

FAQs on the ECMS Test and Migration

Frequently asked questions

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Version 1.1

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Abbreviations

Abb.	Abbreviation
A2A	Application-to-Application
CLM	Central Liquidity Management
ECMS	Eurosystem Collateral Management System
ESMIG	Eurosystem Single Market Infrastructure Gateway
GUI	Graphical User Interface
MCA	Main Cash Account
NSP	Network Service Provider
NCB	National Central Bank
RTGS	Real-Time Gross Settlement
T2	T2 (along with TIPS, T2S and, in the future, ECMS) is one of the services of the new TARGET system, which replaced TARGET2 (Trans European Automated Real time Gross settlement Express Transfer System) on March 20, 2023. T2 consists of the components CLM (Central Liquidity Management) and RTGS (Real-Time Gross Settlement). CLM is used for central liquidity management across services and the settlement of central bank operations, while RTGS is used for the settlement of individual payment transactions and the transactions of secondary transactions of ancillary systems (i.e. central counterparties).
T2S	TARGET2-Securities
U2A	User-to-Application

1 Introduction

With the introduction of the ECMS on 18 November 2024, the management of eligible collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy credit operations will be integrated on a central technical platform. Extensive testing and migration preparations are required to ensure a smooth transition from the collateral management systems currently in use to the ECMS. The central banks will closely support the participants in the test and migration preparation, the actual test implementation and the migration.

2 Registration form

2.1 **Is the registration procedure necessary for the Deutsche Bundesbank's counterparties if there is already a direct connection to the TARGET Service T2 via a NSP?**

The submission of a registration form for both the UTEST/PreProd and for production is mandatory for all counterparties who are realising a connection to the ECMS. All counterparties who wish to use the ECMS in the future must register and go through the relevant test and migration steps.

2.2 **By when must the registration forms for the production environment be submitted? How does a counterparty notify the Deutsche Bundesbank of changes to the forms?**

The deadline for submitting the registration forms has passed. If there are any changes to the information already submitted, please fill out a new registration form, clearly mark the changes and send it via email to ECMS-Migration@bundesbank.de.

3 Tests and Migration

3.1 **What information and which documents does the Deutsche Bundesbank provide for test and migration?**

In preparation of the start of production of ECMS on 18 November 2024, testing and migration activities are to be carried out by various stakeholders. Further documents on these topics, contact addresses and the telephone number of the hotline can be found in the section [Test and Migration | Deutsche Bundesbank](#) on our website. The Bundesbank has set up functional email addresses (ECMS-Test@bundesbank.de / ECMS-Migration@bundesbank.de) for answering further questions relating to testing and migration. Please note that all functions may only be tested by counterparties after approval by the Bundesbank. The exact sequence and dates will be communicated to the counterparties. The counterparties test in groups and in the test cycles / test phases assigned to them. The Bundesbank supports the testing institutions during a test cycle.

3.2 Will the tests take place in a test environment or parallel to the production environment?

The ECMS user tests will take place on an ECMS test environment (UTEST/PreProd). Since April 2023, the counterparties have been testing their connection to the ECMS pre-production environment (UTEST/PreProd) as part of the connectivity tests. The test is successful if a U2A user reaches the start screen of the ECMS GUI or an A2A user receives an admi.007 with the corresponding error message after sending an admi.005. The counterparty reports the test progress by participating in the subsequent enquiry.

The ECMS production environment is expected to be set up from May 2024. At the same time, the test environment will also be available to counterparties after the end of the test phase. This means that the test cases will continue to be stored in the test environment.

3.3 Is there a possibility to receive information regarding the ECMS GUI?

As part of the training courses on “Access and GUI” and “Reference data” held in February and March 2023, counterparties were given an insight into how the ECMS GUI structure works through live demonstrations. In the refresher training on Reference data in May 2024, the counterparties were able to enhance their knowledge once again. Training videos also clearly illustrate how to work in the ECMS GUI. All this information is public and can be found on the Bundesbank website under “Participant information” Link: [Participant information | Deutsche Bundesbank](#). The Eurosystem has defined a “staggered approach” for the functional customer test phase. The functionalities to be tested will be successively released by the Deutsche Bundesbank. The counterparties will be informed about the released functionalities as well as the test principles and the procedure. Please note that the Release document, which you can access in the [Test and Migration | Deutsche Bundesbank](#) section of the website, is constantly updated.

