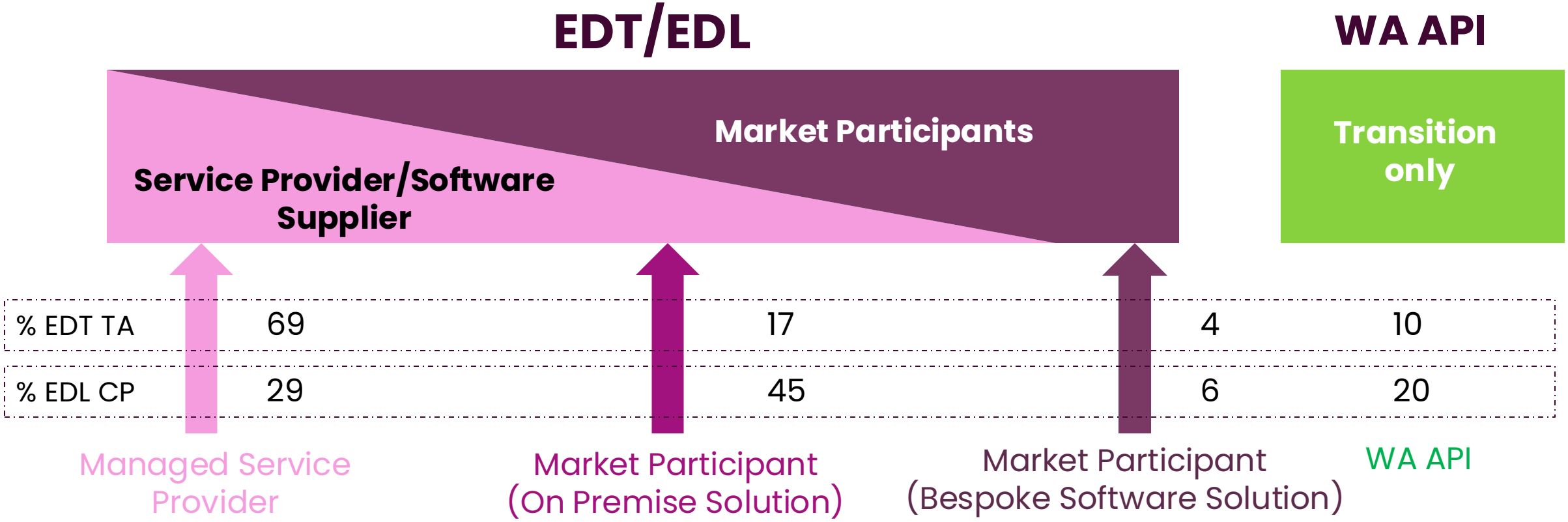
Overview of EDL/EDT Solution in industry



- 10 Software service providers (9 engaged)
- 85 Trading Agents
- 121 Control Points
- 55 EDL Communication links
- 31 EDT Communication links

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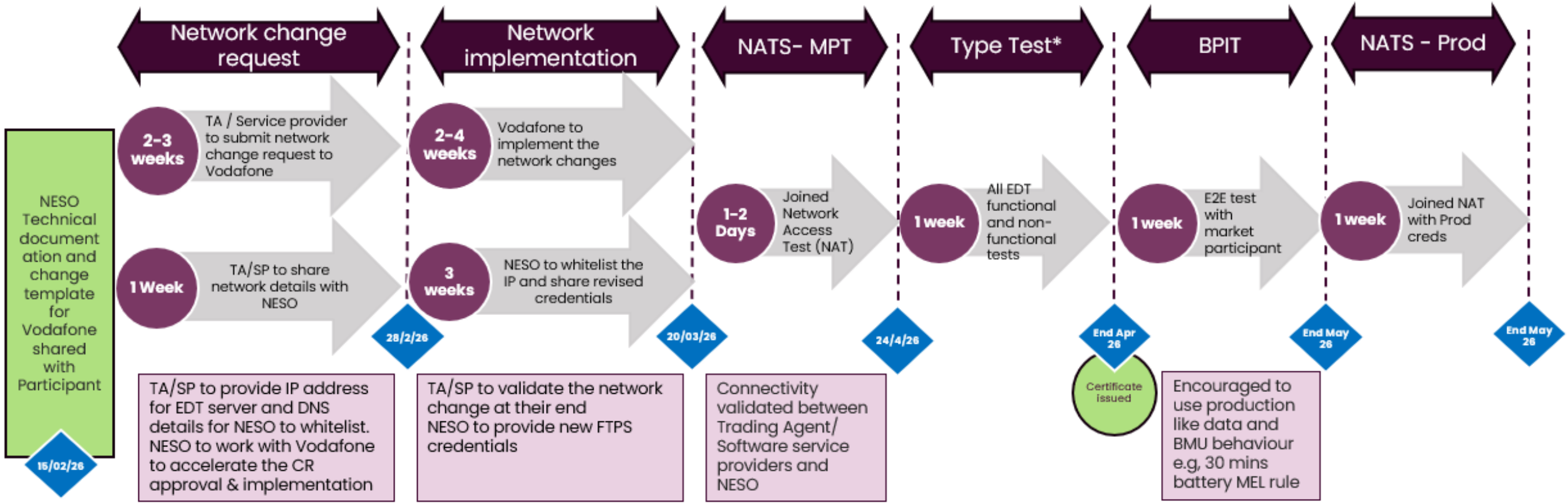
Type of Testing with NESO

