MHHS Webinar: Participating in Systems Integration Testing (SIT) Q&A

MHHS-DEL1085

Change Record

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06.03.23	PPC Team	0.1	Initial Draft
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Reviewers

Reviewer	Role
PPC Team	Comms & Engagement
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1 Systems Integration Testing (SIT) approach

Q1 **How Is the Programme considering a more agile approach to Systems Integration Testing (SIT) rather than the current waterfall methodology?**

With Programmes of this nature, you end up in the waterfall position to bring participants into a readiness position at the same time. Feedback via the SIT Working Group (SITWG) and bilateral meetings shows that participants are keen to break up deliveries based on the testing objectives. For example, participants are looking to evidence Migration Pre-Integration Testing later than the start of SIT.

Within the testing stages themselves, we must have a staged waterfall approach that responds to any defects that occur. Moving forward we expect participants to be ready at the dates in the plan, especially as we anticipate there will be many participants taking part in SIT, and it helps to have predictability through this stage to manage the numbers.

Q2 **Is there any likelihood that the SIT starts date will be pushed back?**

The likelihood of the SIT date being pushed back is low. This topic will be discussed at Programme Steering Group (PSG) on 1 March 2023 and at the Programme Steering Group (PSG) on 5 April 2023. The Programme will attend the April PSG with a plan for SIT, and as long as the Core Capability Providers will be ready for SIT, then all other participants have demonstrated via Replan Round 3 that they will also be ready.

Q3 **What do the next couple of months to the 23 April 2023 (deadline for alerting the Programme of your interest in participating in SIT) look like for "interested" SIT parties, in terms of Programme engagement?**

The Programme will be conducting bilateral meetings with those who have expressed an interest in SIT to support their decision-making. Joining the monthly SITWG is another valuable way for you to find out the latest information regarding SIT. The Programme will be proactive in the lead up to SIT by reaching out to participants who have indicated their interest. We hope that events like this webinar encourage those who may not be interested yet to find out more.

Please email the PMO team at PMO@mhhsprogramme.co.uk to join the SITWG.

Q4 **How is progress through the different SIT phases being recorded?**

The monitoring and execution will be completed through the Azure DevOps (ADO) test management solution. Once a participant is onboarded within SIT, you will be expected to operate and execute testing within ADO. The Programme will provide the relevant onboarding and training for ADO, which will drive the reporting dashboards and execution of each SIT phase.

Q5 **If SIT will not be pushed back, what will happen concerning the SEC162 implementation June 2024?**

MP162 is planned for implementation in June 2024, however the Programme has a dependency on the Data Communications Company (DCC) making SEC162 functionally available for SIT. The DCC delivery plan (which can be found in the PSG slides, available on the MHHS Website https://www.mhhsprogramme.co.uk/), shows the availability of this test environment for SIT in line with the start of relevant Component Integrating Testing (CIT) phase. Although the Go-live date is June 2024, the DCC will be making the functionality for this environment live in line with our Programme timelines.

Q6 **Is Qualification Assessment Document (QAD) required if participants are participating in SIT (MVC or other?)**

All Programme participants are required to go through the qualification process, which will involve completion of the Qualification Assessment Document (QAD).

Q7 **Will assurance of Testing be the same for SIT and Qualification?**

All Programme participants will be expected to go through the same assurance process. Any deviations for the assurance process for those undertaking Qualification will be detailed in the Qualification Approach and Plan document.

Q8 Can a SIT participant extend their roles once accepted for SIT? (E.g. a Supplier adding an SDS role?)

This will be considered assuming this is done prior to the commencement of SIT and participant can demonstrate that they will have completed PIT and can be ready in time for SIT Components Integration Testing (CIT). If not, the participant will need to plan to go down the non-SIT route to Qualification for that role.

Q9 Will MPRS be available for 13 Nov SIT start date? (With Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) also complete by then)

The Programme is currently working collaboratively with St Clements to look at the alignment between their delivery plan and the Programme plan.

Q10 Can you confirm use of Staging Environment vs. SIT A for functional testing?

For Staging environments, the Programme's expectation is that the Central Parties will provide - SIT Staging, SIT-A (Functional), SIT-B (non-functional, Operational, Migration), UIT (Qualification / Sandbox). It is not expected that non-Central Parties will provide a SIT Staging environment, although there is nothing to prevent them from doing so. The Environments Approach & Plan, v2.2 provides more detail on programme test environments.

Q11 If anyone is not able to meet the dates to start SIT, are they likely to be penalised for not joining SIT? The incentives discussed suggest that they are.

If a participant can't meet the dates for SIT then they would proceed to down the non-SIT route to Qualification. There is no penalisation as such, but it would result in not realising the MHHS benefit as soon as via the SIT route.

Q12 If you are delivering Agile rather than Waterfall, does that mean you will not be considered for MVC?

No, not necessarily, but the Programme would like to understand your Agile delivery plan and how it would work for your internal testing plan. We recommend reaching out to the Testing team for a bilateral meeting to discuss this at Testing@mhhsprogramme.co.uk.

2 Component Integration Testing (CIT)

Q1   **How will you be providing Component Integration Testing (CIT) test scenarios and cases to ensure the relevant exit criteria can be achieved?**

The Programme will be providing specific test scenarios including CIT.

Q2   **What is the date you will be issuing CIT scenarios and cases?**

The Programme is currently defining these scenarios and cases. It is likely that we will release the test cases and scenarios to Working Groups, in batches. There will be an update given in the SITWG on Thursday 2nd March regarding the plan for releasing test cases over the following few weeks for review by the SITWG.

