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Gemini Re-platforming Project

Gas Operations Forum

11th July 2012

Background

- The Gemini system has been operational since 2004/5 and is now approaching the end of its planned asset life.
- Gemini Re-platforming Project (GRP) has been established to deliver an updated design that utilises fully supported hardware and software and thus ensure a high level of service continuity for the next five years.
- GRP is replacing technology not re-writing the application and the Gemini service will be unchanged. There will be no changes to the existing Gemini functionality, or to the look and feel of screens.
- The new Gemini infrastructure will be located at Xoserve data centres in Peterborough and Kettering.
- GRP is scheduled to go-live 9th June 2013.

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Industry Engagement

- Xoserve has used the UK Link Committee, and other Operational Forums to notify External Users of the changes and impacts to that will be introduced by GRP.
- External Users have been asked to support 'Readiness Testing' – to ensure there is no interruption to access when the new system goes live. However, to date, uptake has been extremely low.
- Readiness Testing is vital in ensuring that external organisations are prepared for the switch over.
- Members of the Gas Operations Forum are asked to encourage organisations to register their participation in Readiness Testing by contacting GRPcommunications@xoserve.com by 1st September 2012.

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External User Impacts

- Minor amendments to a command file on the API* clients used by External Users and additional changes to establish connectivity to the re-located Gemini environments will be required. These changes are the responsibility of external organisations and their technical teams.
- External Users will have the opportunity to test these changes during Readiness Testing. (Scheduled for 21st January 2013 to 1st March 2013.)
- There is no requirement for External Users to conduct functional testing. However, if they wish, users have an opportunity to participate in Optional Functional Testing. External Users are invited to register their interest by contacting GRPcommunications@xoserve.com by 1st August 2012.
- If you or your technical teams have any queries, please contact Andy Earnshaw on 0121 623 2820 or Andrew Boyton on 0121 623 2363.

* Application Programming Interface (an automated mechanism for External Users to request data)

Appendix 1 – GRP Development Timeline

