COR1000.11 XP1 Replacement Transmission Operations Forum Update

11th December 2013

XP1 is provided as a contingency communication method to access Gemini in the event that the primary IX mechanism has failed.

Xoserve have been undertaking a series of 'system sustaining' activities, including the recent Gemini refresh. In line with this strategy, it is now appropriate to refresh XP1 to continue to provide service delivery confidence.

The 'XP1 Replacement' project will deliver for all Gemini system Users a new XP1 service. This will match the current set-up, in that it will use dual-factor authentication using RSA hardware tokens.

The new XP1 service will use a secure SSL VPN link via an internet browser and will be used to access Citrix, replacing the current 'dial up' mechanism.

As with the existing service, this mechanism is only designed to be used as a contingency should the primary IX mechanism be unavailable.

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Project Timescales

The project commenced on the 7th October 2013 and is currently in the 'Build & Testing' stage.

The following are the key activities and associated dates for the delivery of the replacement XP1 service;

- Build & Testing   -   07/10/13 to 20/12/13

- External User Connectivity Testing   -   16/12/13 to 20/12/13

- XP1 Replacement 'Go Live'   -   07/01/14

- Decommissioning of Existing XP1 -   31/01/14 (Indicative Date)

External User Connectivity Testing

Following a period of internal testing, Xoserve have offered the opportunity for system Users to participate in a period of 'External User Connectivity Testing'.

This testing activity will commence from 16th December 2013 for one week with the aim of enabling system Users to ensure that their RSA token has been set up correctly and that the Citrix front end can be accessed as expected.

The Connectivity Testing Approach document detailing the scope and instructions and the RSA tokens required to undertake this testing will be provided to Users who have registered to participate in the testing by Xoserve by the 6th December 2013.

Communications have been issued to all registered current XP1 token holders as well as via the UK-Link Committee distribution list to request participation in this testing with a close out date of the 29th November 2013.

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External User Connectivity Testing

To date Xoserve have received 15 positive responses from external system Users who wish to participate in the planned connectivity testing activity for the XP1 replacement service.

Should you wish to check that your organisation has signed up for this testing or now believe that this may be beneficial to be involved then please contact Xoserve.Telecom@xoserve.com by the 13th December 2013 to confirm your interest.

Existing XP1 Service - Decommissioning

Please note that the existing XP1 service will be decommissioned following the delivery of the replacement service.

The existing XP1 'dial up' mechanism will remain in situ until the end of January 2014 when the service will be switched off and physically decommissioned.

A formal request for the return of the old RSA tokens to Xoserve will follow this decommissioning activity to allow for their disposal.