



Promoting choice and value  
for all gas and electricity customers

# Draft Gas Network Innovation Competition Governance Document

## Governance Document

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### Overview:

This document is the draft version 1 of the Gas Network Innovation Competition Governance Document referred to in the NIC Licence Condition.

One of the key innovation proposals for the RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) model for price controls was the introduction of a Network Innovation Competition (NIC) for gas and electricity. The purpose of the NIC is to encourage Network Licensees to innovate to address issues associated with the move to the low carbon economy.

This Governance Document sets out the regulation, governance and administration of the Gas Network Innovation Competition. Network Licensees are required by the NIC Licence Condition to comply with this document as if it formed part of the licence. However we have attempted to make this document accessible and informative to parties other than the Network Licensees, especially those who may be looking to partner with Network Licensees to use the NIC to try out new technological or commercial arrangements.

## Context

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Innovation is a key element of the new RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) model for price controls. The RIIO model applies to gas distribution companies (RIIO-GD1) and electricity and gas transmission companies (RIIO-T1) from 1 April 2013. It is our intention to apply it to electricity distribution companies (RIIO-ED1) from 1 April 2015.

One of the key innovation proposals was the introduction of a network innovation competition (NIC) for gas and electricity. The purpose of the NIC is to encourage Network Licensees to innovate to address issues associated with the move to the low carbon economy.

This document sets out the regulation, governance and administration of the Gas NIC. This document is issued by the Authority under Part E (The NIC Governance Document) of the NIC Licence Condition and in accordance with Part F (Procedure for Issuing the NIC Governance document) of the NIC Licence Condition. This document may be revised and reissued in accordance with part E of the NIC Licence Condition.

Network Licensees are required by the NIC Licence Condition to comply with this document as if it formed part of the licence. However we have attempted to make this document accessible and informative to parties other than the Network Licensees, especially those who may be looking to partner with Network Licensees to use the NIC to try out new technological or commercial arrangements.

For the avoidance of doubt, this document is subordinate to licence condition [GTC/GDC10]. Consequently, this document will not change any definitions or obligations contained within the Gas Transporters Licence applicable to each of the Licensees and, in the event of any dispute, the licence condition will take precedence.

## Associated documents

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Gas Act 1986

Gas Transporters Licence – Special Condition [GTC/GDC 10]

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# 1. Introduction

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## Chapter Summary

This chapter sets out the purpose and objectives of the Network Innovation Competition

## The Gas Network Innovation Competition

1.1. Innovation is a key element of the new RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) model for price controls. The RIIO framework provides strong incentives to innovate as part of normal business. However, certain research, development, and demonstration projects are speculative in nature and yield uncertain commercial returns. In addition, where benefits are linked to the decarbonisation of the network, it may be difficult to commercialise the respective carbon and/or environmental benefits and shareholders may be unwilling to speculatively fund such projects. Overtime, we expect the incentives within the RIIO framework to encourage Network Licensees to innovate as part of business as usual. In the meantime, we have also introduced a time-limited Innovation Stimulus package within the RIIO framework to provide an additional incentive to kick start a cultural change where Network Licensees establish the ethos, internal structures and third party contacts that facilitate innovation as part of business as usual.

1.2. The Innovation Stimulus<sup>1</sup> consists of three measures:

- a Network Innovation Allowance (NIA) – to fund smaller innovation Projects as part of a RIIO-Network Licensees price control settlement;
- a Network Innovation Competition (NIC) – an annual competition to fund selected flagship low carbon and environmental innovation Projects; and
- an Innovation Roll-out Mechanism (IRM) – to fund the roll-out of proven innovations which will contribute to the development in Great Britain of a low carbon energy sector or broader environmental benefits.

1.3. The NIA and NIC are successors to the Low Carbon Networks (LCN) Fund. The NIA and NIC broadly replicate the structure of the LCN Fund<sup>2</sup> which consists of a First Tier Allowance and a Second Tier annual competition for funding. The scope of the NIC is broader than the Second Tier of the LCN Fund as it also included Development and well as Demonstration projects. In addition to the LCN Fund First Tier the NIA also builds upon elements of the Innovation Funding Incentive (IFI) that was in place under previous price controls.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on the high level policy of the Innovation Stimulus can be found in the RIIO-T1/GD1 March Strategy Document:  
<http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=77&refer=Networks/Trans/PriceControls/RIIO-T1/ConRes>

<sup>2</sup> More information on the LCN Fund is available [here](#).

## The Network Innovation Competition (NIC)

1.4. The Gas NIC is open to Gas Network Licensees who wish to bid for funding for innovative Projects which could deliver carbon or environmental benefits for consumers and that wouldn't be funded during the course of the price control without additional funding being made available.

1.5. The Gas NIC will run annually from April 2013 – March 2021 and a maximum of £18m<sup>3</sup> will be available each year for the purposes of the competition<sup>4</sup>.

1.6. For the Purposes of this Governance Document, a Network Licensee is the holder of a Gas Transporters Licence, ie a Gas Transmission Owner (TO), a Gas Distribution Network Operator (GDN) or an Independent Gas Transporter (IGT).

1.7. We expect Network Licensees to collaborate with each other, and Non-Network Parties on Projects. Network Licensees may also collaborate with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) or Electricity Transmission Licensees on Gas NIC projects as Project Partners. Non-network parties and Project Partners are able to contribute External Funding to a Project but only Network Licensees are eligible to lead bids for NIC funding.

1.8. A key feature of the NIC is the requirement that learning gained through Projects is disseminated in order that customers gain significant return on their funding through the broad roll-out of successful Projects and the subsequent roll-out of network savings and/or carbon benefits. Even where Projects are deemed unsuccessful, Network Licensees will gain valuable knowledge that could result in future network savings.

1.9. We have introduced the NIC Licence Condition to enable the creation of the Gas NIC.

### **Differences between the NIC and the NIA**

1.10. The Network Innovation Allowance (NIA) is a set annual allowance that each RIIO-Network Licensee will receive to fund small-scale innovative projects as part of their price control settlement. A RIIO-Network Licensee is a Network Licensee that is regulated under the RIIO price control framework. The NIA will fund smaller scale research, development and demonstration projects, and can cover all types of innovation, including commercial, technological and operational. Unlike the NIC, the NIA is not focussed solely on innovative Projects with potential low carbon and environmental benefits.

1.11. Compared to the NIA, the NIC is focussed on funding larger scale, more complex innovative Projects and as such, funding will be awarded through an annual competitive process. All types of innovation including commercial, operational and

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<sup>3</sup>A further £2m in gas is available for the Successful Delivery Reward as outlined in our March decision on the policy aspects of the NIC. More information can be found [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> We will review the level of funding for the Electricity NIC as part of the RIIO-ED1 price control review process. Until 2015, DNOs will continue to bid for funding under the LCN Fund arrangements.

technical are eligible for NIC funding so long as the Project has the potential to deliver low carbon and/or environmental benefits to consumers.

1.12. [The scope of Network Licensee involvement in the NIC is also broader than the NIA. The NIA is only available to RIIO-Network Licensees as part of their price control settlement, whereas Non-RIIO Network Licensees may lead bids for funding under the NIC].

1.13. [For the purpose of this Governance Document, Non-RIIO Network Licensees include Network Licensees who are not regulated under the RIIO price control framework. These are Independent Gas Transporter (IGTs)].

1.14. The regulation, governance and administration for the NIA is set out in the NIA Governance Document.

## The Gas NIC Governance Document

1.15. This document is the Gas NIC Governance Document and sets out the regulation, governance and administration of the Gas NIC.

1.16. This document is divided into two sections. Section A sets out the annual competitive process that both RIIO and Non-RIIO Network Licensees should follow to submit Project bids to Ofgem on for NIC funding. Section B sets out the Project implementation requirements if a Network Licensee is successful in winning NIC funding.

1.17. In this document we use the terms Ofgem and the Authority interchangeably. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. The Authority is the governing body for Ofgem, consisting of non-executive and executive members.

1.18. Defined terms are capitalised throughout the text, with the definitions set out in Appendix 1.

1.19. Throughout this document we use the terms Project, Method, Problem, Solution and Dissemination.

- **Problem:** means the issue that needs to be resolved in order to facilitate the low carbon future or deliver wider environmental benefits,
- **Method:** means the proposed way of investigating or solving the Problem. This may be done by either<sup>5</sup>:
  - Development (TRL 4-6)<sup>6</sup> which means activity focussed on generating and testing Solutions to the Problem; and

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<sup>5</sup> Research activities (TRL 1-3) will not be eligible for NIC funding

- Demonstration (TRL 7-8) which means activity focussed on generating and testing Solutions on the network and then taking it to a stage where they can be transferred to business as usual.
- **Project:** means the development or demonstration being proposed or undertaken,
- **Solution:** means the outcome if the Problem is solved,
- **Dissemination:** means the activity undertaken to share learning from a Project

## Compliance

1.20. Network Licensees are required by the NIC Licence Condition to comply with this document as if it formed part of their licence.

1.21. The NIC and this NIC Governance document in no way relieves affected parties, including Network Licensees and Project Partners, from their responsibility to ensure ongoing compliance with their licence obligations, legislation including competition, environment and consumer protection laws.

## NIC Review

1.22. Ofgem may from time to time revise this NIC Governance Document in accordance the NIC Licence Condition.

1.23. Ofgem will undertake a review of the Gas NIC after it has been in operation for at least two years. It is possible that, following this review, we will make changes to aspects of the NIC operations and governance and amend the Governance Document to facilitate these changes.