	NATS – MPT	Type Test	BPIT Lite - MPT	NATS - PROD
Software service provider	☑	☑		
Managed Service Provider – Hosting provider on behalf of TA/CP	☑	☑	☑	☑
Market Participants with on Prem solution from software service provider	☑		☑	☑
Bespoke solution – self hosted	☑	☑	☑	☑

OBP EDT Market Participant Testing

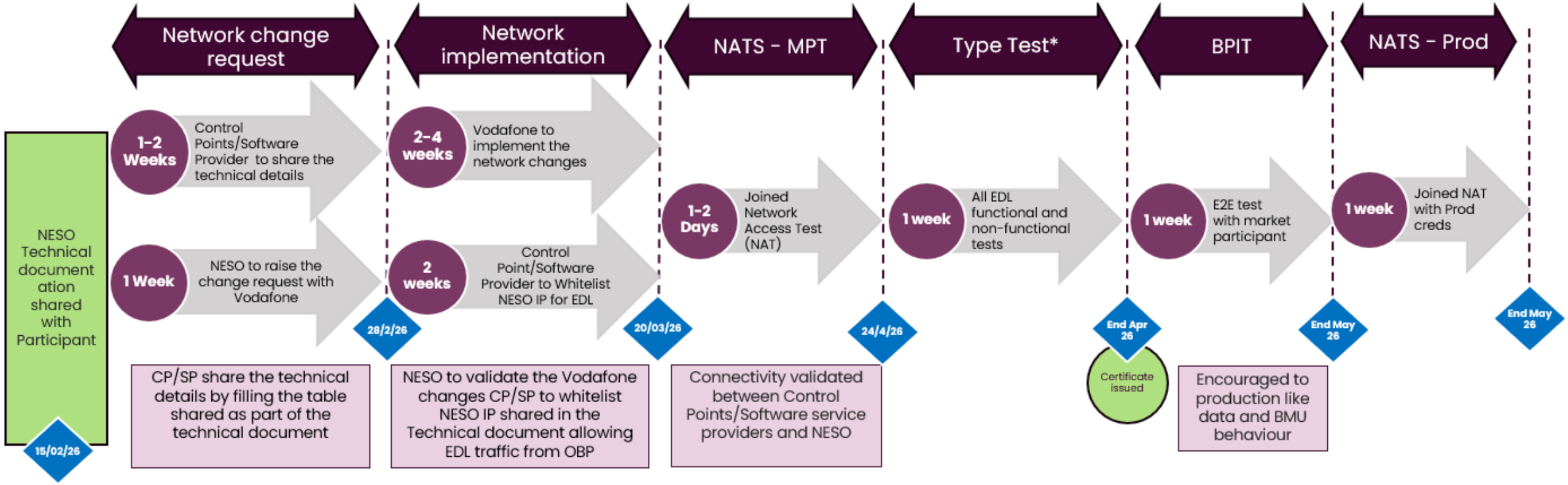


* The range of time period allows for time taken to make corrective actions, such as defects, process changes etc

xxx Required start of stage date to ensure readiness for EDT/EDL Go Live

* *Type test only applicable to Software Suppliers/Managed Service Providers*

OBP EDL Test with Software Provider



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Phase 2: Increased Resilience for EDT/EDL

1

Current state:

Single connection to single site at NESO while connecting to BM.

Any site or network outage forces a move to secondary connectivity link to another NESO site

2

Interim State:

OBP Mastering will ensure increased resilience for MPLS links by allowing auto fail over between NESO routers

3

Future State:

NESO Led network transformation will create a highly resilient EDL connectivity and will provide participants options to improve the resiliency of their EDT connectivity