Downloads for customer testing

Approvals of Deutsche Bundesbank for ECMS Counterparty test

Version 3.0

16.08.2024 | 257 KB, PDF

Incident Ticket Template

27.09.2023 | 28 KB, DOCX

3.4 Will the test cases be performed both in the test environment and in production?

The tests take place exclusively in the test environment (UTEST/PreProd). The counterparties will only carry out connection tests to production.

3.5 Do the test user have to be assigned roles in the test environment?

Yes, to test the test cases released by the Deutsche Bundesbank, the user must have the appropriate authorisation to execute them. The list [Approvals of Deutsche Bundesbank for ECMS Counterparty test](#) lists the test cases that are approved for the individual test groups. The fields highlighted in green indicate that the function has been released for testing for the corresponding group. Nevertheless, a separate request for testing by the Deutsche Bundesbank may be required, as in the example of Cash Collateral, as certain requirements must be met in this case.

The document is updated regularly. We therefore ask our counterparties to regularly check whether any authorisations have been issued for the group.

3.6 Will there also be a detailed description of the ISO 20022 formats, including data field assignments, analogous to the interface description for access to the security management system based on MT formats?

The information for A2A participants of the ECMS will be made available in various documents on the website of the Deutsche Bundesbank, the ECB and via MyStandards. In the "Catalogue of Messages", counterparties are also provided with a detailed description of the ISO 20022 messages that the ECMS will use. This document contains all the information relating to messaging that counterparties need to set up for A2A communication with the ECMS. The relevant document can be found on the Bundesbank's website in the "Documentation and FAQs" section under the link: [ECMS catalogue of messages and credit claim files \(europa.eu\)](#).

3.7 Do tests and migration also have to be carried out if the U2A connection is used via a third party?

Yes, tests must be carried out, even if the U2A connection is used via a third party. We ask you to address questions about testing directly to the third party via which you will realise a connection. The U2A users must undergo a so-called connectivity test, i.e. it is tested whether the U2A users can reach the ECMS user interface. In addition, various mandatory functional tests, such as the mobilisation of securities, must be carried out. An overview of all mandatory test cases can be found in the document [Approvals of Deutsche Bundesbank for ECMS Counterparty test](#). Further information is provided via the link: [Test and Migration | Deutsche Bundesbank](#) from the Bundesbank website.

The migration is essentially a central bank internal database migration. The estimated test periods are interrupted by migration tests during which the environments are **not** available for testing.

3.8 Will the testing of counterparties be done in groups?

In preparation for the customer test phase in spring 2023, the Deutsche Bundesbank categorised the counterparties into four groups A, B, C and D and informed the respective institutions of this in writing. Since then, the counterparties have been testing the functionalities released for the respective group during the test phases.

3.9 How do test phases in which only a simulator is available differ from phases in which there is a connection to T2S and CLM? What may the institute need to consider in order to be able to test in one of these phases?

As part of the ECMS rescheduling, customer test phase 2c has been extended by two months until 12 April 2024. Following this, the ECMS test environment will temporarily not be connected to CLM and T2S. During this phase from 15 April 2024 to 26 April 2024, a simulator will be available to simulate messages from CLM and T2S to the ECMS. End-to-end tests are therefore not possible during this period. However, it will be possible to test securities instructions without having to set counter-instructions in the test environment. The simulators in ECMS ensure automatic acknowledgement of T2S/CLM instructions. Credit and position changes as well as credit line updates can thus be finally processed in ECMS and can be viewed by the institutions.

3.10 What prerequisites must be created by the Deutsche Bundesbank for testing the “cash collateral” collateral type? Will the Deutsche Bundesbank again create the prerequisites for carrying out the test cases?