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<sup>6</sup> Technology readiness levels (TRLs) is used to assess the maturity of evolving technologies, graded on a scale of 1-9



## 2. Collaboration and Project partner awareness

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### Chapter Summary

This chapter sets out that Network Licensees should collaborate with a range of parties to develop and facilitate Projects supported by the NIC. We also require Network Licensees to work collaboratively to maintain a collaboration website for this purpose at all times

### Potential Project Partner Awareness Portal

2.1. We expect Network Licensees to collaborate with each other and Project Partners on many of the Projects supported by the NIC. Network Licensees are likely to have to work closely with other parties in the electricity supply chain (from generators to suppliers) to explore what technological or commercial arrangements best address changes in network use and what role they can play in facilitating low carbon and/or wider environmental benefits. Similarly, Network Licensees may benefit from the technologies used and lessons learned in other industries, including the telecoms and information technology sectors, in which case partnerships with technology providers and others outside the energy industry will be valuable. Other parties such as local authorities may be carrying out pilot studies and these could offer opportunities for Network Licensees to get a better understanding of how to respond to these studies.

2.2. For the purposes of the LCN Fund<sup>7</sup> established as part of Distribution Price Control Review 5 (DPCR5), Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) have established an area on the website of the Energy Networks Association (ENA) through which external parties can bring forward ideas to the Licensees for LCN Fund Projects<sup>8</sup>.

2.3. The requirements in this chapter apply to a Network Licensee who has the NIC Licence Condition in their Gas Transporter Licence.

### Requirements

2.4. We require Network Licensees to work collaboratively with the DNOs and each other to develop this website to incorporate the NIC and NIA, or develop an equivalent portal (if more cost-efficient than the existing ENA portal) for the NIC and NIA so that the following content is available by 1 October 2013:

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<sup>7</sup><http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Networks/ElecDist/lcnf/Documents1/LCN%20Fund%20Governance%20document%20v5.pdf>

<sup>8</sup><http://www.ena-eng.org/lcn/Home.aspx>

- Links to the Ofgem website, to allow direct access to this NIC Governance Document, as well as submitted Screening and Full Submissions Pro-formas in each year;
- A function which enables potential Project Partners to record their name, contact details and a brief summary of their business, the output of which is available to all Network Licensees; and
- A contact point for potential Project Partners to submit Project ideas.

2.5. We require Network Licensees to work collaboratively to ensure the portal is up to date at all times. In addition Network Licensees should annually review this portal and make appropriate changes to improve its accessibility and content. We expect this review to be informed by stakeholder consultation on the quality of information provided and the usability of the website.

### **Additional information**

2.6. The provision of this portal is not intended to provide any constraint on, or specify the mechanism as to how the Network Licensee will select Project Partners. The portal should not be used as the sole basis upon which an award of a contract for services provided by a Project Partner should be based. It is for the Network Licensee to ensure that its actions, in this regard, comply with any applicable procurement rules.

### **Awareness of Learning Portal**

2.7. Facilitating knowledge transfer is one of the key principles of the NIC. Ultimately, consumers are funding this work and we want the learning generated to be disseminated as effectively as possible to ensure that all Network Licensees, and therefore all consumers, are able to benefit from Projects.

2.8. For the purposes of the DECC/Ofgem Smart Grids Forum, Network Licensees are establishing a portal to share learning from innovative Projects. This portal will be an area on the website of the ENA through which external parties can access some of the learning generated as a result of innovative Projects.

### **Requirements**

2.9. We require Network Licensee to work collaboratively to develop this portal so that the following content is available by 1 October 2013:

- A link to the screening and full submission document published on Ofgem's website; and
- The six monthly Project Progress Report for each NIC Project and
- The Close Down Report for each Project.

2.10. We require the Network Licensee to ensure the Project details published on the portal is up to date at all times.



**Additional information**

2.11. The provision of this portal is not intended to provide any constraint on, or specify the Dissemination mechanisms of the Network Licensee. The portal should not be used as the sole means of Dissemination.

2.12. The requirements of this chapter could be fulfilled by creating a single website or multiples websites.

2.13. A Network Licensee who submits Projects to the NIC will be expected to contribute to the costs associated with implementing and maintaining the portal.

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# SECTION A: Process for running the Gas Network Innovation Competition

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## 3. Annual Competitive Process

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### Chapter Summary

We will run an annual competition for funding innovative Gas Projects. This chapter sets out an introduction to the two stage competitive process and outlines the mechanism for funding Projects

### Introduction

3.1. Network Licensees will compete to obtain NIC funding for innovative gas Projects they have proposed. Ofgem will hold an annual call for submissions and will allocate up to £18 m<sup>9</sup> in each of the 8 years from 2013-2021 for Projects which have the potential to deliver carbon or environmental benefits and represent good value for money for consumers.

3.2. Funding will be awarded following a two stage competitive process. Projects must first pass through an Initial Screening Process (ISP) to demonstrate they are eligible to be considered for funding. Each Network Licensee Group can submit up to five Projects to ISP and can develop up to two Projects which have passed through ISP into Full Submissions as a Funding Licensee. A Funding Licensee is a network Licensee who applies for funding from the Gas NIC and is the main point of contact for the Project.

3.3. Full Submissions will be evaluated against a set of criteria – Evaluation Criteria – by an independent Expert Panel. The Expert Panel will make a recommendation to the Authority on which Projects should be awarded funding. The Authority will decide which Projects will be funded.

3.4. The maximum lifetime funding that a Project may apply for (and receive) from the Gas NIC is £18m

### Funding Mechanism

3.5. The general principles and allowed revenues associated with the NIC Funding Mechanism are set out in the NIC Licence Condition. Each year, the Authority will specify the total value of NIC Funding awarded for that Formula Year. This value will be the aggregate of the Approved Amounts by the Authority for individual Projects under the NIC for the year and will cover the approved costs for the life of the Project. We will annualise any multi-year Project costs and allow them to be expensed in the first year of the Project.

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<sup>9</sup> An additional £2m in gas will be set aside each year for the successful delivery reward that licensees will be eligible to apply for.

3.6. This funding will be recovered [through National Transmission System Transportation (NTS) Charges and transferred to the Network Licensee(s) implementing the winning Project(s)/ by individual Network Licensees through their Distribution Network Transportation Charges or NTS Charges]. The Authority reserves the right to disallow, in accordance with the provisions set out in the NIC Licence Condition, any funding awarded (or part thereof) which has not been spent in accordance with the provisions of this Governance Document or relevant Project Direction. Further details of the procedures relating to Halted Project Revenues and Disallowed Expenditure (as defined in the NIC Licence Condition are set out in Section B, Chapter 8).

### **Funding Bid Submission Costs**

3.7. A Network Licensee Group can use up to a maximum of £175,000 or 5% of the Outstanding Funding Required, whichever is smaller, in any Regulatory Year to cover expenditure it incurs in submitting bids to the NIC. A Network Licensee Group can only recover their Bid Submission Costs if their proposed Project passes the ISP stage of the competition and is eligible to be developed into a Full Submission.

3.8. A RIIO Network Licensee Group may use a proportion of their NIA, up to the £175,000 or 5% of the Outstanding Funding Required, in any Regulatory Year to recover their Bid Submission Costs for that year.

3.9. [A Non-RIIO Network Licensee Group will be required to outline in their Full Submission, the total Bid Submission costs for their Project up to the £175k cap or 5% of the Outstanding Funding requested, whichever is smaller. If approved by the Authority, they will recover these Bid Submission Costs from the total NIC funding available in that year.

3.10. For the avoidance of doubt, where a RIIO Network Licensee and a Non-RIIO Network Licensee have the same ultimate controller the combined cap on bid costs will be £175,000 or 5% of the Outstanding Funding Required, whichever is smaller.

3.11. For both Non-RIIO Network Licensees and RIIO Network Licensees, we reserve the right to audit Bid Submission Costs].

## 4. Initial Screening Process

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### Chapter Summary

We will run an annual competition for funding innovative electricity Projects. This chapter sets out the details of the first stage – the Initial Screening Process - of the NIC competitive process

### Introduction

4.1. All proposed Gas NIC Projects must pass the Initial Screening Process (ISP) before they are eligible to be developed into Full Submissions to be evaluated by the Expert Panel and considered by the Authority for funding.

4.2. The purpose of the ISP is to reduce the risk of Network Licensees spending time and money developing “ineligible” Projects by providing an early indication of which Projects are eligible for funding.

4.3. Furthermore, the ISP provides Network Licensees and Ofgem with an early view of the Projects which Network Licensees are developing in a given year and are considering for Full Submission. It will provide an indication of the funding which will be requested and the Project Partners or External Funders who intend to invest (i.e. commit time, resources and/or funding) in the Project. This information will be useful in informing Network Licensees' decisions over which Projects to progress to Full Submission and will also help Ofgem avoid any conflict of interest amongst members of the Expert Panel or any external consultants used by Ofgem to review Full Submissions. The ISP also provides an opportunity for Network Licensees to identify opportunities to collaborate on Projects.

4.4. If Network Licensees collaborate on a NIC Project, they must appoint a Funding Licensee who will act as the single point of contact with Ofgem. The Funding Licensee is the Network Licensee that applies for funding from the Gas NIC in respect of the Project. References to Network Licensee or Network Licensee Group in this section refer to this Funding Licensee where there is Network Licensee collaboration.

4.5. Those Projects which do not meet the Eligibility Requirements will be 'screened out' and not permitted to proceed to Full Submission. Network Licensees will not be able to recover Bid Submission Costs for Projects which do not pass ISP.