Q3   **Are there likely to be tests run over extended periods aligned to the Settlement Timetable or will we rely on the use of historic test data/clock changes?**

The Settlement Timetable is being developed alongside the piece of work on test scoping and will soon be defined. The Programme encourages participation in the SITWG where further details will be shared.

Q4   **When will joining 'tranches' of CIT Supplier participants be confirmed?**

The programme milestone for confirming SIT participation is 21/04/23.

Q5   **Have you seen detailed Design, Build & Test (DBT) plans that suggests CIT Exit Dates can be achieved as per the dates indicated?**

There have been a number of Delivery Plans provided as part of the Replan 3 Consultation response. The plans are at varying levels of completeness / quality. The Programme is in the process of contacting those Programme Participants that have expressed an interest in participating in CIT / SIT in order to better understand; the Market Role(s) they intend to test in SIT, whether their PIT Exit dates align to the relevant 'CIT Interval'. This activity is ongoing.

3 Pre-Integration Testing (PIT)

Q1 **Will the new version of the Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) guidance be issued alongside the SITWG document where this document includes PIT requirements?**

The initial version of the PIT Guidance document was published on the MHHS Website (https://www.mhhsprogramme.co.uk/) and Collaboration Base (https://mhhsprogramme.sharepoint.com/sites/Market-wideHalfHourlySettlement/SitePages/Home2.aspx). An updated version of this document will be reissued to incorporate participant feedback. The SITWG will give an update as to when this reissue will be released, but it will be in time for the Replan Change Request and will reference the SIT scoping document.

Q2 **Will the PIT exit requirement not only delay the start of CIT but also by stage? E.g. will the PIT exit for SIT functional be split to allow more time for that to be done?**

This is currently under consideration and Programme will decide on this by end of March as part of the revised PIT Guidance.

Q3 **Will the Programme be publishing a defined PIT exit criteria if this is going to govern SIT entry and will need Programme approval? When will this be available?**

PIT exit criteria has already been defined and is available in PIT Guidance.

Q4 **At PIT exit, is there any delay between this and SIT entry due to Artefact Audit please, or on completion of PIT can we plough straight into SIT pending Audit completion?**

PIT will need to be assured before commencing the next test phase. Programme participants will need to initially submit a draft PIT test completion report (a draft of the PIT test completion report to be submitted no later than 15 working days before the planned end of test execution) followed by a final PIT test completion report (to allow any test completion delta). Further information on this can be found in SITWG Paper 4 (MHHS-DEL885) & 5 (MHHS-DEL1020).

Q5 **What happens if some suppliers are not able to complete PIT testing and want to participate in other stages?**

All Programme participants will need to complete DBT1 PIT and be assured prior to the commencement of SIT CIT or Qualification.

Programme participants can only participate in other stages of SIT after the successful completion of SIT CIT.

4 Placing Reliance

Q1   Are test artefacts to be provided by participants or their service providers that are undergoing testing?

Whether participants are placing reliance on a software or service provider or not, the participant will be responsible for getting though Qualification, and evidencing the testing that has been done on that route. If the participant has placed Reliance for a portion of its testing, then the evidence for that will be required. The details for the level of PIT testing you would need to demonstrate, also acknowledging you may be procuring the full end-to-end managed service from a Service Provider, will be addressed in the Placing Reliance policy document. This will be aligned to the Qualification process.

Q2   As a Licensed Distribution System Operator (LDSO) 'Placing reliance' for PIT & SIT on a technical service provider, does PIT have to be done separately by both the service provider and the LDSO as a pre-requisite for SIT? Or is the PIT done by technical service provider enough to meet the PIT required for an LDSO?

In SIT we will need to have data sets of MPANs which align across all of the LDSO systems i.e. a set of Meter Point Administration Numbers (MPAN) for which we have all three of a Registration Service, Unmetered Supplies Operator (UMSO) and Network Operations. Since we are likely to have St Clements providing a Registration Service, it is possible that an (Independent) Distribution Network Operators (I)(DNO) could come into SIT as the other two Roles if St Clements is using that (I)DNO's data. But all this would have to be agreed. So if you are interested in participating but not in Registration Service role, you would have to contact us to see if it is possible.

5 Miscellaneous

Q1   In testing, does MHHS provide a list of the MPXN which can be used?

In PIT, it is entirely up to the individual organisation which MPANs they use. In SIT and in UIT (both Qualification Testing and E2E Sandbox Testing, the SI will provide each participant with the MPANs to use. This is described in the MHHS-DEL300 Test Data Strategy which can be found on the Testing Overview page of the MHHS Website.

Q2   If engaging as a Balancing & Settlement Code (BSC) role code, is it possible to volunteer for say, UMSO but not registration?

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Q3   If some participants want to test their own test case, would the MHHS team help?

The programme will support an end-to-end Sandbox phase where participants will be able to run additional testing at their discretion.

Q4   What if, after Qualification, some of the suppliers are not ready for Go-live?

Milestone 14 (M14) is defined as "All suppliers must be able to accept MPANs under the new Target Operating mode (TOM) (one way gate)".
M14 is a Tier 1 Milestone that will be set by Ofgem when all suppliers are expected to have qualified and be able to accept MPANs in the new MHHS arrangements. This is defined within the MHHS Programme plan as being set at the end of the last tranche of Qualification being executed within the Programme. If a supplier is not qualified at M14, then the BSC Section C 12.12.6 will apply, and that supplier will not be able to take on new customers until it has completed MHHS Qualification.