

## Briefing

### MSIL Resilience – Cablelink proposal

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# 1 Introduction

BTW is currently undertaking feasibility work into the provision of Multi Service Interconnect Link (MSIL) Resilience, as previously discussed with industry and outlined in C21-PG-010. Subject to the satisfactory conclusions of the study, it is BTW's intention to develop an MSIL Resilience product, as soon as practicable.

This development will build upon the main elements identified previously with industry. This briefing is to discuss the capability and benefit around use of the Openreach Cablelink product in that development.

During industry discussion, the potential to include resilient Cablelinks, with guaranteed separation of two Cablelink routes was discussed. However, as a resilient Cablelink product is not currently available, it will not be possible to include this feature at launch, although future enhancement will be considered, if made available.

BTW has sought reduced Cablelink repair times. If made available, BTW intends to flow this through into the MSIL product.

Some discussion has also taken place on the provision of separate standard Cablelinks, without route separation. This is likely to be of little additional benefit and will introduce additional cost and further complication, which may delay launch. As a result, BTW does not intend providing this feature within the MSIL Resilience offering.

The purpose of this briefing is to make customers aware of the BTW proposals and to seek comments.

## 2 Resilience Key Objectives

The key objectives in developing MSIL resilience are to remove the most significant common points of failure, as far as practicable, and in a commercially acceptable manner. The options for doing so are limited as MSIL Resilience is required within individual node buildings. However, providing MSIL pairs across two Ethernet Edge Aggregation devices (EEA) eliminates total loss of service through single component failures within the EEA, and also allows planned engineering works to be undertaken at separate times.

In general, EEAs may be placed close together and will often share common patch panels. As a result, it is not possible to protect against more significant incidents that impact more than one EEA, or other common elements.

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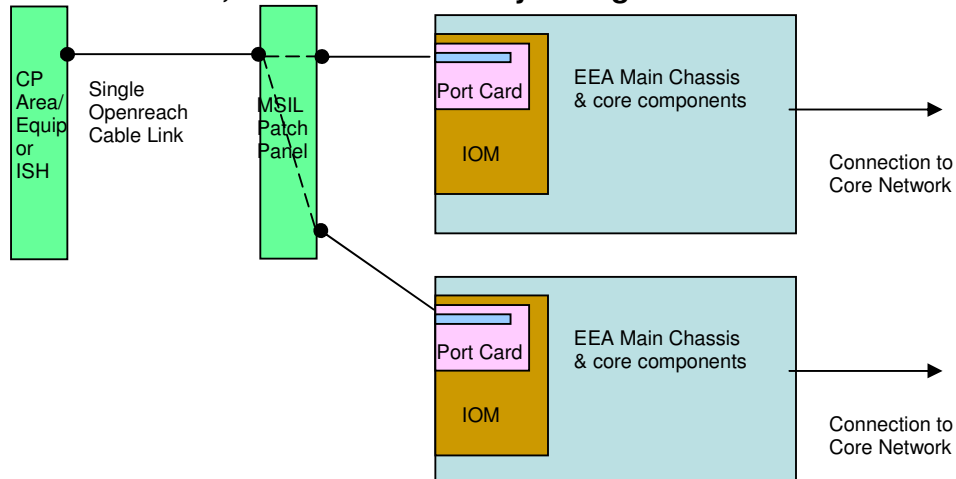
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### 3 Cablelink Separation Options

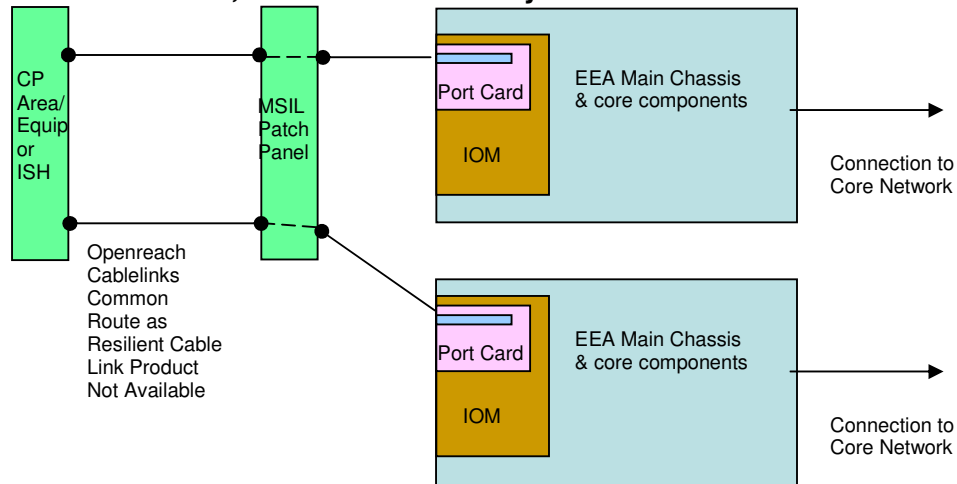
There are a number of scenarios whereby separate Cablelinks will be provided for MSIL resilient pairs, as part of the provision process. However, for the most common form of handover, where both MSILs are to be delivered to the same customer location, it is currently planned to continue to provide via a single Cablelink.

The following diagrams compare this proposal with provision of two standard Cablelinks, following the same route. The examples are for 1G MSIL, but similar principles also apply to 10G MSIL.

**1G MSIL Pair –Port, IOM & EEA Diversity – Single Cablelink**



## 1G MSIL Pair – Port, IOM & EEA Diversity – Two Cablelink



In the above scenarios, the additional benefit of two cables would be limited to cases where a fault, or incident, was such that with a single cable, the fibres supporting both MSILs would be affected, but that if two cables were provided, the fault or incident would not impact the second cable.

As mentioned above, a single cable would not be provided in the following circumstances.

- An IBH or ISH handover was to separate customer locations within the BT building.
- Where the customer chooses different forms of handover for each MSIL. E.G One IBH and one ISH, separate locations will normally be involved and hence separate cables will be provided. Note any combination of IBH, ISH or APH can be selected for the resilient pair.
- For APH, the customer purchases the Cablelink directly from Openreach and could decide whether to purchase one or two. This will be separate from IBH or ISH Cablelink provision.

## 4 Summary

At launch BTW does not plan to provide Cablelink separation by providing additional Cablelinks beyond those currently required to provide service. As outlined above, this will avoid potential delays to the product launch and additional costs.

This will be reconsidered should a resilient Cablelink product be made available in the future,

If improved Cablelink repair times are made available by Openreach BTW intends to flow this through into the MSIL product.

## 5 Comments and Review Call

Please forward any comments on the above proposals to [owen.gardner@bt.com](mailto:owen.gardner@bt.com) by 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

If concerns are raised by customers BTW will hold a review conference call on 4<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm. If you wish to register interest in this call, please inform [owen.gardner@bt.com](mailto:owen.gardner@bt.com) by 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Details will then be forwarded to interested parties.