4.6. Ofgem will announce a Screening Submission<sup>10</sup> deadline by which Network Licensees must submit a summary proposal – the Screening Submission - of any Project they wish to be considered for NIC funding that year. A Network Licensee Group will not be permitted to submit more than five Screening Submissions to Ofgem for consideration in any given year in the capacity as Funding Licensee.

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<sup>10</sup> The Network Licensee's submission for the ISP

Ofgem will assess Screening Submissions against the Eligibility Requirements and notify the Funding Licensee where a Project fails to meet them. This means that Projects are deemed to have passed ISP unless the Funding Licensee is informed otherwise.

## Eligibility Requirements

4.7. In order to pass the ISP, a Project must meet the Eligibility Requirements. Under the Eligibility Requirements a NIC Project must meet at least one of the specific requirements set out in paragraph 4.8 and each of the four ISP criteria detailed in paragraphs 4.9 to 4.19 below in order to pass the ISP. Once a Project proposal has passed the ISP, it can be developed into a Full Submission to be evaluated by the Expert Panel and the Authority.

### Specific requirements

4.8. A NIC Project must have the potential to have a Direct Impact on a Network Licensee's network and involve the research and development, trialling or demonstration of at least one of the following:

- A specific piece of new (i.e. unproven in GB) equipment (including control and communications systems and software);
- A novel arrangement or application of existing gas transmission and/or distribution equipment (including control and communications systems software);
- A novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the gas Transportation System; or
- A novel commercial arrangement.

### ISP criteria

4.9. In addition to meeting one or more of the requirements set out in paragraph 4.8 in order to pass ISP, a Network Licensee must also demonstrate in its completed Screening Submission that the Project also meets all the following ISP criteria.

- a) Accelerate the development of a low-carbon energy sector and/or deliver environmental benefits whilst having the potential to deliver net financial benefits to existing and/or future network customers**

4.10. The Network Licensee will need to identify if the proposed Project Solution has the potential to accelerate the development of the low carbon energy sector and/or deliver wider environmental benefits to consumers. In addition the Network Licensee will need to demonstrate that the Project has the potential to deliver net financial benefits to existing and/or future customers.



4.11. To demonstrate compliance with this criterion the Network Licensee will be expected to provide the following information in their ISP submission:

- i. how the proposed Project will make a contribution to the Government's current strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as set out in the document entitled the "Carbon Plan"<sup>11</sup> published by DECC. In particular the Network Licensee should outline:
  - What aspects of the carbon plan the Solution facilitates
  - The contribution the roll-out of the Method across GB can play in facilitating these aspects of the Carbon plan
  - How the roll-out of the proposed Method across GB will deliver the Solution more quickly than the current most efficient Method in use in GB;
- ii. how the proposed Project could deliver environmental benefits to customers
- iii. the expected financial benefits the Project could deliver to customers.

**b) Delivers value for money for gas customers**

4.12. The Gas NIC will be focussed on Projects which can derive benefits and resulting learning that can be attributed to or are applicable to the gas Transportation System versus elsewhere, taking into account the level of funding requested.

4.13. We also expect Network Licensees to collaborate with each other and non-licensee parties on many of the Projects supported by the NIC. Such collaboration can enhance the benefits efficiency and learning delivered from Projects.

4.14. To demonstrate compliance with this criterion the Network Licensee will be expected to provide the following information in their ISP submission:

- i. how the Project has a Direct Impact on a Network Licensee's gas network
- ii. justification that the scale/cost of the Project is appropriate in relation to the learning that is expected to be captured
- iii. the processes that will be employed to ensure that the Project is delivered at a market competitive cost

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<sup>11</sup> [The Carbon Plan](#): Delivering Our Low Carbon Future December 2011. Where this document is amended or replaced by Government, Ofgem will notify the Licensees of any changes in writing.

- iv. the expected proportion of the benefits which will accrue to the gas Transportation System as opposed to other parts of the energy supply chain
- v. how Project Participants have been identified and selected including details of the process that has been followed and the rationale for selecting Participants and ideas for the Project.

**c) Create knowledge that can be shared across energy networks in Great Britain (GB) or create opportunities for roll-out for a significant proportion of GB networks**

4.15. A Project must demonstrate that it can generate knowledge that does not exist before the Project is implemented. It is also a requirement that the learning from the Project (whether successful or not) is disseminated amongst other Network Licensees.

4.16. To demonstrate compliance with this criterion the Network Licensee will be required to provide the following information in their ISP submission:

- i. what new knowledge is intended to be generated from completing the Project
- ii. what methodology will be used to capture results from the Project and how the Project's results will be disseminated to other Network Licensees
- iii. whether the Network Licensee wishes to conform to the default IPR arrangements as set out in Section B: Chapter 9. If the Network Licensee wishes to deviate from the default IPR arrangements it must outline the proposed arrangements, justify why the arrangements are more suitable than the default arrangements and justify how the new arrangements will deliver value for money for customers.

**d) Are innovative (ie not business as usual) and have an unproven business case where the innovation risk warrants a limited development or demonstration Project to demonstrate its effectiveness**

4.17. The NIC is specifically targeted at innovative Projects that a Network Licensee would not perform in its normal course of business because the specific commercial, technical, operational or regulatory risks associated with the Project are too large that shareholders will not speculatively fund them.

4.18. The Network Licensee must demonstrate that the Project they would like to fund is innovative, untested at the scale and circumstance in which the Network Licensee wishes it to be deployed and that new learning will result from the Project. This will prevent widespread deployment of proven technologies or practices using NIC funding.

4.19. To demonstrate compliance with this criterion the Network Licensee will be expected to provide the following information in their ISP submission:

- i. why the Project is innovative and has not been tried before
- ii. why the Network Licensee will not fund such a Project as part of their business as usual activities
- iii. why the Project can only be undertaken with the support of the NIC, including reference to the specific risks (e.g. commercial, technical, operational or regulatory) associated with the Project.

### Screening Process

4.20. In order for a NIC Project to pass the ISP it must conform to the process set out below.

4.21. Network Licensees must submit their Screening Submission by the specific Screening Submission date set by Ofgem. This date may alter from year to year but will be communicated to Network Licensees at least two Calendar Months in advance of the deadline for Screening Submissions. It will also be published on our website.

4.22. Network Licensees should submit their submissions via a secure online portal or secure email. Ofgem will provide details of the relevant arrangements one month prior to the Screening Submission date. If the secure online portal is unavailable, Ofgem will permit the Network Licensee to submit its Screening Submission by email. As part of granting this permission, Ofgem will notify the Network Licensee of the email address it must use for the submission.

4.23. Screening Submissions must be submitted using the Screening Submission Pro-forma provided by Ofgem. This Pro-forma limits the length of the Screening Submission. Network Licensees are not permitted to submit any appendices or supplementary information alongside their Screening Submission. The information which we will require in the Screening Submission Pro-forma is set out in Table 2.1. below.

4.24. Ofgem will confirm receipt of the submission one Working Day following the successful upload of a Screening Submission to the secure online portal or receipt via secure email.

4.25. Where Ofgem deems that any necessary information is missing within the Screening Submission, Network Licensees will have two Working Days in which to provide this information following any request. If the missing information is not provided within these two Working Days then the Project will be deemed to have failed the ISP.

4.26. The Project will be deemed to have passed ISP unless, within twenty Working Days of the Screening Submission date, Ofgem has sent to the Network Licensee

written notification saying that their Screening Submission has failed to meet the Eligibility Requirements. This notification will outline Ofgem's reasons in full. Ofgem will publish a list of Projects which have passed ISP twenty Working Days following the Screening Submission date.

4.27. If, during the twenty Working Day evaluation period following the ISP submission, Ofgem considers that additional information will be needed to assess whether the Screening Submission has met the eligibility criteria then in these circumstances the Authority may extend the ISP deadline by 20 days, or a part thereof, from the day when the further submissions were made.

4.28. All notification letters will be first sent to Network Licensees (via email and in the post) and will then be published on Ofgem's website. Publication of the Screening Submissions is described in the publication section below.

4.29. The Authority may provide separate feedback on some Projects which have passed ISP where it feels the Network Licensee will need to provide greater clarity on aspects of the Project for Full Submission.

4.30. A Project must be submitted for the ISP in any year in which the Network Licensee intends to develop it into a Full Submission. This includes Projects which have passed ISP in previous years. This ensures that Ofgem, Network Licensees and wider interested parties have full visibility of the Projects which could be competing for funding as part of a Full Submission.

## Screening submission

4.31. Below is the information which a Network Licensee will be required to provide in a completed Screening Submission Pro-Forma.