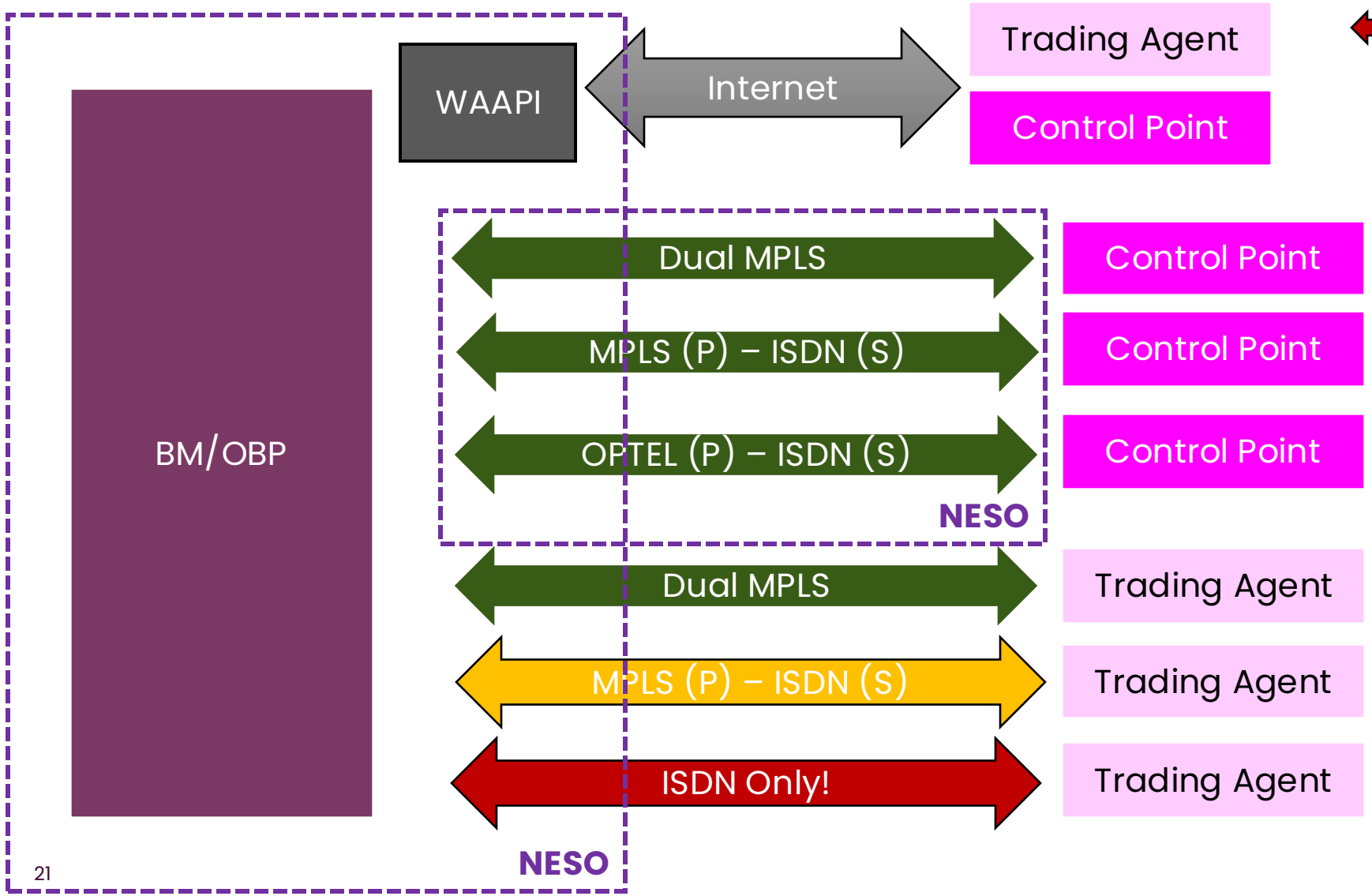
Originally discussed phase 2 at April 2024 Technology Focus Group – view the slide pack here.

Network Transformation ISDN

Key

- No impact
- NESO has plans
- Participants might lose backup line
- Participants at high risk and need to act now

Type of network connectivity



Key Take Away:

There are multiple patterns of network connectivity; any pattern which involves ISDN will need to make changes.

NESO will own ISDN changes for EDL (connection to Control Point), whilst Trading Agents are responsible for their ISDN connections.

Alternative Approach to ISDN

- NESO to Control Points will be replaced by dual Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) circuits; engagement is underway for this currently with a push to get circuits ordered

- For Trading Agents to NESO, if you still have an ISDN connection then this will need to be replaced ASAP. Currently we can only support connections via Vodafone. They have several products that you can use to reach the Vodafone MPLS network;
  - SoTAP - Single Order Transitional Access Product
  - SoGEA - Single Order Generic Ethernet Access
  - FTTP - Fibre to the Premises
  - SDSL/Ethernet First Mile - Symmetric Digital Subscriber Line
  - Ethernet (copper and fibre)
  - SISA-Secure Internet Site Access (IPSEC VPN)

- We also support cloud connects from AWS and Azure for EDT purposes

- Vodafone Contact Point – Robert Gibbs - Client Sales Manager, robert.gibbs@vodafone.com

NESO Telecoms Network Transformation

Current Landscape: Existing communications links used by market participants to communicate with NESO using EDL, Scada and Control Telephony use an aging infrastructure and, in many cases, rely on end-of-life components such as ISDN technology.