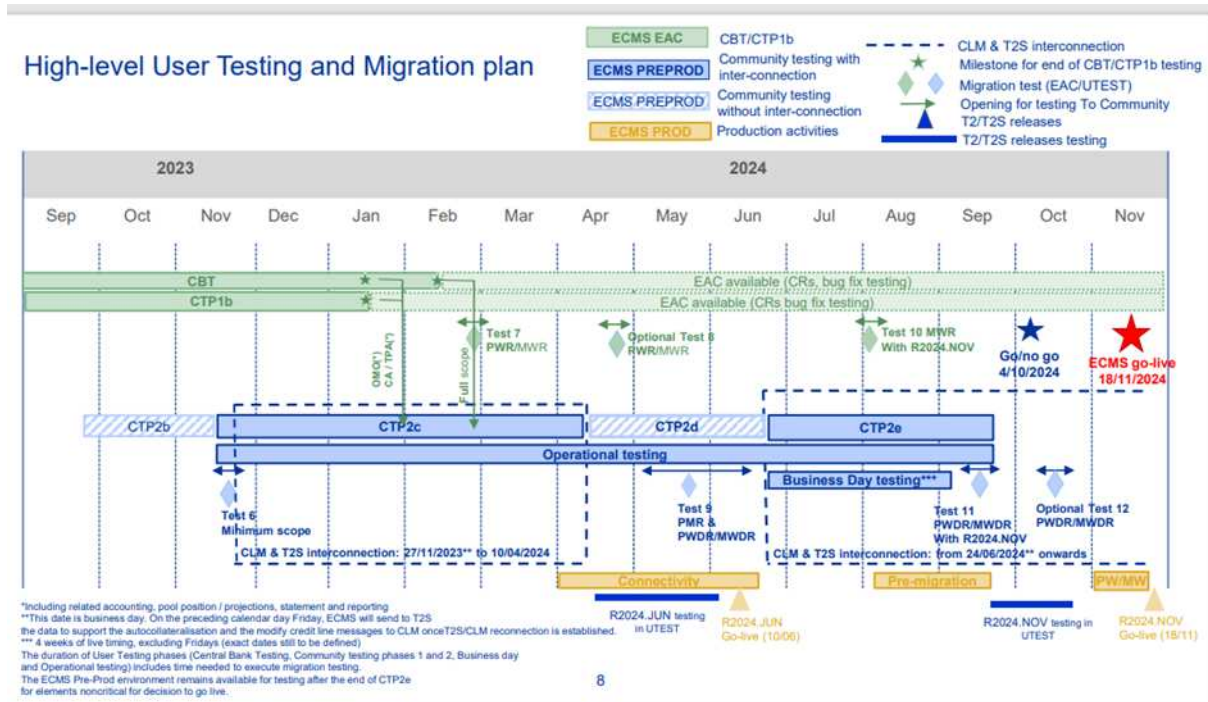
Counterparties are asked to test this function in the ECMS as soon as the Deutsche Bundesbank has created the corresponding test conditions for the respective customer group. We therefore request that the tests are only carried out on request by the Deutsche Bundesbank. Should you wish to repeat a test case, please contact us by email: ECMS-Test@bundesbank.de or by calling the hotline on 069 2388 1315 at the times stated on the website.

3.11 Do counterparties have to carry out all tests in the test phase or only those which are of relevance in their institute’s business model?

The Eurosystem has defined some elementary test cases ([ECMS user testing - fundamental test cases \(europa.eu\)](#)). In addition, the Deutsche Bundesbank has marked some test cases as mandatory as well. The document “Approvals of Deutsche Bundesbank for ECMS Counterparty test” indicates which test cases are mandatory for Deutsche Bundesbank counterparties and which test cases are optional.

3.12 How can the phases “Operational testing“ and “Business Day testing“ be differentiated?

Special operational procedures are tested as part of operational testing. At the end of community test phase 2e, special test activities are planned (business day testing) in which the test conditions come close to production operation (“live time”). Both operational testing and business day testing take place in parallel with the functional tests.