**Table 4.1**

<b>Pro-forma category</b>	<b>Information required</b>
Project Title	
Funding Licensee	The Funding Licensee for the Project.
Network Licensee Partners	Where the Project is a collaboration between Network Licensees, the Funding Licensee's Partner(s) should be identified here.
Estimated Project Funding	The Funding Licensee must provide an approximate figure of the total cost of the Project and the amount of Gas NIC funding for which they consider they will apply in the Full Submission. The Network Licensee should also indicate if the Project is requesting funding from the Electricity NIC, the NIA or the Second Tier of the Low Carbon Network Fund as well. [A Non-RIIO Network Licensee Group who expects to request recovery of Bid Submission Costs in

	their Full Submission must provide details and evidence to support its approximate Bid Submission costs.]
Funding commentary	The Funding Licensee should provide a commentary on the accuracy of its funding estimate and state any potential for phasing the Project.
Duration of Project	The start and end date for the Project
Licensee area	The Network Licensee area(s) in which the Project will take place.
Problem	The Funding Licensee must provide a narrative which explains the Problem(s) which the Project is seeking to address.
Method(s)	The Funding Licensee should describe the Method(s) which are being trialled. It must also outline how the Method(s) could solve the Problem. The type of Method should be identified where possible e.g. technical or commercial.
Specific requirements	The Funding Licensee must identify which of the specific requirements detailed in paragraph 4.8 their Project meets. A Project must meet at least one specific requirement in order to pass the ISP.
Accelerates the development of a low carbon energy sector and/or delivers wider environmental benefits	The Funding Licensee must demonstrate that the Solution makes a contribution to the Low Carbon Transition Plan and/or has wider environmental benefits for their customers
Deliver net financial benefits to existing and/or future customers	The Funding Licensee must demonstrate that the Method(s) they are trialling has the potential to deliver the Solution at a lower cost than the most efficient method currently in use on the GB gas Transportation System.
Provide value for money for electricity customers	The Funding Licensee must set out the Method(s) it is trialling and demonstrate the potential Direct Impact it has on the operation of its Transportation System. It must also set out how it will deliver value for money for consumers.
Demonstrates the Project is innovative and generate knowledge that can be shared amongst all Licensees	The Funding Licensee must explain the learning which it expects the Method(s) it is trialling to deliver. It must also outline why the Project is innovative and would not happen as part of business as usual. If the Funding Licensee wishes to deviate from the default requirement for IPR then it must demonstrate that the IPR arrangements will deliver value for money for consumers.

Project Partners and external resourcing/funding	The Funding Licensee should provide details of any Project Partners who will be actively involved in the Project and are prepared to devote time, resources and/or funding to the Project. A summary of any existing or planned contractual arrangements with these parties in relation to the Project should also be detailed at this stage if in place. If the Funding Licensee has not identified any specific Project Partners, it should provide details of the type of Project Partners it wishes to attract to the Project.
Derogations or exemptions	The Funding Licensee should outline if they consider that the Project will require any derogations, exemptions or changes to the regulatory arrangements.
Customer impact	The Funding Licensee should outline any planned interaction with Relevant Customers or Relevant Customers' Premises as part of the Project, and any other impacts (such as amended contractual or charging arrangements, or supply interruptions).

## Publication

4.32. Following the ISP deadline, Ofgem will publish the Screening Submission in full. This is to provide full transparency of the Projects being developed and enable Network Licensees to identify where there are opportunities to collaborate. A Network Licensee must clearly identify any information contained in the Screening Submission that it does not consent to being published in full. It must demonstrate that it (or its Project Partners) will face commercial harm from its disclosure and that the information is considered eligible for exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Act 2004.

## Project changes

4.33. The purpose of ISP is to prevent Network Licensees incurring costs developing Projects which are not eligible to receive funding through the NIC. A further objective of ISP is to provide an early indication of the Projects being developed and to allow both Network Licensees and Ofgem to plan accordingly. If Network Licensees can change their Projects substantially between ISP and Full Submission, then the purpose of the ISP will be defeated.

4.34. Once a submission has passed ISP, a Network Licensee must not alter the high level Solution(s) it wishes to facilitate in order to solve the Problem or the Method(s) which it will use to deliver the Solution(s).



4.35. The methodology used to capture learning from the Project should remain unaltered at a high level and the Full Submission should expand on (rather than materially alter) the methodological details provided within the Screening Submission and/or to provide new ideas on how learning from the Project could be disseminated. Furthermore, where a NIC Project deviates from the default requirements for IPR and has been deemed to meet the Eligibility Requirements, the IPR arrangements for that Project must not be altered ahead of a Full Submission except where the Network Licensee wishes to revert to the default IPR arrangements.

4.36. If, subsequent to the evaluation period following the ISP deadline, two or more Network Licensees decide to merge or combine elements of Projects which have passed the ISP, they must notify Ofgem, in writing as early as possible and at least ten Working Days prior to the Full Submission date.

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## 5. Full Submission Process

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### Chapter Summary

We will run an annual competition for funding innovative electricity Projects. This chapter sets out the process for Full Submission of NIC Projects. We also set out how these Projects will be evaluated, and how funding will be awarded

### Eligible submissions

5.1. A Network Licensee may not submit a Project for Full Submission if Ofgem has provided written confirmation that the Project has not met the Eligibility Requirements within 20 Working Days of the Screening Submission deadline (or part thereafter if Ofgem has extended the deadline in accordance with paragraph 4.27). Further, for each Project submitted at Full Submission the Network Licensee must demonstrate that it has complied with the rules on Project changes set out in Chapter 4.

5.2. A Network Licensee Group may submit a maximum of two Projects for Full Submission in any given year in the capacity of Funding Licensee. There is no restriction on the number of Full Submissions in which a Network Licensee Group can participate in collaboration with other Network Licensees where the Network Licensee is not the Funding Licensee.

### Project Ownership

5.3. If a Network Licensee decides to collaborate with another Network Licensee on an Gas NIC Project, they must appoint a Funding Licensee who will act as a single point of contact with Ofgem. The Funding Licensee will be the Network Licensee that applies for funding in respect of a Project and submits the Full Submission. Further, the Funding Licensee will be the recipient of any Gas NIC funding for that Project and will be responsible for ensuring that the Project, including any work undertaken by the Project Partners, adheres to this Governance Document, the NIC Licence Condition, and any subsequent Project Direction for the Project.

### Full Submission Process

5.4. For it to be considered by Ofgem, a Network Licensee must submit a Full Submission by the specific Full Submission date set by Ofgem. This date may alter from year to year but will be communicated to Network Licensees as part of the ISP.

5.5. A Network Licensee must ensure that the Full Submission (consisting of the Full Submission Pro-forma and Full Submission Appendices) are submitted in their original formats and also provide a single PDF file which is formatted to print out the whole submission on A4 pages<sup>12</sup>. The Network Licensee should also provide 8 ring bound copies of its Full Submission to Ofgem on the same day. Any Full Submission

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<sup>12</sup> If required the Full Submission costs spreadsheet may be submitted in a separate file and formatted to print in A3.



submitted after 17:00 on the Full Submission date will not be considered. The Network Licensee is responsible for ensuring that all required information is provided within its Full Submission.

5.6. A Network Licensee should submit Full Submissions via a secure online portal into the relevant folder for that Network Licensee. If this portal is unavailable, Ofgem may permit the Network Licensee to submit its Full Submission by email. As part of granting this permission, Ofgem will notify the Network Licensee of the email address it must use for the submission.

5.7. Ofgem will acknowledge receipt of the Full Submission one Working Day following its successful submission.

5.8. Whilst Full Submissions will be published after the notification of the NIC Funding award (see Award notification, paragraph 5.53), following submission Ofgem will publish, and may provide to third parties, summary information on the Projects submitted. This could include the Project title, a high level summary of the Project and who the Funding Licensee and Project Partners are.

### **Full Submission Pro-forma and appendices**

5.9. The Licensees will be required to submit information in the Full Submission including, but not limited to, the items listed below:

- The Funding Licensee,
- Project description and related information,
- Total Project Cost, External Funding, Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution, Direct Benefits and the NIC Funding Request,
- Requested threshold for the funding of cost over-runs if different to the default,
- Requested protection on Direct Benefits, if different to the default,
- Customer impact of Project implementation,
- Project management structure and related information,
- Derogations/ Exemptions that the Project would/may require,
- Proposed Successful Delivery Reward Criteria for the Project,

- Explanation and evidence of how the Method, Project or Solution performs against the Evaluation Criteria, and
- The key learning outcomes which the Project aims to deliver.

5.10. The length of the Full Submission Pro-forma (including Appendices) should be no more than 100 pages. For any Project that a Network Licensee wishes to submit for consideration for NIC Funding, it must complete a Full Submission Pro-forma, as provided by Ofgem. Ofgem will issue guidance for completing the Full Submission alongside the Full Submission Pro-forma which will specify the detail required within each of these categories, and rules/advice on completion of the Pro-forma and content of appendices.

5.11. The Network Licensee must clearly identify any information contained in the Full Submission that it does not consent to being published in full. It must demonstrate that it (or its Project Partners) will face commercial harm from its disclosure and that the information is considered eligible for exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Act 2004. The Network Licensee must provide Ofgem with a non-confidential version which may be published by Ofgem.

## **Derogations and requests to change regulatory arrangements**

5.12. If a Network Licensee considers that there is any possibility that it will require a derogation or exemption, either as a known requirement or as a contingency, from any of their regulatory arrangements then it must state this in the Full Submission. It must also provide, as part of its Full Submission, the evidence that it would put forward as part of its subsequent formal request to seek a derogation or exemption from those arrangements (should the Project be awarded NIC Funding), as well of details as to how and when it would apply for such a derogation.

5.13. The evidence that should be submitted for potential derogations should follow the latest guidance on licence derogation requests, as published on the Derogations page of the Ofgem website<sup>13</sup>. The Network Licensee must also provide the evidence for why the derogation or exemption is necessary and justified, and outline the likely impact on customers or other third parties. It must also indicate whether, if the Method(s) being trialled is proved successful, similar derogations or exemptions would be required in order to roll-out the Method(s). The Network Licensee must indicate where there would need to be changes to industry code arrangements in order to enable the roll-out. It will also need to set out whether it would withdraw the request for NIC Funding in the event that Ofgem would not support the change to the regulatory arrangements that it requested within its Full Submission.

## **Customer impacts**

5.14. A Licensee must outline in its Full Submission any interaction or engagement with a Relevant Customer or Relevant Customer's premises as part of the Project, or

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Networks/Tech/TechStandds/Derogtns/Pages/Derogtns.aspx>

any impact the Project may have on Relevant Customers (eg through charging or contractual arrangements or supply interruptions). If the Project is selected for funding, the Network Licensee will have to set out further details of its proposed Customer engagement plan - which is detailed in chapter 8, Project Implementation.