What are we doing? To remove this aged equipment from NESO's network and provide an improved experience for market participants which offers increased resilience, NESO and National Grid are currently implementing a project to install new MPLS links for EDL, Scada and Control Telephony comms to participants sites.

Timeframes: It is anticipated that this programme of work which will take several years to complete and provide a network which is fit for purpose for NESO and the industry for many years to come.

Key shut down dates:

- June 26 Megastream final cut off
- Jan 27 PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) shut down

Who does this Impact & why?

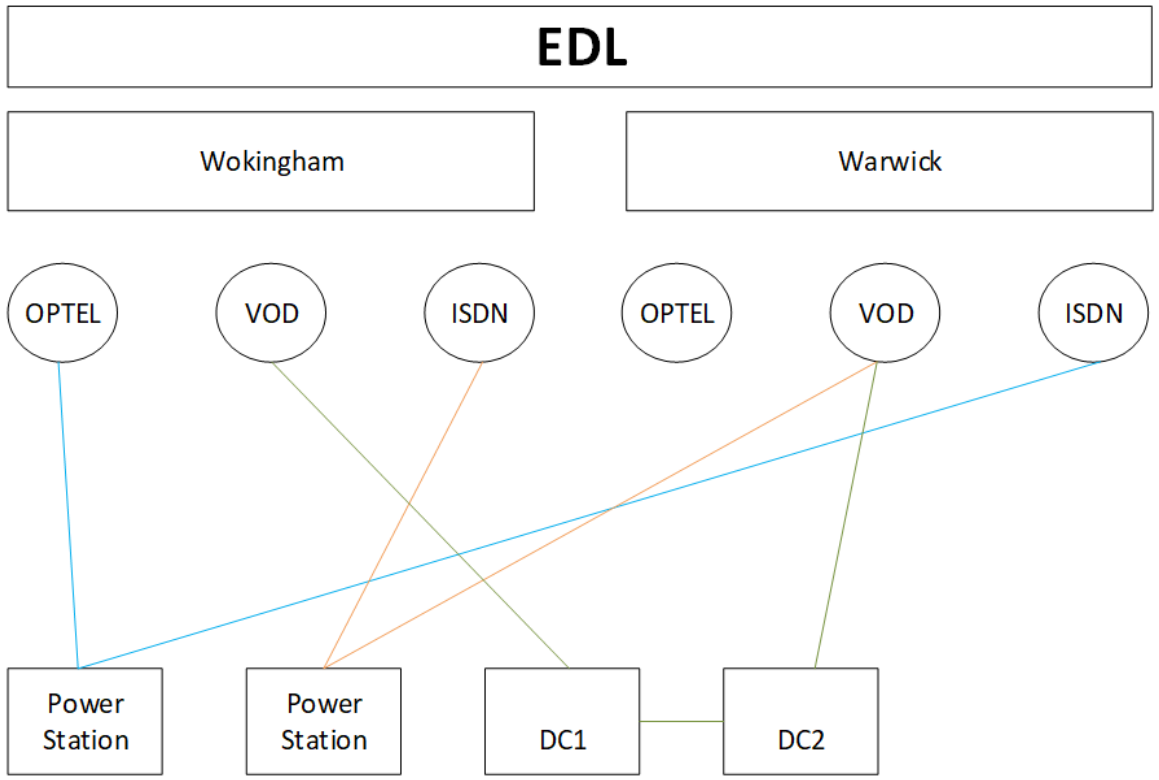
In order to implement the new network connections, NESO, National Grid and our communications network provider M Group will **require support from market participants technical staff with a direct EDL connection** to help identify solutions for deploying the new network links and equipment on individual sites and support the implementation of the new links/ equipment.

