

# **FAQs on the ECMS Test and Migration**

## Frequently asked questions

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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 16 June 2025, 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

**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?**

2.1

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](mailto:ECMS-Migration@bundesbank.de).

## 3.3 Tests and Migration

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

In preparation of the start of production of ECMS on 16 June 2025, 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](mailto:ECMS-Test@bundesbank.de) / [ECMS-Migration@bundesbank.de](mailto: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.

**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). As part of the connectivity tests, the counterparties tested their connection to the ECMS test environment (UTEST/PreProd). The test is successful if a U2A user reaches the start screen of the ECMS GUI or an A2A user receives an adm.007 with the corresponding error message after sending an adm.005. The counterparty confirmed the progress of the test by participating in the subsequent survey. The connectivity test phase for the UTEST/PreProd has been completed.

The ECMS production environment has been under construction since May 2024. The connectivity test phase for the counterparties in the production environment has been completed. User access for the counterparties has been blocked since the end of September 2024. Counterparty access to the ECMS production environment is expected to be possible on a temporary basis in March 2025 so that additional institute users can be created and any outstanding connectivity tests can be carried out. The counterparties will be informed of this separately in a timely manner.

At the same time, the test environment will also be available to business partners after the end of the test phase.

**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 3.4

19.02.2025 | 125 KB, PDF

↓ Incident Ticket Template

27.09.2023 | 28 KB, DOCX

### **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 only carry out connection tests in production.

### **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.

Some functionalities (cash collateral, corporate actions, open market transactions, triparty, ECONS II) can only be tested as part of coordinated test campaigns by Deutsche Bundesbank and possibly Clearstream.

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.

**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.

**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?**

3.9 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.

3.10 **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.

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

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

3.12 The plans for the implementation of corresponding test cases in connection with the ECONS II 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.

**Will the Community Test Phase 2e be extended due to the postponement of the start of go-live of the ECMS to June 2025?**

Yes, the current Community Test Phase 2e (CTP2e) has been extended and will now end on 22 April 2025. During this test phase, the ECMS is connected to CLM and T2S. During this period, it is planned to carry out community tests in the areas of triparty with Clearstream and

open market transactions, among others. A migration test is planned from 31 March to 6 April 2025, during which no functional tests can be carried out...

However, the ECMS test environment is also expected to be available for additional / pending tests after 22 April 2025 until the ECMS goes live.

**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](mailto: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".

**Does the Ascertia Go>Sign Desktop Client, which is used in connection with the NRO process, have to be purchased separately by the institutes or is it provided together with ECMS by the Deutsche Bundesbank?**

3.14

To ensure Non-Repudiation of Origin (NRO) for critical transactions, a digital signature will be introduced for certain screens (U2A usage) of the ECMS. Users must enter a PIN code to add a digital signature to their instruction in the ECMS. ECMS users must therefore have the Ascertia Go>Sign Desktop Client installed on their workstation (application that communicates with ECMS, i.e. computer). Downloading is possible for all authorized users via the ESMIG portal. Ascertia is the unified NGO solution for all TARGET services, i.e. if you already use the software in connection with other TARGET services, you do not need to install them again.

Further Information is provided in the following documents:

- [Terms of Reference for the Go-Sign-Desktop \(GSD\) client upgrades schedule](#)
- [ESMIG U2A Qualified Configurations v1 7 GoSign 836 final](#)

3.15

**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 \(europa.eu\)](#).

3.16

**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.



**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 or the performance of penny tests.

**3.17 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 16 June 2025?**

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.

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