## Projects involving interruptions to customers supply

5.15. A Network Licensee must, in its Full Submission, detail the expected number and duration of any interruptions to customers' supply that will be required in order to implement the Project (i.e. planned interruptions) and the reason for these interruptions. It should also indicate if there is any risk of the Project causing unplanned interruptions, the potential number and duration, and the potential cause of these interruptions.

5.16. The Network Licensee must set out the steps they have undertaken to investigate alternative ways to implement the Project which could reduce or avoid the need for customer interruptions. Network Licensees must set out the alternatives it investigated and provide a summary of why these alternatives were rejected.

## Funding Request

5.17. In the annual call for Projects, the maximum amount of Gas NIC funding that a Network Licensee can request as part of a Full Submission is £18m. Ofgem has no obligation to make Gas NIC Funding awards totalling this amount in any year, and the difference between the maximum amount and the amount awarded will not be carried over for the remaining years of the scheme.

5.18. To calculate the level of Gas NIC Funding that can be requested for a Project as part of the Full Submission (the Gas NIC Funding Request), the Network Licensee must determine the following:

- **Total Project Costs:** This is the forecast costs the Network Licensee expects to be required to undertake the Project.
- **Initial Net Funding Required:** This is the Total Project Costs minus any funding from Project Partners, External Funders and the Network Licensee which is in excess of the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution.
- **Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution:** Equal to 10 per cent of the Initial Net Funding Required.
- **Outstanding Funding Required:** Initial Net Funding Required minus the Network Licensees Compulsory Contribution.

- **NIC Funding Request:** The Outstanding Funding Required, including a deduction for the bank account interest that the network licensee will earn on the balance of funding over the duration of the Project<sup>14</sup>.
- **[Bid Submission Costs:** A Non-RIIO Network Licensee Group should provide detailed evidence of the amount of Bid Submission Costs they have incurred up to £175,000 or 5% of Outstanding Funding required, whichever is least].

5.19. The Network Licensee's Funding Request is automatically calculated within the Full Submission Spreadsheet which Ofgem will provide two months prior to the Full Submission deadline. The bank interest shall be calculated at midyear using the Bank of England base rate plus 1.5 per cent on 30th June of the year in which the Full Submission is made.

### Adjustments and Assumptions

5.20. The Network Licensee should clearly identify the assumptions that underlie the way in which the costs, External Funding and hence the Outstanding Funding Required have been assumed to be phased throughout the duration of the Project.

5.21. In addition, the following adjustments and assumptions should be made when determining the value of the terms defined in paragraph 5.18:

- **Direct Benefits:** The Network Licensee may use Direct Benefits to cover all or part of the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution. Direct Benefits are benefits of the Project accruing to the Licensee during Project Implementation, and comprise expenditure included in the Network Licensee's business plan submission for RIIO-T1 or GD1 that will be saved through undertaking the Project. If Direct Benefits do not exceed the value of the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution, then the Initial Net Funding Required less the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution is the Outstanding Funding Required. If Direct Benefits exceed the value of the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution, then the Initial Net Funding Required less the Direct Benefits is the Outstanding Funding Required. The Network Licensee has to supply funding to the amount of the Direct Benefits identified in the Full Submission into the Project Bank Account (the Project Bank Account is described in paragraph 8.2 onwards).
- **Reliability penalties:** Where a Network Licensee wishes to request protection from penalties associated with planned interruptions under their Reliability Outputs, it must include the value of these penalties in its NIC Funding Request. The Network Licensee will not be exempted from any resultant penalties incurred through interruptions to supplies, but will have received funding to cover these forecast costs associated with planned interruptions.

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<sup>14</sup> The costs and Direct Benefits of the NIC Project will arise over the duration of the Project, whereas the NIC Funding will be provided to the Licensee over the course of the Regulatory Year following the award of funding to the Project.

- **RPI forecast:** In forecasting the Project costs, the Network Licensee should use the RPI forecast that Ofgem will provide at least two Calendar Months prior to the date Ofgem has set for receipt of Full Submissions.

## Request for Bid Submission Costs

5.22. Network Licensees may recover costs incurred for bidding in the NIC up to a cap of £175,000 or 5% of Outstanding Funding Required per Network Licensee Group, whichever is smaller, in any Regulatory Year.

5.23. RIIO-Network Licensees may use a proportion of the NIA up to the cap to spend on Bid Submission Costs. Non-RIIO Network Licensees must request in their Full Submission the amount of Bid Submission Costs they wish to recover.

5.24. Bid Submission Costs include costs associated with submitting a bid or number of bids to a NIC competition in any given year.

5.25. [For Non-RIIO Network Licensees, if the Authority is satisfied that the Bid Submission Costs have been efficiently incurred, the Authority will allow this to be recovered and transferred to the Non-RIIO Network Licensee through the annual Funding Direction (see Chapter 7). The Authority may award all, some or none of the Bid Submission Costs requested by the Non-RIIO Network Licensee].

5.26. [The Authority reserves the right to audit a request for Bid Submission Costs. The audit may be undertaken by Ofgem or a third party appointed at the discretion of Ofgem].

## Successful Delivery Reward

5.27. A Successful Delivery Reward will be available to Network Licensees to incentivise efficient delivery of Projects. A Successful Delivery Reward will only be made if there is sufficient evidence that the NIC Project has been well managed and has achieved the Successful Delivery Reward Criteria. No NIC Project that puts in a request to recover cost overruns will be eligible to receive a Successful Delivery Reward.

5.28. The maximum amount that can be awarded is the amount equal to the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution.

5.29. The Successful Delivery Reward Criteria will be Project specific. A Network Licensee must set out the Successful Delivery Reward Criteria that it proposes for its Project as part of its Full Submission. These proposed Successful Delivery Reward Criteria must comply with the following principles in that they must be:

- i. Linked to meeting identified targets for the outputs that will be expected to be delivered through the Project

- ii. Linked to meeting identified Project milestones, on at least an annual basis
- iii. Linked to achieving the proposals it puts forward for generation of new knowledge to be shared amongst all network operators and
- iv. SMART objectives - specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound.

5.30. The Expert Panel and Ofgem may suggest changes to the Successful Delivery Reward Criteria proposed within the Full Submission as part of their consideration of the Full Submissions. The Network Licensee does not have to accept these changes, but if it does then the revised Successful Delivery Reward Criteria will be deemed to be part of the Full Submission. The Expert Panel and the Authority will consider the quality of the Successful Delivery Reward Criteria as part of the Evaluation Criteria.

## Evaluation Process

5.31. Ofgem will appoint an Expert Panel that will provide a recommendation to the Authority as to which Projects should receive NIC Funding. The Authority will take into account the recommendation of the Expert Panel in awarding NIC Funding.

5.32. Ofgem may appoint consultants to review the submissions and otherwise assist the Expert Panel or the Authority as appropriate. The consultants will be required to have relevant technical expertise, with expertise of gas Transportation System. The consultants will conclude their review with the production of a report (or reports) which will, inter alia:

- Seek to place the information provided for each Project on a comparable basis (so far as possible) to allow the Expert Panel to compare them more easily,
- Provide an assessment of whether the Full Submission appears objectively credible, including an assessment of the costs and benefits that have been assumed as well as an evaluation of the aims of the Project and the timetable over which the Project will be undertaken,
- Identify and assess the materiality of any risks to the Project that it considers have not been made transparent in the Full Submission,
- Provide an assessment of the feasibility of the Project and an indication of the applicability of the resultant learning.

5.33. Ofgem, or its consultants, may request that the Funding Licensee provides clarification about aspects of its Full Submission. Any requests for clarification will be issued on specified day(s) in each week. These days will be agreed and communicated to Network Licensees prior to the Full Submission deadline. If the Network Licensee wishes to provide clarification, it must do so in writing within the specific time period requested by Ofgem. This time period will be no less than two Working Days. Any written clarification provided by the Network Licensee will be

deemed to be part of the Full Submission and the requirements as regards confidentiality apply.

5.34. The report(s) produced by the consultants, together with the Full Submissions (including any written clarifications), will be made available to the Expert Panel and the Authority. This will form part of the evidence base that the Expert Panel will use to make its recommendation and the Authority will use to make its decision. Ofgem will circulate a draft version of the report(s) produced by the consultants to Network Licensees for their information prior to the consultants producing their final version(s). Network Licensees will be able to highlight any information contained in the draft report which they consider to be factually incorrect.

5.35. For each Full Submission that complies with the requirements of paragraphs 5.4-5.8, the Expert Panel will have a meeting or meetings to discuss that Project with the Funding Licensee. The length of the meeting(s) will be set in advance and each Project will receive the same time allocation. The Funding Licensee will be provided with at least ten Working Days notice of the date of this meeting(s).

5.36. In advance of the meeting(s) the Expert Panel may (at its discretion) provide the Network Licensee with a list of questions that it intends to ask at the meeting. It may then ask further questions during the meeting. These questions may include asking the Network Licensee whether it will consider changing its proposed Successful Delivery Reward Criteria. The Network Licensee may submit written responses to these questions, or choose to answer them orally at the meeting(s). However, to the extent that an answer either clarifies or changes something contained within the Full Submission, this must be submitted in writing to Ofgem within two Working Days of the date of the meeting, or as otherwise agreed with Ofgem. This will then be deemed to be part of the Full Submission and the requirements as regards confidentiality will apply.