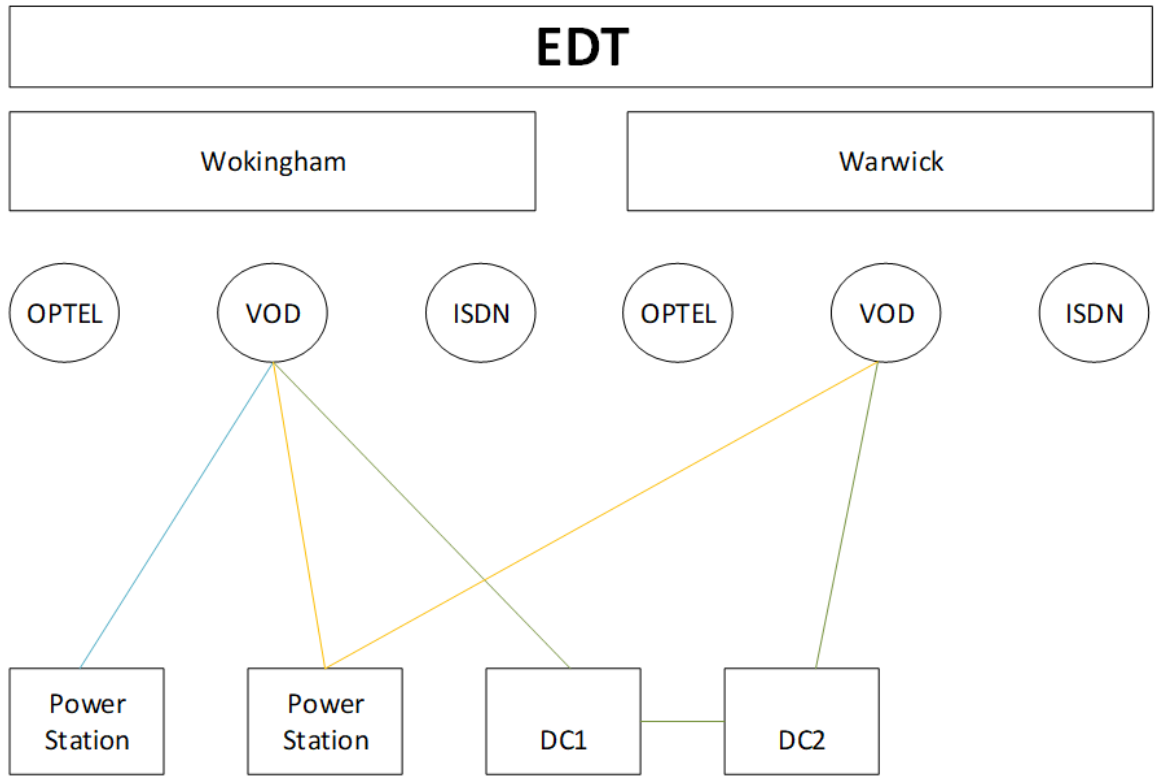
We will require market participants support for the following activities:

- A survey visit to site requiring access to the rooms where the existing and new communications equipment is to be installed, these are ongoing for all critical sites
- A visit by BT to install the new fibre links and ADVAs to the market participant's site
- A visit by M Group to install the new routers and other equipment required for the new service
- A visit by M Group for cutover to the new network connection and removal of the old equipment

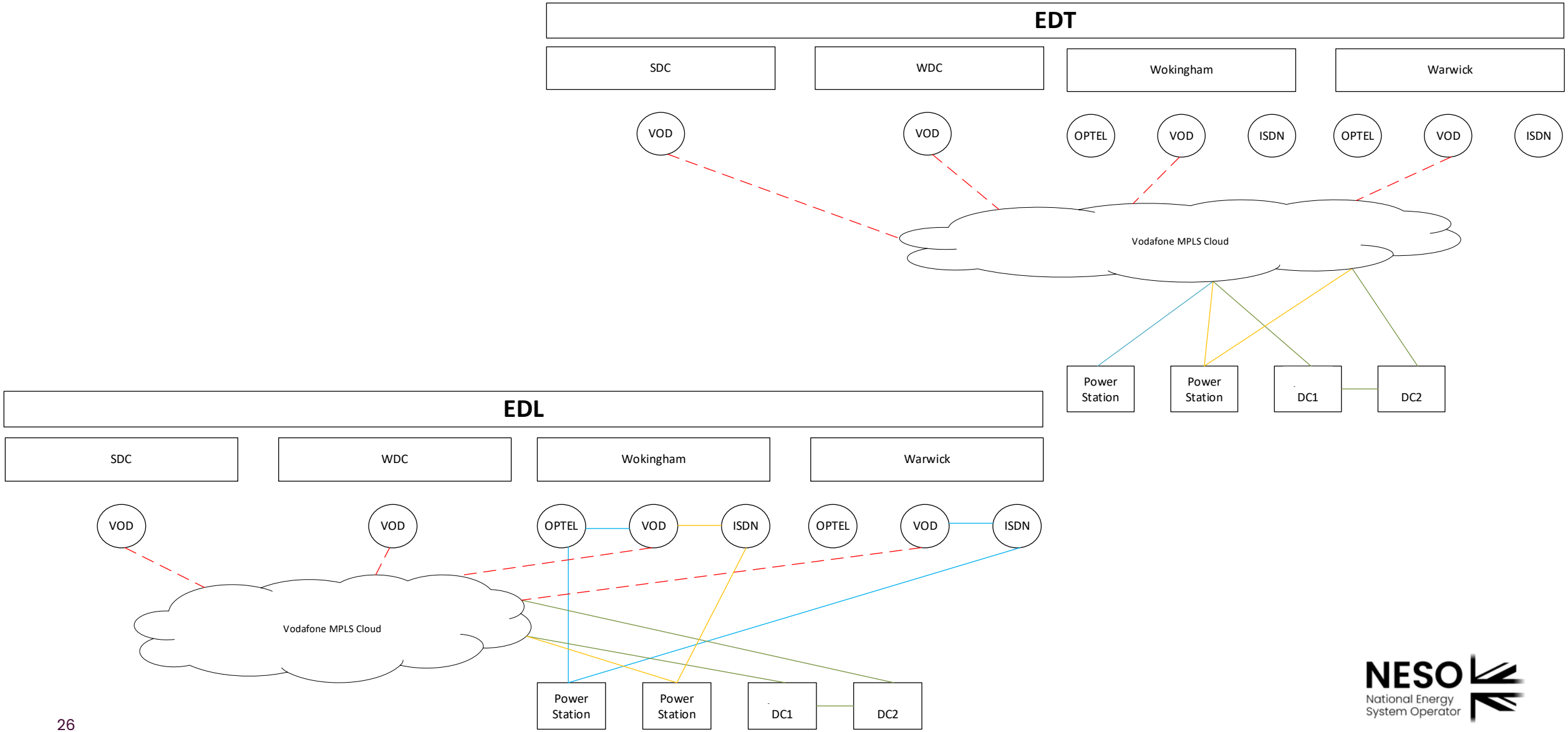
Full details of the process for the final cutover, including planned outage requirements for EDL, Scada and Control Telephony services, are still being developed; they will be shared with you by the NESO team as part of the process for installing your new NESO connection.

