

Introduction



Spring is in the air...

With nights getting lighter, the warm weather creeping back in and Easter eggs filling the supermarket shelves, here at MRASCo we are preparing for a big advent of our own – the MRAs 21st Birthday.

The MRA was created back in 1998, before the release of the iPhone, before the introduction of Broadband and when Shania Twain was Female artist of the year. Things have moved on since then, but what has remained consistent is MRASCos dedication to bringing you first class Code Management.

To celebrate this landmark anniversary, we are creating a video which looks to solidify the legacy of the MRA, including interviews with key figures from its past and present. The launch of the video will be featured on the MRASCo website in May, so keep your eyes peeled. We have included an article in this edition to commemorate the MRA and its legacy which you can find on page 6.

We hope you enjoy this edition, and as always, if you have any feedback let us know by contacting us using the details on page 7.

Rachel Clarke – MRA Governance and Communications Manager

MRASCo News

Market Intelligence Service update

The successful launch of 'twin fuel' API-based access to both ECOES and the gas registration system, DES in December 2018 has steadily grown pace. We're pleased to report there has been strong interest from MRA parties, with 24 having been granted access. One Third Party Intermediary has also been granted access.

Discussions in JMDG continue to focus around the future of the MIS and what this should look like. Some of the focus on this has been to take the group forward with a new MRA project lead, and the JMDG group welcomed Max O'Connor into the role from February 2019.

The suggestions that the MIS could become a pan-code governance framework for energy data products is still a key focus for the project team and with a review of this taking place in Summer 2019, the project team is in the process of transferring delivery of specific use cases into business as usual under the MRA and UNC. A final

round of engagement is occurring over the next two months to afford stakeholders the opportunity to suggest any other specific use cases that they feel the MIS should deliver.

MRA parties will be kept up to date with progress via the newsletter.

MRASCo Budget & Three-Year Strategy

The MRASCo Forum convened on 8th March 2019 and the 2019/20 Budget & Three-Year Strategy was ratified by the MRASCo Shareholders.

The Strategy looks to set out the upcoming focus of the MRA over the next three years, including anticipating industry curve so the MRA can remain flexible to market movement.

We continue to work with Ofgem and with industry to drive the programme to implement improved switching arrangements which will result in a faster and more reliable experience for customers across Great Britain. MRA parties have been integral to the design and development of many elements of the programme. Although there is a strong focus on the future, there remains a tremendous amount of activity being carried out in the day-to-day running of the MRA in its current guise.

Below are some of the MRASCo initiatives for the forthcoming year;

- Continued work to support Ofgem with the implementation of the Switching programme;
- Industry Data cleansing and preparing parties for 'Stage Zero' and DBT (Design Build & Test);
- Priority Services register and exploration of a 'Pan-utility Priority Services Register'; and
- Continued work on the area of Erroneous Transfers.

Industry parties can be involved in any of these initiatives, and if you are interested in getting more information on this, you can contact the MRA Helpdesk on MRASCoHelpdesk@Gemserv.com.

MRASCo News

Faster Switching Service

Ofgem Procurement

On 6th March 2019, Ofgem [announced](#) they had completed the procurement for the Switching Programme Systems Integrator (SI) and advised that the contract had been awarded to Netcompany, who are in the process of onboarding to the Programme. The SI will be responsible for coordinating the Design, Build and Test (DBT) phase activity between existing and new system providers.

The next big procurement milestone coming up will be the contract signature of the Central Switching Service (CSS) Provider(s). DCC have selected their preferred bidder and are engaged in contract negotiations. This period is commercially sensitive, DCC expect to formally announce the successful bidder(s) around the time of entry to the DBT phase in April.

Retail Energy Code (REC)

In February 2019, Ofgem designated and published REC version 1.0 and appointed an interim RECCo Board, which has been composed of MRA and SPAA directors and an independent Chair.

On 1st February 2019 Ofgem released a decision titled: Way forward on the development of the Retail Energy Code and retail code consolidation. The document summarises responses and sets out the way forward on the policy questions asked relating to v2.0 and v3.0 of the REC, and on consolidation of the existing retail codes following the October 2018 consultation.

Central Switching Survey (CSS) Readiness Survey

The Enactment phase of the Switching Programme is nearing its conclusion and the DBT phase is currently being mobilised. In preparation to this, Ofgem has undertaken a readiness assessment of programme participants against a set of agreed criteria.

It also provides Programme Participants with an opportunity to highlight any risks or issues which they may be managing to Ofgem. The DBT Entry Self-Assessment survey is tailored to each organisation type and programme participants are asked to rate their organisation's readiness against the criteria applicable to the organisation. Organisations will have received their tailored survey link on 21st February 2019.

The MRA turns 21



This year marks the Master Registration Agreement's 21st Birthday. The energy landscape has changed rapidly over the past 21 years and we wanted to highlight some of the accomplishments of the MRA to date, including how much the MRA has done to keep the electricity retail market functioning and active.

The MRA now facilitates over 4 million switches per annum through the ECOES service and its regulations. As you will appreciate, going from deregulation to 4 million switches per annum has meant the code has adapted to the various changes that have occurred over the past 21 years. One example of these innovation within the MRA is ECOES' introduction to the industry, which along with facilitating switching, now processes every single pre-payment allocation that is made throughout the industry.

We are proud to have remained one of the most flexible codes within the industry and continue to do this into the new era of the energy industries history.

Although new arrangements are coming in with the designation of the REC, the MRA still has a role to play, and it continues to be about keeping the lights on for consumers, something that has been successfully done for over two decades.

To celebrate the MRAs legacy, we have created a short film and we hope to launch this in the coming weeks – watch this space.

Industry News

Ofgem Licence guides

Ofgem has updated its Consumer guidance hosted on the Ofgem website. These guides are intended to help stakeholders navigate the licences and understand licence and other obligations on energy suppliers.

This guidance centres around industry licences and focus on areas such as 'Interactions with Ofgem and other industry participants', 'metering, billing & payment', 'Standards of conduct' and 'Switching'. You can see all the guidance by using this [link](#).

Change update

DTC CP 3554 is changing the process for Meter Operators to provide meter information from the June 2019 MRA Release onward. To provide affected parties with as much warning and information on the changes as possible, FSEG has produced guidance on the changes, explaining the detail of the changes and what Meter Operators

and Suppliers will consequently be expected to do differently. The guidance also provides suggestions for places to get additional information on the topics covered in the guidance. It can be found at <https://www.mrasco.com/guidance-documents/>.

Contact Details

For feedback on our newsletter please feel free to contact us at MRAHelpdesk@gemserv.com

Key contact emails:

MRAHelpdesk@gemserv.com
CAS@gemserv.com
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Next MRA newsletter is due on 29th May 2019.

Key Dates

Date	Event
02/04/2019	FSEG
03/04/2019	JMDG
04/04/2019	MSC
10/04/2019	IREG
23/04/2019	FSEG
25/04/2019	MDB
30/04/2019	MEC/BOARD
01/05/2019	JMDG
02/05/2019	MSC

Date	Event
08/05/2019	IREG
09/05/2019	GDEG/PTSC
15/05/2019	FSEG
21/05/2019	MEC/Board
30/05/2019	MDB