

To: Cara Yates, Ofgem.

Team: Networks

Tel: 020 7901 7158

Email: cara.yates@ofgem.gov.uk

Bosch Thermotechnology Ltd.
Cotswold Way
Warndon
Worcester WR4 9SW
Tel +44 1905 754624
Fax +44 1905 754619
www.boschthermotechnology.co.uk

Gary Mitchell
Tel +44 (0)1905 751222 or +44 (0)7790 489896
Gary.Mitchell@uk.bosch.com

08 April 2022

Bosch Thermotechnology Ltd response to Ofgem on:

Hydrogen Village Trial Detailed Design Studies Consultation

- Publication date: 15th March 2022
- Response deadline: 11th April 2022

Questions from Consultation:

1. Do you agree with our minded to decision on the projects to fund?
2. Do you have any views on the proposed project deliverables for Cadent and NGN, and whether further deliverables are required?
3. Do you have any views on the proposed directions for the projects contained in Appendix 2 to 4?

Bosch Thermotechnology Ltd response:

08 April 2022

Page 2 of 3

1. Do you agree with our minded to decision on the projects to fund?

Yes. We are supportive of these two crucial design studies to further understand Hydrogen for heat in buildings.

We see a clear upward trend in successive forecasts for the role of hydrogen in the energy transition. We also see the transition being accelerated by international forces. In light of this, we consider that Government might wish to eventually fund two Village Trials in order to accelerate and increase confidence in decisions around heat. As such, it could be prudent to fund all three proposals through FEED.

The trials will provide empirical evidence in several areas: cost of conversion (network and appliance), skills and competencies and end-user experience of both the conversion process and use of hydrogen appliances in the home. It will also enable accurate comparison of the same for homes which have undergone an electrification conversion i.e. heat pump installation. We assume the trials will also study the adaptation of homes for heat pumps and upgrades to the regions electrical infrastructure? i.e. any home insulation or heating and hot water system updates and power supply upgrades in the immediate area.

As a technology researcher and manufacturer, trials like these supercharge our development activities here in the UK by adding confidence to our decision making and helping develop and retain highly skilled associates in our industry. We feel this benefit will also stretch out across the country and support the creation and growth of highly skilled jobs in the regions.

The trials will also support the outcomes of the Hy4Heat programme and provide the next step in the UK hydrogen strategy.

2. Do you have any views on the proposed project deliverables for Cadent and NGN, and whether further deliverables are required?

The below comments are made in common to both Cadent and NGN project deliverables. We see the needs as the same for both projects.

We agree with Ofgem and feel that engagement with the supply chain (manufacturers and installers) from the outset is a crucial element in supporting not only the on-time delivery of the trial but also for the breadth and completeness of the study. The design study, and any subsequent trial, will be improved by ensuring knowledge and requirements are considered early. As appliance developers, manufacturers, and boiler market specialists the earlier we can support the process the more solutions, added value, and experience we will be able to impart.



We, as appliance manufacturers, can deliver training and skills assessments for the local installation and maintenance workforce. We are prepared to play this role in trials, but again we need to be engaged meaningfully and early for this collaboration to be successful.

08 April 2022

Page 3 of 3

We see engagement with the boiler installation fraternity in the target areas as key, they are a major source of information and confidence for the end-user and as mentioned are a key player in the supply chain towards the end-user. Most boiler consultations and its physical delivery are done by the installer direct with the end-user. Therefore, installers need to be engaged with early in the process to help build their confidence to enable them to pass this 'confidence' on to the end-user.

As a leading manufacturer and well-known heating brand we can support with marketing content for the end-user and heating industry. But again, to ensure the timing and quality of support we need to be engaged with early and meaningfully.

We feel that an important deliverable is a clear plan to ensure the safety of hydrogen in buildings. This should build on the work already conducted under WP7 of Hy4Heat and the subsequent work currently being carried out under the instruction of BEIS. A safe network and safe appliances do not constitute safe buildings, and buildings should receive specific treatment in technical risk management.

We feel that trials would benefit from the use of green hydrogen as the primary fuel. The use of blue or grey hydrogen as a primary source may reinforce narratives against the use of hydrogen for heat. We feel that blue hydrogen is appropriate as a supplementary fuel source and as a back-up option.

We would encourage engagement with key stakeholders and supply chain partners in the development of the Phase 2 design study close down report. This will help demonstrate a true partnership approach and support comments made in the Consultation document.

3. Do you have any views on the proposed directions for the projects contained in Appendix 2 to 4?

No comments.

End.