5.37. The Authority may also ask the Network Licensee questions about a Project. The Network Licensee may submit written responses to these questions, or choose to answer them orally if the Authority offers to have a meeting. However, to the extent that an answer either clarifies or changes something contained within the Full Submission, this must be submitted in writing to Ofgem within two Working Days of the date of the meeting, or as otherwise agreed with Ofgem. This will then be deemed to be part of the Full Submission and the requirements as regards confidentiality will apply.

5.38. The Network Licensee must highlight if any of their responses to either requests for clarification from Ofgem (or its consultants), or to questions from the Expert Panel, alter part of their Full Submission. The Network Licensees must state which sections of the Full Submission their responses alter.

5.39. In addition, following their final meeting with the Expert Panel, Network Licensees will have three Working Days to notify Ofgem whether they wish to make any changes to their submission in light of questions raised by the Expert Panel or points raised in the report prepared by Ofgem's consultants. Following this notification, Network Licensees will have ten Working Days to resubmit their Project.

Any resubmission should not change the underlying Problem, Method or Solution of the Project.

5.40. Network Licensees must resubmit their Full Submission via the secure online portal in a printable PDF format no more than thirteen Working Days following their final meeting with the Expert Panel. The amendments or clarifications from the original Full Submission, resulting in light of requests for clarification, questions raised by the Expert Panel or points raised by Ofgem's consultants, must be clearly identified in an addendum. This revised copy will be published in Ofgem's website following the end of the Full Submission process.

## Evaluation Criteria

5.41. This section sets out the Evaluation Criteria that will be used to evaluate the Projects put forward in the Full Submissions. The Expert Panel will use its judgement to recommend, and the Authority will use its judgement to decide, which Projects should receive funding, based on the different strengths and weaknesses of each Project across all the Evaluation Criteria. They may also consider the impact of the Project on the overall portfolio of NIC, NIA and Tier 1 and Tier 2 LCN Fund Projects that either have been awarded funding in the past, or are seeking funding as part of the same Full Submission process.

5.42. The Authority is not obliged to award NIC Funding, even to those Projects that perform best against the criteria in a given year, if it deems them, on balance against the relevant criteria, to be of insufficient quality, to offer insufficient carbon or environmental benefits or offer insufficient value for money for consumers.

5.43. Although the Expert Panel and the Authority will consider the information provided by Network Licensees, including any quantitative estimates supplied in the Full Submission, they may also conduct their own research or assessment, which can be made available to the Network licensee, and make their own evaluation to allow consistent comparisons to be made between Full Submissions.

5.44. The Evaluation Criteria that will be taken into account in evaluating NIC Projects are set out below.

**(a) Accelerates the development of a low carbon energy sector and/or can deliver environmental benefits whilst having the potential to deliver net financial benefits to future and/or existing customers**

5.45. The Network Licensee will need to identify if the proposed Project Solution has the potential to accelerate the development of the low carbon energy sector, or deliver wider environmental benefits to consumers, or deliver a combination of both. In addition the Network Licensee will need to demonstrate that the Project has the potential to deliver net financial benefits to existing and/or future customers.

5.46. When evaluating how Projects perform against this criterion consideration will be given to the information outlined below.



5.47. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Project has potential carbon benefits, information under part i will be considered and part ii if applicable, if a Project has potential environmental benefits information part iii will be considered.

- i. How the Project will make a contribution to the Government's current strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as set out in the document entitled the "Carbon Plan" published by DECC, in particular:
  - What aspects of the Carbon Plan the Solution facilitates
  - The contribution the roll-out of the Method across GB can play in facilitating these aspects of the Carbon plan
  - How the roll-out of the proposed Method across GB will deliver the Solution more quickly than the current most efficient method in use in Great Britain (GB)
- ii. If applicable to the Project, the network capacity<sup>15</sup> released by each separate Method:
  - The Network Licensee must outline how much quicker the Method(s) being trialled releases this capacity compared to the most efficient method currently in operation on the GB gas Transportation System. The Network Licensee must set out the potential for replication of the Method(s) across GB in terms of the number of sites, or the percentage of the GB Transportation System where the Method could be rolled out
  - The Network Licensee must use these to calculate the capacity the Method(s) will release across GB and how quickly this capacity could be released compared to the most efficient Method currently in operation on the GB Transportation System
  - In assessing the most efficient Method currently in use on the GB Transmission System, Network Licensees should look at the Minimum Cost Scheme under which they would deliver the Solution (at the scale being tested within the Project). We also expect that they take into account lower cost methods which other Network Licensees have deployed successfully on their network which could deliver the Solution (at the scale being tested in the Project)
  - Consideration will also be given to a qualitative account of carbon benefits which are not captured in this analysis and any cost benefit analysis provided as part of the Full Submission

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<sup>15</sup> The more quickly the capacity can be released, the greater the size of that capacity (based on a GB roll-out) and the greater the financial benefit of the Project, the higher the Project will be ranked against this criterion, taking into account the level of funding requested.

- If the Network Licensee considers that the capacity calculation is not applicable to the Project they must provide a qualitative explanation in place of the calculation including a justification for why the calculation is not applicable
- iii. The proposed environmental benefits the Project can deliver to customers:
- The Network Licensee should justify and provide references for all assumptions used to calculate the proposed environmental benefits of the Project
  - If the Network Licensee considers that the calculation of environmental benefits is not applicable to the Project they must provide a qualitative explanation in place of the calculation including a justification for why the calculation is not applicable
- iv. And, the expected financial benefits the Project could deliver to customers:
- A Network Licensee must detail the financial benefit by estimating the costs of delivering the Solution(s) (at the scale being tested within the Project) through the most efficient method currently in use on the GB Transportation System - the Base Case Costs. Network Licensees must compare the Base Case Costs to the costs of replicating the Method, once it has been proven successful, at the scale being tested in the Project - the Method Costs. The difference between the Base Case Cost and the Method Costs is the financial benefit of the Project. Where a Licensee is looking to test more than one Method it should outline the financial benefit of each separate Method

**(b) Provides value for money to gas customers**

5.48. The Gas NIC will be focussed on Projects which can derive benefits and resulting learning that can be attributed to or are applicable to the Transportation System versus elsewhere, taking into account the level of funding requested.

5.49. When evaluating how Projects perform against this criterion the consideration will be given to the following information:

- i. how the Project has a potential Direct Impact on the Network Licensees network
- ii. justification that the scale/cost of the Project is appropriate in relation to the learning that is expected to be captured
- iii. the processes that have been employed to ensure that the Project is delivered at a market competitive cost
- iv. what expected proportion of the potential benefits will accrue to the electricity network as opposed to other parts of the energy supply chain, and what assumptions have been used to derive the proportion of expected benefits
- v. how Project Partners have been identified and selected including details of the process that has been followed and the rationale for selecting Participants and ideas for the Projects

- vi. the costs associated with protection from reliability or availability incentives and the proportion of these costs compared to the proposed benefits of the Project

5.50. For the avoidance of doubt, this criterion does not confine Projects to those that only impact the GB Transportation System. It does not favour a Project focussed solely on a Network Licensee activity, rather than one that relies on third parties whose actions may have an impact on the operation of the Network Licensees network.

5.51. The better the value for money of the components required to deliver the Project, the higher the Project will be ranked against this criterion. In addition, as part of the evaluation process, consideration will be given to the impact the proposed Project may have on third parties including the Network Licensees customers.

**(c) Generates knowledge that can be shared amongst all relevant network Licensees**

5.52. One of the main purposes of the NIC is to generate and share knowledge from Projects.

5.53. When evaluating how Projects perform against this criterion, consideration will be given to the following aspects:

- i. the level of incremental learning expected to be provided by the Project
- ii. the applicability of the new learning related to the planning development and operation of an efficient Transportation System to the other Network Licensees
- iii. the plans to disseminate learning from the Project, both to Network Licensees and to other interested parties, with credit being given to innovative plans tools and techniques which will be shared openly and easily with other Network Licensees
- iv. the robustness of the methodology to capture the results from the Project and disseminate the learning to other Network Licensees
- v. the treatment of IPR. Where a Network Licensee wishes to deviate from the default requirement for IPR set out in Chapter B: Section 8, it must demonstrate how the learning from the Project can be meaningfully disseminated to network operators and other interested parties. This must take into account any potential constraints or costs caused, or resulting from, the imposed IPR arrangements. It must justify why the proposed IPR arrangements provide value for money for consumers

**(d) Are innovative (ie not business as usual) and have an unproven business case where the innovation risk warrants a limited development or demonstration Project to demonstrate its effectiveness**

5.54. The NIC is specifically targeted at innovative Projects that a Network Licensee would not perform in its normal course of business for example because the specific commercial, technical, operational or regulatory risks associated with the Project are too large that shareholders will not speculatively fund them.

5.55. The Network Licensee must demonstrate that the Project they would like to fund is innovative, untested at the scale and circumstance in which the Network Licensee wishes it to be deployed and that new learning will result from the Project. This is to prevent the widespread deployment of proven technologies or practices using NIC funding.

5.56. When evaluating how Projects perform against this criterion, consideration will be given to the following aspects:

- i. justification for why the Project is innovative and not be tried before
- ii. justification for why the Network Licensee will not fund such a Project under its past or current price control allowance or through its tender revenue stream
- iii. justification for why the Project can only be undertaken with the support of the NIC, including reference to the specific risks (e.g. commercial, technical, operational or regulatory) associated with the Project

#### **(e) Involvement of other partners and External Funding**

5.57. Collaboration between Network Licensees and other parties in the energy supply chain is a central objective of the NIC. Further, we expect Network Licensees to leverage alternative funding arrangements where these are available, either through alternative funding mechanisms or from other parties that will get value from being part of the Project. Further, the Network Licensee itself could choose to contribute more funding than the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution.