Current Network State

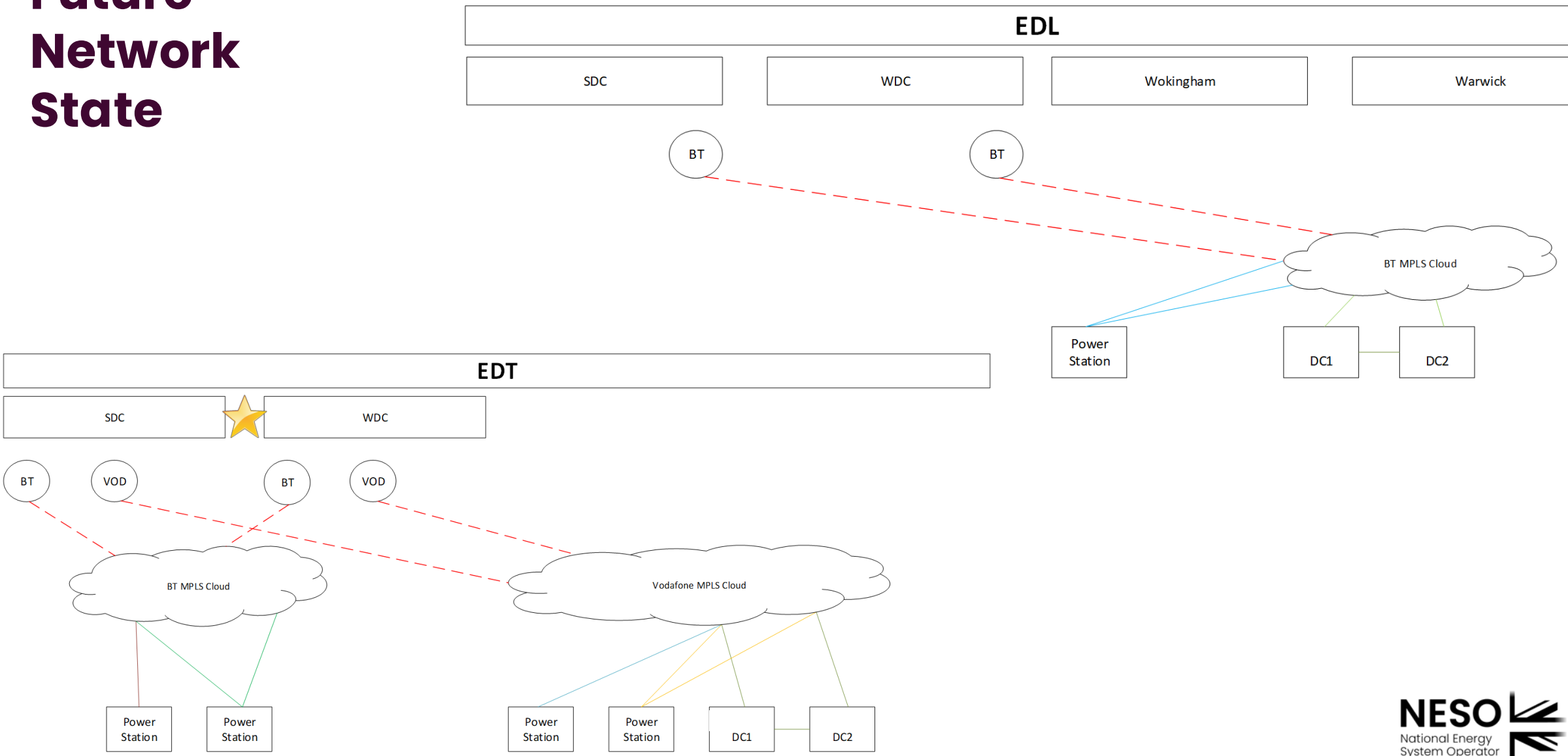




Interim Network State

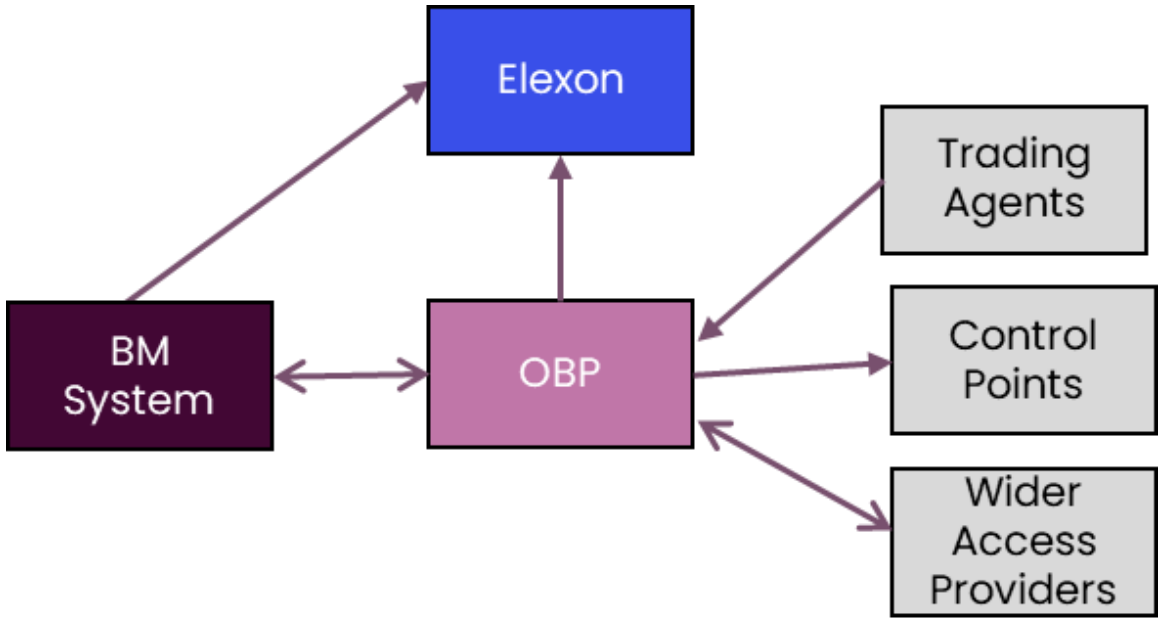


Future Network State



Future of WA API

- As part of EDT/EDL migration, there will be no change to WA API providers - they have nothing to do.
- As part of transition to NESO being fully independent, plans are being drawn to migrate WA API to OBP.
- The migration aims to minimise the change to WA API providers – minimise software and/or network change.
- Further details to follow in the next Balancing Programme Technology Focus Group.
- We will reach out to providers who use WA API to discuss migration plans.



OBP Integration Next Steps

EDT Providers

Please contact Vodafone engagement team to kick start the network change and support NATS and BPIT

EDL Providers

Please look out for communication from the NESO team enabling network changes, and support NATS and BPIT

Software Service Providers

Please work with us to plan MPT, transition timeline and prioritisation. Once Type test is completed, a planning workshop is encouraged.

Slow Reserve

Slow Reserve

Key Dates

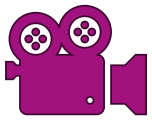
- SR Go-live announced as 31 March 2026 with STOR ending on 30 March 2026
- Additional information available in the Transition Plan on the website

If you are a STOR Provider

- There will be new Registration, Auction, Balancing system (non-BM), Operational Metering (non-BM), and Settlement requirements from the systems you currently use in STOR today.

