

Explanatory notes on chapter 5 of the Electricity/Gas Market Code, including information on EDA implementation and cost sharing

Technical documentation on www.eutilities.at

The Market Code for electricity and gas contains rules that facilitate the operation of the liberalised energy markets. By defining and standardising business processes, efficient and automated data exchange between the market players is enabled. Details on the business processes, data formats and data exchange are laid down in technical documentation. It is continuously developed and updated to keep up with market developments, which is why it is done by the representations themselves, who in turn include the market players in the process. The draft chapter 5 of the Electricity/Gas Market Code provides for the following actors: A working group comprising representatives of Oesterreichs Energie and the Natural Gas and District Heat Association (FGW). The technical documentation developed by this working group becomes applicable if it is drawn up in line with the following principles:

- mandatory consultation in the case of major changes; and
- mandatory minimum transitional periods between publication on www.eutilities.at and applicability.

This rule does not apply to processes that are defined in acts (e.g. switching processes), ordinances or the Market Rules. These latter always take precedence over technical documentation developed by the representations.

The working group ensures that all market players and their service providers are involved in the development of the technical documentation through a standardised, non-discriminatory process. This means that the market players and their service providers (usually providers of IT services) must be informed and be given a chance to contribute to the development of the technical documentation (in particular if additional processes are to be introduced).

All relating information must be available via www.eutilities.at. In addition, www.eutilities.at must offer a features whereby all registered users are actively informed about any changes and asked for their input when consultations open. Market players can also actively put forward proposals for changes to the technical documentation. When this happens, the working group must discuss the proposals.

EDA implementation options

The particular data exchange that is part of processes which are published on www.eutilities.at is captured under the name “EDA”. Market players must be given at least three options for how to implement it:

1. Own client: market players can install an EDA client and execute the entire process in their **in-house IT landscape**. This option is likely most attractive for large companies with many customers. It also allows for integration via an e-mail gateway.
2. External provider: market players may want to use an **IT service provider** whose services include automated execution of the business processes (e.g. sending replies within the applicable deadlines). In this case, the provider’s software already covers implementation of the processes. A list of IT service providers that offer this kind of services will in future be available at www.eutilities.at or the representations can be contacted director for a list. This is likely to be an attractive option for medium to large market players, for

whom manual execution of the processes is not feasible. Companies which choose this option do not need their own EDA client; this is included in the IT provider's services.

3. Manual transmission: market players, in particular suppliers, can also use the **self-storage option** for manual data transmission. The most likely users of this option will be companies with few customers and few messages to be exchanged, as the processes must be executed manually through an online interface. Installing their own EDA client is not necessary for this option.

Distribution of costs

The data exchange is free of charge for all **suppliers**, including any licence fees for EDA (normally payable to Energy Service IT GmbH) and a basic support package by PONTON GmbH for 10 hours of go-live support and 10 additional support hours per year. Any further support hours are charged for.

Market players that have entrusted an **IT provider** with executing the data exchange on their behalf must conclude EDA licence agreements with Energy Service IT GmbH. Again, the licences are free of charge for suppliers. The support agreement is concluded directly between the IT provider and PONTON GmbH. Additional support agreements between the market player and PONTON GmbH are not necessary. The support package for the IT provider includes 1 hour of go-live support and 1 additional support hour per year. Any further support hours are charged for. Companies that engage an IT provider must conclude corresponding agreements with it.

For executing the data exchange via **EnergyLink/SelfStorage**, suppliers do not need an EDA licence agreement; it is free of charge. Please note that this option, though it does not cause additional costs for implementation, seems only feasible for companies that can execute the relating processes manually.

Costs related to EDA are included in the grid costs of **electricity and gas distribution system operators** in accordance with section 59 *Elektrizitätswirtschafts- und -organisationsgesetz* (Electricity Act) 2010 and section 79 *Gaswirtschaftsgesetz* (Natural Gas Act) 2011.

The representations publish all data transmission parameters that are necessary for EDA integration on www.ebutilities.at. This should enable market players to take care of their interface with EDA themselves.