5.58. When evaluating how Projects perform against this criterion, consideration will be given to the following aspects:

- i. Collaboration that is appropriate to the Project being undertaken will be looked on favourably. Consideration will also be given to whether the Project Partner is under different ownership from the Network Licensee, and whether the contractual arrangements have already been put in place and are robust, including the specific measures in place to procure the cooperation of collaborators to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Governance Document
- ii. The systems or processes the Funding Licensee used to identify potential Project Partners including:
  - how Network Licensees have made interested parties aware of the NIC and the collaboration website and how the Network Licensee has utilised the website to seek collaborators
  - how Network Licensees have actively sought out ideas for Projects; and

- the processes Network Licensees go through to decide which of the available ideas they take forward as NIC Projects.
- iii. Where a Project Partner is involved in identifying other Project Partners, we would expect the Network Licensee to outline the steps it has taken to ensure that the Project Partner has put in place systems or processes as set out in point (ii)
- iv. Evidence of reasonable endeavour attempts to collaborate or obtain External Funding will be taken into account, even if it has not resulted in collaboration or funding from parties outside the ownership group the Network Licensee is part of
- v. Accessing secure additional funding will be looked on favourably: the higher the proportion of external funding to NIC Funding the better. This may be from other External Funders, or from Project Partners who have an interest in the results of the Project, or from the Network Licensee contributing more funding than the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution. Where the benefits from the Project lie outside of the gas Transportation System (as identified under criterion (b) above) we would expect the collaborators to be involved and to provide funds commensurate with the benefits they could be expected to get from participating in the Project
- vi. The degree to which any External Funding that is claimed has been secured. For the avoidance of doubt, there will be no option for the Network Licensee to seek to subsequently have this External Funding replaced by additional NIC Funding

**(f) Relevance and timing**

5.59. When evaluating how Projects perform against this criterion, consideration will be given to the appropriateness of the timing of the proposed Project. This is to reflect that knowledge and technology will both be expected to change over the duration of the NIC.

5.60. When evaluating how Projects perform against this criterion, consideration will be given to the following aspects:

- i. Why the Problem the Network Licensee is looking to investigate or solve is relevant and warrants funding in the context of the current low carbon or environmental challenges the gas sector faces
- ii. How, if the Method proves successful, it would form part of their future business planning and how it would impact on its business plan submissions in future price control reviews

**(g) Demonstration of a robust methodology and that the Project is ready to implement**

5.61. The Expert Panel and the Authority will need to be confident that the Network Licensee can be reasonably expected to deliver the Project. When comparing Projects, consideration will be given to the following:

- i. The detailed Project plan, with responsibilities clearly established and inter-dependencies identified
- ii. The resources to deliver the Project, which should be of a sufficient size and quality to be reasonably expected to ensure its delivery
- iii. Demonstration that the Project can be started in a timely manner
- iv. The Customer impact of Project implementation, including planned mitigations
- v. That costs and benefits of the Project have been reasonably estimated. Any uncertainties in those estimates should be identified, together with any measures it will employ to minimise the possibility of cost overruns or shortfalls in Direct Benefits
- vi. The circumstances under which the Network Licensee would apply to the Authority to request extra funding to cover cost overruns or shortfalls in Direct Benefits should be identified (as provided for under paragraphs 3.104 and 105). Credit will be given if limitations are placed on either the scale of protection or the circumstances under which it will be sought
- vii. The robustness of the proposed methodology on which the Project is based. For example, if the extrapolation of an outcome demonstrated through the Project is required to solve the Problem, the Network Licensee must clearly show that the approach it is taking to undertake such an extrapolation is both statistically and technically sound, reliable and/or verifiable
- viii. The quality of the Successful Delivery Reward Criteria
- ix. The verification of all information included in the proposal
- x. The identification of appropriate risk mitigation processes, including:
  - a risk register
  - risk management, mitigation and contingency plans
- xi. The processes that will be in place to identify circumstances where the most appropriate course of action will be to suspend the Project, pending permission from Ofgem that it can be halted

### **Award Notification**

5.62. The Authority will issue its decision about which, if any, Projects it intends to award NIC Funding (subject to agreeing Project Directions), by 30 November in each year. In addition to publishing its decision, Ofgem will publish the report by the Expert Panel (excluding any confidential information) setting out its recommendation to the Authority and all non-confidential information provided as part of the Full Submission process. These will all be published on Ofgem's website.

5.63. If a Network Licensee wishes to receive further feedback on why a Project has not been awarded funding, then it must make the request in writing to Ofgem within 20 Working Days of the Authority issuing its decision.

5.64. Ofgem will send a draft Project Direction for each Project that has been provisionally awarded NIC Funding to the Funding Licensee. In advance of sending out a draft Project Direction, Ofgem may circulate wording for the Project Direction to Network Licensees shortly after issuing its decision. If the Network Licensee cannot accept the draft Project Direction (subject to any clarification and amendments as agreed in writing with Ofgem) within four Working Days of receipt of the draft, a Project Direction in respect of the Project will not be issued and the Project will not receive NIC Funding. Once a Project Direction has been issued by the Authority, and provided the Network Licensee complies with this Governance Document and the Project Direction, the Project identified within it is deemed to be an Eligible NIC Project, as defined in the NIC Licence Condition.

5.65. The Project Direction will:

- Set out the Project-specific conditions that the Network Licensee is committing to in accepting NIC Funding
- Require the Network Licensee to undertake the Project in accordance with the commitments it has made in the Full Submission. Where appropriate the Project Direction may therefore include extracts from the Full Submission or refer to specific sections of the Full Submission
- Set out the Approved Amount for the Project, that will form part of the calculation contained in the direction issued by the Authority under Section B: Chapter 7 (the Funding Direction)
- Set out the Project Budget that the Network Licensee must report against and how variances against the Project Budget will be reported and approved
- The mechanism for the Network Licensee receiving the Approved Amount is set out in Section Four on the Funding Direction

5.66. The Project Direction is a direction issued by the Authority setting out the terms to be followed during Project implementation as a condition of its being funded. Once a Project Direction has been issued, the Network Licensee must comply with all terms within it. Failure to do so means that Ofgem may determine all or part of the Approved Amount as received by the Network Licensee to be Disallowed Expenditure.

## SECTION B: Implementation requirements

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## 6. Introduction

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### Chapter Summary

An introduction to the Project implementation requirements that a Network Licensee should adhere to once a Project successfully wins NIC funding

- 6.1. Once a Project has been awarded NIC funding and the Funding Licensee has accepted the Project Direction issued by the Authority the Funding Licensee must adhere to the Project Implementation requirements that are outlined in this section.
- 6.2. These requirements are designed to ensure consumers, who have funded NIC Projects, are getting value for money from their investment.
- 6.3. The Funding Licensee will be required to keep NIC funding in a separate bank account (the Project Bank Account), unless alternative arrangements have been approved by Ofgem. The Funding Licensee will also provide Ofgem with a detailed report at least every six months which outlines the progress of the Project. At the end of the Project the Funding Licensee is required to provide a Close-Down Report that provides sufficient information for third parties to understand what has been learnt from the Project.
- 6.4. This section sets out the default IPR conditions, the information and process for issuing the NIC Funding Direction each year and the treatment of Royalties generated through a NIC Project.
- 6.5. For Projects that are awarded funding in the latter years of the RIIO-T1 and GD1 price control, we will consult on appropriate transitional arrangements for the next price control nearer the time.

# 7. Funding Direction

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## Chapter Summary

This section sets out the information that will be published in the Funding Direction and the process for issuing the Funding Direction each year

7.1. As set out in the NIC Licence Condition, Ofgem will issue a direction (the Funding Direction) that will:

- Set the total amount that can be recovered from GB customers through [NTS Charges or DN Charges] to cover Gas NIC Funding in each year, termed (NICFt) in the NIC Licence Condition,
- [Identify the net amounts that must be transferred between the Transmission Owner and other Network Licensees in NIC Licence Condition], and
- The manner in which and the timescale over which the net amounts will be transferred.

7.2. Each Funding Direction will include any Approved Amounts plus any Contingency Funding less any Halted Project Revenues and Disallowed Expenditures that have not been included in a previous Funding Direction.

7.3. Ofgem will usually issue the Funding Direction to each Network Licensee once a year, to allow sufficient time for the impact of NIC funding to be reflected in [NTS/DN Charges] from 1 April of the following year.

7.4. The Funding Direction will set out:

- i. The Approved Amounts that have not already been funded through previous Funding Directions for each Network Licensee for NIC funding [and should be recovered through each Network Licensees own NTS/DN charges]
- ii. Contingency Funding that has been awarded for each licensee for the recovery of Cost Overruns and Shortfalls in Direct Benefits.
- iii. [Eligible Bid Submission Funding that has been awarded to Non-RIIO Network Licensees]
- iv. Halted Project Revenues and Disallowed Expenditures that have not already been recovered through previous Funding Directions for each Network Licensee
- v. Returned NIC Royalties to be returned to customers from, each Network Licensee, as calculated in accordance with Chapter 10
- vi. The calculation determining the Approved Amounts in (i), the Contingency Funding in (ii), the Eligible Bid Submission Funding in (iii), the Halted Project Revenues and Disallowed Expenditures in (iv), and Returned NIC Royalties in (v) above for each Network Licensee
- vii. [The amounts to be recovered by the Transmission Owner on behalf of all Network Licensees through NTS charges and the amounts to be transferred to the Transmission Owner from all Network Licensees to ensure that the Network Licensees receive the Approved Amounts in (i), the Contingency Funding in (ii), the Eligible Bid Submission Funding in



(iii) and refund the Halted Project Revenues and Disallowed Expenditures in (iv) and Return NIC Royalties in (v)]

7.5. [Transfer of revenue between the Transmission Owner and one or more Network Licensees, must be made on an equal monthly basis, for the entirety of the Relevant Year, on the day of the month agreed by the Network Licensee making the transfer].

