Broadbanding
Australia

NBN Co Information Paper
B2B Industry Interface Specifications

NBNCo
Limited

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Information Paper – B2B Industry Interface Specifications

Disclaimer

This Information Paper sets out NBN Co's proposals in respect of certain aspects of the National Broadband Network. The contents of this Information Paper are intended for public consultation and represent NBN Co's preliminary position on the subject matter of this Information Paper. The contents of this Information Paper should not be relied upon by any person) as representing NBN Co's final position on the subject matter of this Information Paper. The views expressed by NBN Co in this document may change as a consequence of NBN Co finalising formal technical specifications. NBN Co's position on the subject matter of this document may also be impacted by legislative and regulatory developments in respect of the National Broadband Network.

Environment

NBN Co asks that you consider the environment before printing this Information Paper.

Contents

Section 1 - Introduction

NBN Co's role is to realise the Australian Government's vision for the development of a next generation national broadband network, Australia's largest infrastructure project. The project will deliver a high-speed fibre broadband network to 93% of Australian premises with the remaining 7% of premises to be connected to high-speed wireless or satellite broadband services. With the delivery of this open-access wholesale-only network, NBN Co aims to transform the Australian telecommunications industry and enable it to meet long term consumer, community and business broadband needs.

Over the last year, as well as consulting with industry about network and operational design, and the key design parameters of the Wholesale Broadband Agreement (WBA), NBN Co has built and is now operating a 'pre release' network in Tasmania, has commenced the construction of five mainland Australia 'First Release' sites and has identified 15 further mainland Australia 'Second Release' sites for construction to commence in 2011.

The WBA, supported by the planned Special Access Undertaking, is the central commercial supply document for NBN Co and outlines the wholesale supply terms for the fibre, wireless and satellite product sets and ancillary services and forms the basis of the contract between NBN Co and each Access Seeker. In preparing for the commercial supply of services to our customers, NBN Co is planning to construct Access Seeker business interfaces with the goal of achieving a global best practice wholesale service experience. As part of the implementation of these B2B interfaces a Collaboration Protocol Agreement (CPA)[1] will be used to facilitate service description, publication, binding of all services offered to Access Seekers via the NBN Co B2B gateway.

NBN Co has been working with the Operational working group of the Communications Alliance NBN Project to ensure that industry has had input into the development of a best practice B2B interface. NBN Co thanks participants in the Communications Alliance working group for their commitment and contribution.

This Information Paper summarises three draft B2B Industry Integration specifications that NBN Co has developed in alignment with the B2B Interaction Process Requirements Specification released through Communications Alliance. These specifications provide information on the operational and technical impacts and considerations of implementing a fully automated trading interface supporting Fulfilment, Assurance, and Billing. Provision of these draft documents should enable Access Seekers to commence impact assessments and high level design activities.

NBN Co is inviting comment from individuals and business through the process described in Section 3. The specifications will then be finalised as a first release.
The target audience for these specifications within Access Seekers would include systems architects, operations, process, and integration subject matter experts.

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[1] The term CPA is defined by the OASIS industry consortium. It covers a formal system-system "electronic" technical agreement between two trading partners
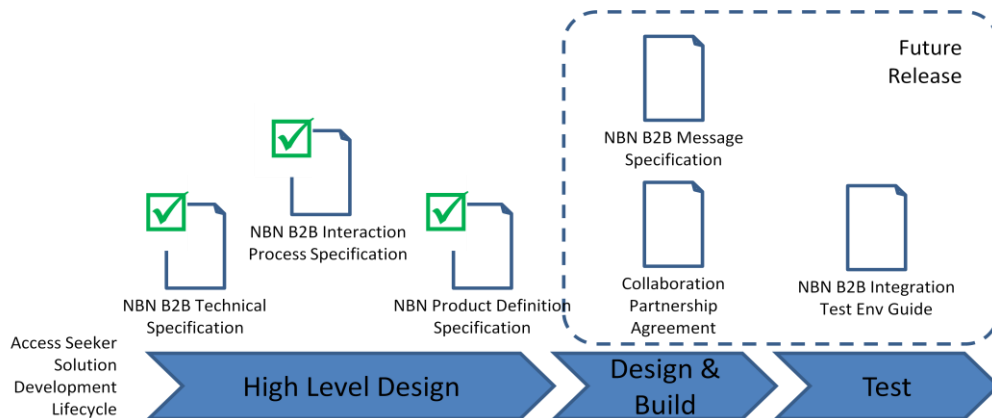
Section 2 – Documentation Summary

An important NBN Co goal is to provide seamless and non-discriminatory integration with Access Seeker systems to achieve a global best practice wholesale service experience.

