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Suppliers' Information Note

For The BT Network

Private Circuit Services
Evolving Network Modernisation
And Its Effect On Analogue Private Circuits
Technical Information For Suppliers

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 1990 BT restricted the availability of d.c. paths, and therefore its private circuit products that support d.c. path functionality, to the [local] access network. At the same time BT also reclassified Baseband and the services that support automatic d.c. signalling as "own exchange" products ("Own exchange" means the area served by a particular exchange building).

This SIN establishes the current status of, and BT's current thinking for, the core and access networks and as a consequence the future availability of BT's d.c. based private circuit products.

2. CORE NETWORK

The current routing and design of circuits within the core network, i.e. the network of cables and transmission systems that link exchange buildings, is determined by whether the circuit is new or existing.

2.1 New 2-wire & 4-wire circuits

All new analogue private circuits requiring a main link, irrespective of main link distance (inter-exchange building links), are routed over the Digital Private Circuit Network (DPCN), meaning there is no end to end d.c path on these circuits. The circuit is however always presented to customer's end terminal equipment with an analogue interface.

It should be noted however, that all remaining indirectly wired analogue private circuit products i.e. those routed over BT infrastructure, will be withdrawn from new supply on 1st September 2016. Maintenance support will continue to be provided on existing installations after this date until circuits are either ceased or withdrawn from service completely (which is currently expected to be the end of March 2020).

2.2 Existing circuits [2-wire & 4-wire]

2.2.1 With a main link over 15 kilometres in length

In September 1993 BT ceased re-routing existing circuits over the FDM (Frequency Division Multiplex) network. At the same time, BT also embarked upon a programme to proactively upgrade existing private circuits from the FDM network to the DPCN. Consequently the vast majority of these circuits are now routed over the DPCN.

2.2.2 With a main link of 15 kilometres or less in length

BT will continue to support the installed circuit base including those with end to end d.c. path functionality provided before 1990. However, where BT has an operational need to replace high liability high maintenance cost copper cables and/or introduce a programme to proactively move the core network onto the DPCN, the means of support may change.

In these situations customers wishing to retain d.c. path functionality for either manual or automatic signalling purposes may need to consider the accommodation of d.c./AC15 signalling converters in customer premises.

In the unlikely situation that a cable replacement affects a Baseband data circuit, the customer will be advised to upgrade to Analogue Standard, Premier, or Network and to purchase an appropriate modem.

2.3 020 7 dial code area (Central London Zone (CLZ))[1]

Because of the preponderance of copper cable and the special nature of the cable network within the City of London, BT continues to support existing installations of d.c. paths within the 020 7 dial code area. With the exception of some CLZ located Baseband circuits (where the two local ends are served by different but geographically very close and copper connected exchanges) BT does not provide new d.c. based private circuits between exchange areas, nor does BT facilitate the rearrangement of existing d.c. based private circuits.

(Rearrangement is a term used within BT to mean that a customer relocating within the same "city" and/or its environs, will require his circuit to be moved from one exchange building area to another exchange building area).

BT will continue to support the installed circuit base subject to the provisos outlined in Section 2.2.2.

3. ACCESS NETWORK [including those within the 020 7 dial code area]

The status of a d.c. circuit within the access network, i.e. where it is wholly routed within the same exchange building area, is largely unchanged. Other than certain operational needs, e.g. to replace a damaged cable, and a limited copper to fibre upgrade programme, BT does not have immediate plans for wholesale modernisation of the access networks.

3.1 ***NEW:*** BT will continue to supply and rearrange a d.c. circuit but, for the reasons stated above, this may not always be possible. The availability of d.c. paths remains restricted by the ongoing and future availability of suitable copper line plant, the technical requirements of customer's end terminal equipment and the exclusions set out below.

For Baseband, the additional and overriding maxim is the continued availability of a suitable and continuous unloaded copper *cable* route between the two customer premises.

Orders for d.c. paths will not be met in the following circumstances:

1. where the network has been modernised
2. where the access network is in the process of modernisation
3. where modernisation of the access network is anticipated to occur within 12 months of receipt of the order
4. where the customer location is either a "green-field" site or undergoing redevelopment.

It should be noted however, that all remaining indirectly wired analogue private circuit products i.e. those routed over BT infrastructure, will be withdrawn from new supply on 1st September 2016. Maintenance support will continue to be provided on existing installations after this date until circuits are either ceased or withdrawn from service completely (which is currently expected to be the end of March 2020).

[1] Enquiries relating to whether a customer premises falls within the 020 7 dial code area (CLZ) should be directed to the BT Private Circuit Helpdesk: 0800 800 977.

3.2 ***EXISTING:*** Subject to the same caveats as detailed in Section 2.2.2 for the existing circuit base with main links under 15 kilometres, BT will continue to support own exchange d.c. circuits.

4. GLOSSARY

CLZ	Central London Zone
DPCN	Digital Private Circuit Network
FDM	Frequency Division Multiplex
SIN	Suppliers' Information Note

5. HISTORY

Issue 1.0	March 1995	First issued
Issue 1.1	April 2001	Issued in revised format. Content not updated.
Issue 1.2	April 2002	Content review.
Issue 1.3	March 2003	Clause 2.4, text added to clarify Baseband provision policy in CLZ.
Issue 1.4	May 2004	Footnote 1 added – CLZ queries to be directed to the BT Private Circuit Helpdesk
Issue 1.5	July 2013	Content review with revision to routing and design approach for new inter-exchange circuits
Issue 1.6	August 2014	Textual clarifications including reference to the copper to fibre upgrade programme in the access network Change SINet site references from http://www.sinet.bt.com to http://www.btplc.com/sinet/
Issue 1.7	January 2016	Notes added about the timeframes for the withdrawal from new supply and subsequent final closure of the remaining analogue private circuit products.

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