Onboarding

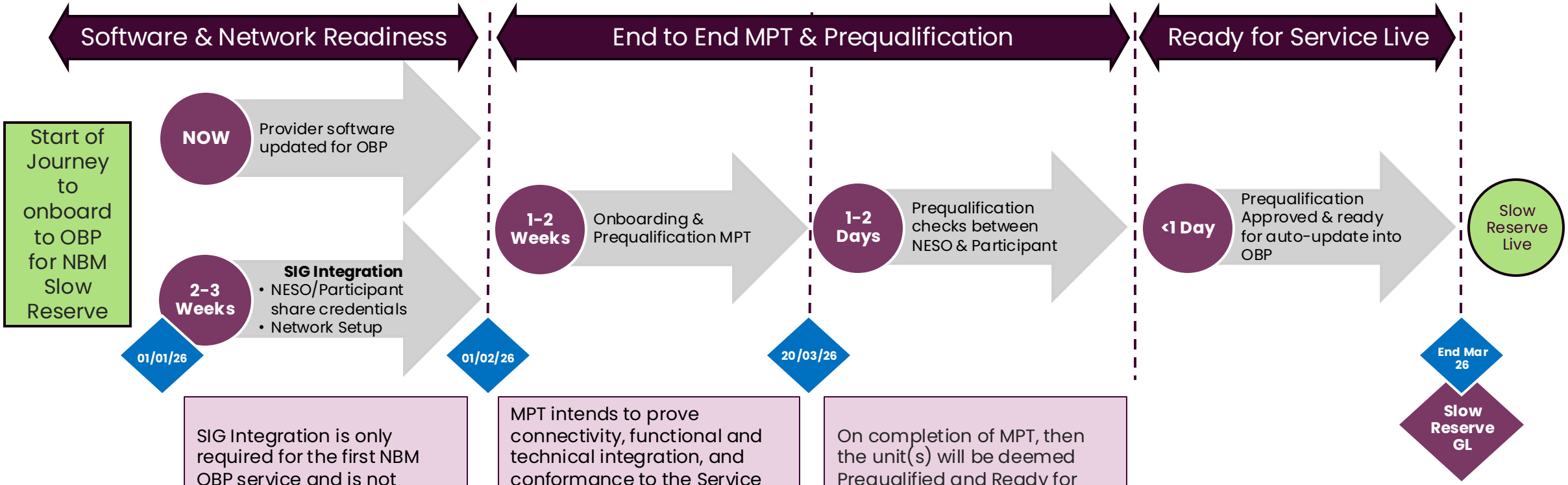
- NESO are committed to working with all existing and new providers that wish to participate in SR from go-live. Providers are encouraged to reach out to their Account Manager or commercial.operation@neso.energy ASAP. You'll be supported through the onboarding process to help you be ready for go-live.



Missed our Latest Webinar?

- You can catch up on our Slow Reserve Technical Onboarding Webinar here & download the slide pack here.

OBP NBM Slow Reserve Onboarding Timeline



* The range of time period allows for time taken to make corrective actions, such as defects, process changes etc

xxx Required start of stage date to ensure readiness for Slow Reserve Go Live

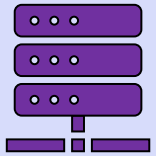
We Need Your Support

Currently 3 out of 16 STOR Non-BM providers have contacted the OBP team to understand the process for delivering Slow Reserve - 1 of these providers has shown readiness to start MPT in the next 2 weeks; no provider has submitted network configuration details as of 20 January 2026.

Please express your interest & share details with us ASAP to enable us to kickstart the discussion

Contact:

commercial.operation@neso.energy / box.balancingprogramme@neso.energy



Plan network changes in parallel with your software changes, and coordinate with NESO to kick start the network configuration process

Carry out MPT in multiple phases – start with testing heartbeats

NBM Slow Reserve Business Logic Document & Crossover Guidance are published here under IT integrations, together with WSDL files

Q&A

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Closing Remarks

Project Contact Points:

Please ensure you can receive emails from @neso.energy

Queries specific to EDT/EDL

Box.OBP_EDT.EDL@neso.energy

General queries

Box.balancingprogramme@neso.energy

Name/Role Title: **Gracie Nurse,** Delivery Lead

Responsibilities: Manage communications for all testing and transition activities with Market Participants

Contact: gracie.nurse1@neso.energy

Balancing Programme March 2026 Webinar

Date: 26 March 2026

Time: 11:00 – 12:30pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

You will hear the latest progress updates on our Balancing and Forecasting capabilities delivered into the Control Room along with further information on upcoming future capabilities planned for delivery. As always there will be updates from our subject matter experts and opportunities to ask questions.

A more detailed agenda will be shared closer to the webinar.

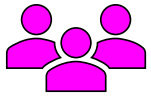
To sign up to the event, click **here** or scan the QR code below.

Closing Remarks . . .

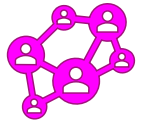
We welcome your feedback & questions

For queries specific to EDT/EDL — Box.OBP_EDT.EDL@neso.energy
For general queries — Box.balancingprogramme@neso.energy
Gracie Nurse, EDT/EDL Delivery Lead — gracie.nurse1@neso.energy

The recording & slides from today's session will be published on our website and shared with stakeholders signed up to this Technology Focus Group.



Sign-up to our other Stakeholder Focus Groups for Optimisation & Forecasting to receive invites to these sessions - **Balancing Programme Stakeholder Focus Groups**.



If you are interested in a regular meeting with a representative from the Balancing Programme and would like more information, please get in contact using the email address above.

Subscribe to our NESO newsletter **here** - please select **Future of Balancing Services inc. Balancing Programme** to keep up to date.

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Public

Technology Stakeholder Focus Group

20 Jan 2026

11:30 – 13:00

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