Central to achieving this outcome is the phased release of technical documentation that enables Access Seeker integration impact assessment, project initiation, and solution specification.

The first tranche of specifications provides Access Seekers with the opportunity to commence high level design activities including: operational/systems impact assessments, architecture specification, and vendor engagement.

The remaining tranche of industry integration documentation will support Access Seeker solution design, build & deployment that will result in predicable and repeatable automated interaction with NBN Co. Timelines for the release of these documents, together with the availability of development & integration test environments, will be advised in the next few months.

Industry Integration B2B Documentation Roadmap

Released Documents

NBN Co is now releasing the following documents for Access Seeker review and comment: NBN B2B Technical Specification, B2B Interaction Process Specification, and NBN Product Definition Specification.

The **NBN B2B Technical Specification** details concepts, technical specifications and architecture of the B2B gateway. It describes the communication elements, message exchange patterns, relevant ebXML specifications and their application, the use of Collaboration Partnership Agreements (CPAs), and Access Seeker integration considerations. Access Seekers may use this document to determine the solution gateway architecture and messaging integration.

The **B2B Interaction Process Specification** details fulfilment, product catalogue, assurance, test & diagnostics, appointment, and billing business processes. Each process defines the relevant transactions (or touch points) together with key business rules. The understanding of each process is further supported through the definition business entities and state charts. Access Seekers may use this document to determine orchestration, process, or work instruction impacts and solution architecture.

The **NBN Product Definition Specification** details the way in which NBN Co will publish machine readable definitions of our products – the schema, interpretation of NBN Product definitions by Access Seekers, and its application by Access Seeker solutions in constructing NBN-XML messages. Access Seekers may use this document to determine how to compose NBN B2B messages using standardised product definitions.

Planned Documents

NBN Co plans to provide additional B2B documents in the second quarter of 2011 to support Access Seeker detailed design and testing. These documents are summarised below.

The **Collaboration Partnership Agreement (CPA)**, referred to in the Introduction, will formally define the system-system message interface between an Access Seeker's OSS and NBN Co supporting the provision of services supplied under the proposed Wholesale Broadband Agreement. The CPA describes the messaging interface in terms of request/response and notification transactions and will reference relevant XML schema documents (XSD). Each Access Seeker will require a CPA that will be based on a template provided by NBN Co.

The **NBN B2B Message Specification** will stand alongside the XSD and will define each message associated with a B2B transaction (touch point) including attributes (e.g. type, permissible information, and default).

As outlined in last year's Accreditation Information Paper, a B2B test environment will be hosted by NBN Co at NBN Co's National Test Facility (NTF). This will be available for Access Seekers to support their gateway evaluation, design, build and test activities. The environment will be functionally representative of production and will support request/response & notification transactions in accordance with the published process specification. The **NBN B2B Integration Test Environment Guide** will detail the use of this environment.

Section 3 – Review Process

NBN Co has been working with industry in establishing its approach to the B2B interfaces via industry fora including the Communications Alliance.   This discussion has been invaluable in informing our thinking and in the preparation of the documents referenced in this paper. Individuals and businesses that have further comment and wish to provide feedback relating to the specifications released are welcome to do so by Friday 25th February 2011 via email to feedback@nbnco.com.au. NBN Co welcomes earlier responses, and in particular, is open to direct dialog arising from this early feedback.

Feedback Log (B2B
Specification).xlsx

In the interests of transparency, NBN Co plans to publish all submissions on its website. Alternatively, if submitters have confidential information they wish to provide, NBN Co asks that both public and a commercial-in-confidence versions of the feedback form be submitted.   Only the public version will be published.

At the completion of the review, NBN Co will finalise the B2B interface specifications as a first release.

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