

Mr Adenuga,

Last week, in discussion at a SmartGrids meeting, John Scott drew my attention to your consultation on IFI and related issues. John mentioned that although the closing date was officially 30 November, you could still include some comments from AREVA T&D UK in your review even if delivered a little late. I would therefore like to offer the comments below from our Company. I hope that they are of assistance.

Best regards,

Richard CHARNAH
Technology Director
AREVA T&D

tel: +44 1785 786495 mob: +44 7801 774924

AREVA T&D UK views on the IFI scheme

We, as AREVA T&D, have already supported and are participating in two projects with two different DNOs under the IFI scheme. We see this mechanism as having unlocked investment in key areas of development where results can be realised relatively quickly.

There are direct benefits deriving from DNOs working directly with the technology providers to ensure that such R&D more precisely meets the needs of the network asset owners in terms of application and functionality, whilst the practical aspects of industrialisation can be managed in parallel.

There is also the more anecdotal evidence that IFI has changed the attitude to R&D in the DNOs. It seems that now, because there is a ring-fenced budget involved and it can be recovered via charges, there is not only funding but there are personnel dedicated to managing it in each DNO.