Further information can be accessed via the link [Status update on the ECMS project](#)

3.13 The ECB's test plan currently provides for five test phases. In which of these phases are tests planned for the ECONS module?

The plans for the implementation of corresponding test cases in connection with the ECONS module of T2 (CLM /RTGS) have not yet been finalised. The T2 participants concerned will be informed by the Deutsche Bundesbank about when and what is to be tested.

3.14 When does the last community test phase 2e start in order to be able to carry out tests in the pre-prod environment again?

Community Test Phase 2e (CTP2e) is expected to begin on 1 July 2024 and will last until 20 September 2024 as the final customer test phase. During this test phase, the ECMS will once again be connected to CLM and T2S. During this period, it is also planned to carry out customer tests in the triparty area with Clearstream. A migration test is planned from 9 September to 20 September 2024, during which no functional tests can be carried out. According to the project plan, counterparties should complete their tests latest by 20 September 2024. However, the ECMS test environment is expected to remain available after 20 September until the ECMS goes live.

3.15 Are counterparties who have not (yet) successfully completed all test cases asked by the Deutsche Bundesbank to test separately?

Due to the high number of counterparties, it is unfortunately not possible for us to proactively ask our untimely counterparties to do their testing. If you encounter problems during testing, you are welcome to contact us by email via ECMS-Test@bundesbank.de or send us an incident ticket, also by email. The latter document can be downloaded from the Deutsche Bundesbank website under "Test and migration".

3.16 Which version of the Ascertia Go-Sign Desktop Client software is required to run the ECMS test cases?

Other previous versions of the software, such as version 6.9.0.09, will also be supported at the start of the tests. The certification of version 6.9.0.9 is only valid up to and including Q2 2024. After that, only version 6.9.0.20 will be certified. We therefore recommend using the latest version at the start of the tests.

3.17 What Browser are supported by the Software Ascertia Go-Sign Desktop Client?

Chrome 88.0+ and Firefox 78.0+ are available as browsers. Microsoft Edge will be available latest by the ECMS go live. For further information, please refer to the [FAQ GoSign Desktop V2.0 \(europa.eu\)](#).

3.18 What approach will be used to migrate to the ECMS?

A Big Bang approach was chosen for the migration to the ECMS. All central banks and all Eurosystem counterparties will use the system from the outset. All relevant collateral and credit positions will be migrated from the central bank systems to the ECMS before it goes live.

3.19 Who is supposed to carry out the migration tests?

The migration tests are mainly carried out by the Deutsche Bundesbank. In some cases, counterparties may be included in the tests, but they will be notified well in advance and will only be involved in supporting the synchronisation of data.

3.20 When do the connectivity tests to the production environment take place?

From 24 May up to and including 20 June 2024, connectivity tests must be carried out by each institute. The U2A connectivity test ensures that the U2A admin users can access the ECMS start page. For security reasons, all admin users set up by the Deutsche Bundesbank should carry out the U2A connectivity test. During the A2A connectivity test, the institutions should receive a response to an A2A message sent to the ECMS. For the test, it is recommended to use the admi.005 message; the response from ECMS is sent using admi.007 and the rejection reason will be that the requested account does not exist.

The period for carrying out the connectivity tests will be around four weeks from the exact start date announced by the Deutsche Bundesbank. Connectivity tests must be carried out promptly. The status of the connectivity tests must be communicated to Deutsche Bundesbank by answering an online survey. The electronic survey will be sent separately.

3.21 When can the institutions create additional users in the production environment using the 4-eye-principle?

From the pre-migration phase, which is currently scheduled to begin in September 2024, institutions will be able to assign users the 4-eye-principle role. Counterparties will be informed accordingly.

3.22 How long does the on boarding process take for counterparties who only want to set up a connection after the go-live of the ECMS, i.e. after 18 November 2024?

The go-live date is followed by a stabilisation phase of the ECMS. During this phase, it will probably be possible to connect to the ECMS again (on boarding process). In addition to the contractual and technical requirements, the counterparty must also go through test cases for the use of the ECMS. The duration of this process may vary depending on the individual case.

Contact

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