7.6. [A Network Licensee that is due to receive funds under the terms of the Funding Direction is responsible for notifying the Transmission Owner of the bank account details to which the transfers must be made. If a Network Licensee is required to return funding to the Transmission Owner, the reverse applies.]

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## 8. Project Implementation

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### Chapter Summary

The chapter sets out the requirements a Network Licensee must adhere to if they are awarded funding for a NIC Project

### Compliance

8.1. It is the Licensee's responsibility to ensure that the Project, in its entirety, is undertaken in accordance with NIC Licence Condition, this Governance Document and the relevant Project Direction. This includes work undertaken by its Project Partners.

### Project Bank Account

8.2. A Network Licensee that is awarded NIC Funding must keep these funds in a separate bank account (the Project Bank Account), unless alternative arrangements have been approved by Ofgem.

8.3. Where a Network Licensee that is awarded NIC funding demonstrates to Ofgem that they are unable to keep the funds in a separate bank account, Ofgem may approve that they use the alternative arrangements set out in paragraphs 8.4 to 8.6 below. If a separate account is used then sections 8.4 to 8.6 do not apply.

8.4. Unless otherwise agreed by Ofgem, the Network Licensee must provide a financial tracking and reporting system which is functionally equivalent to a separate bank account for this Project. This means they must hold any Approved Amounts, the Network Licensee's Compulsory Contribution and all other funding from the Network Licensee, Project Partners and External Funders, that the Network Licensee has identified within its Full Submission as being used to fund the Project in a memorandum account. The memorandum account must be capable of providing all the information that would be available from a separate bank account.

This memorandum account must:

- i. Show all transactions relating to (and only to) the Project
- ii. Be capable of supplying a real time statement (of transactions and current balance) at any time
- iii. Accrue expenditures when a payment is authorised (and subsequently reconciled with the actual bank account)
- iv. Accrue payments from the moment the receipt is advised to the bank (and then subsequently reconciled with the actual bank account);
- v. Calculate a daily total and
- vi. Calculate interest on the daily total according to the rules applicable to the account within which the funds are actually held

8.5. The Network Licensee's auditors must review the systems and processes that the Network Licensee is proposing to use to conform to the requirements set out in

this section and provide a signed statement to Ofgem that the systems and processes are fit for purpose, before the Project is initiated and any funds are spent.

8.6. The Network Licensee's auditors must provide an annual report to Ofgem to confirm that the Network Licensee is conforming to the requirements set out in this section.

8.7. The Network Licensee must provide an audited schedule of all the memorandum account transactions, including interest (calculated according to sub point (vi) above), as part of its detailed progress reports to Ofgem.

8.8. For the remainder of this document, the term Project Bank Account applies to the separate bank account set out in paragraph 8.2 or, where Ofgem has given the Network Licensee approval for use of alternative arrangements, the alternative arrangements set out in paragraphs 8.2 to 8.7 above.

8.9. The Project Bank Account must be used for the sole purpose of holding any Approved Amounts, the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution and all other funding from the Network Licensee, Project Partners and External Funders that the Licensee has identified within its Full Submission as being used to fund the Project, unless otherwise agreed by Ofgem. For the avoidance of doubt this does not include funding for initiatives which are being implemented independently of the Project and which would have proceeded regardless of the Project being awarded funding. Deposits to the Project Bank Account from the different funding sources will be made no later than the start of the year that the Network Licensee identified they would be used in the Full Submission. A Network Licensee can only access funds from the Project Bank Account if it meets the requirements for use of these funds as set out in the NIC Licence Condition, this Governance Document and the Project Direction.

## Customer Protection

8.10. Where the Project involves any interaction with a Relevant Customer or a Relevant Customer's premises, or any impact on or engagement with Relevant Customers (e.g. through charging or contractual arrangements or supply interruptions) the Network Licensee must comply with the conditions set out in this Customer protection section.

8.11. The Funding Licensee must submit to Ofgem, at least two months prior to initiating any form of Customer engagement, a plan of how it, or any of its Project Partners, will engage with, or impact upon, Relevant Customers as part of the Project. The Network Licensee and its Project Partners cannot initiate any form of Customer engagement until the plan has been approved by the Authority, and must comply with the approved plan at all times. The plan must include:

- a communications strategy which sets out inter alia:
  - any proposed interaction with a Relevant Customer or premises of a Relevant Customer or proposed interruption to the supply of any

- Customer for the purposes of the Project, and how the Customer will be notified in advance;
- o ongoing communications with the Relevant Customers involved in the Project; and
- o arrangements for responding to queries or complaints relating to the Project from Relevant Customers; and
- information on the Priority Services Customers who will be involved in the Project and how they will be appropriately treated (including providing information to any person acting on behalf of a Priority Services Customer in accordance with condition 37 of the Gas Supply Licence, where applicable);
- details of any safety information that may be relevant to the Project; and
- details of how any consents that may be required as part of the Project will be obtained

8.12. The Network Licensee must publish the plan by making it readily available on its website.

8.13. The Network Licensee and its Project Partners must also:

- not visit a premises of any Relevant Customer for sales or marketing activities in connection with, in the context of or otherwise under the guise of the Project, and
- have regard to the implementation of the smart meter roll-out in an area connected to the Project to ensure that the Project does not impede the implementation in any way.

8.14. In addition, if the Network Licensee or its Project Partners is installing any equipment at the Customer's premises as part of the Project, the Network Licensee and its Project Partners must comply with the following conditions:

- not enter the premises of a Customer, other than for the purposes contained in the Licence or for communication purposes (set out above), unless it first obtains the prior consent of the Customer, such consent to be formally recorded;
- where the equipment is any form of smart meter, the Funding Licensee or its Project Partners must first notify the Customer's Gas Supplier; and
- provide the Customer with information (which should be identified as part of the communications strategy) on how the equipment will be installed, how long it will be installed for, and how it will be decommissioned.

## **Data protection**

8.15. Where the Project involves the collection of any personal data (as defined in the Data Protection Act 1988) the Funding Licensee must submit a strategy for dealing with this personal data to Ofgem at least two months prior to collecting or using the data. The Funding Licensee or its Project Partners cannot collect or use any personal data until the strategy has been approved by the Authority. The strategy must set out the following:

- what personal data will be collected for the purposes of the Project;
- how this personal data will be used;
- how consent for use of the personal data will be obtained;
- what information will be provided to the Customer prior to consent being sought;

- if Priority Services Register Customers are included in the Project, how their personal data will be obtained;
- who owns the personal data;
- how long the personal data will be retained; and
- how this personal data will be managed (which should be based on a “privacy by design” approach, as advocated by the Information Commissioner’s Office<sup>16</sup>).

## Reporting Requirements

8.16. During the Project the Licensee will be expected to comply with a number of reporting requirements outlined below.

### Project Progress Report (PPR)

8.17. The Funding Licensee will be required to provide a detailed report, (the Project Progress Report (PPR)), at least every six months, of sufficient detail to allow Ofgem to evaluate the progress of the Project.

8.18. The Funding Licensee should send a copy of the Project Progress Report to Ofgem and also make it available publically, either on their website or on the ENA innovation portal (see chapter 1 for further details).

8.19. If there is any confidential information in the PPR, this must be included in a separate confidential annex to Ofgem, which will not be published.

8.20. The following information should be provided in the PPR in the order listed below:

- **Executive summary:** This section should be able to stand alone and provide a picture of the progress of the Project in the period to all stakeholders not directly involved in the Project. The Funding Licensee should describe the general progress of the Project; any notable milestones or deliverables achieved in the period; as well as details of any Dissemination activities carried out in the period.
- **Project Manager’s Report:** The Project manager’s report should be a more detailed version of the executive summary. This section should describe the progress made in the reporting period. Any key issues, deliverables or events should be drawn out and described in detail; referring where necessary to other sections of the Project Progress Report (PPR). This section should also provide an outlook onto the next reporting period. It should describe any key issues or concerns which the Project manager considers will be a major challenge in the next reporting period.

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<sup>16</sup> See [http://www.ico.gov.uk/news/current\\_topics/privacy\\_by\\_design\\_conference.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/news/current_topics/privacy_by_design_conference.aspx)

- **Business case update:** The Funding Licensee should note any developments or events which might affect the benefits to be gained from the NIC Project. Where possible the Network Licensee should quantify the changes these developments or events have made to the Project benefits compared to those outlined in the full submission proposal.
- **Progress against plan:** This section should summarise the progress of the Project in the previous six month period. It should describe any issues of note that were faced in the reporting period, and how these issues were managed. Key achievements/notable events should be highlighted. The Funding Licensee should briefly describe key planned activities for the next reporting period. This should include any issues the Funding Licensee envisages facing in the next reporting period.
- **Progress against budget:** The Funding Licensee should report on expenditure against each line in the Project Budget, detailing where they are against where they expected to be at this stage in the Project. The Funding Licensee should explain any projected variance against each line total in excess of 5 per cent.
- **Bank Account:** The Funding Licensee should provide a bank statement or statements detailing the transactions of the Project Bank Account for the reporting period. Where the Funding Licensee has received an exemption from Ofgem regarding the requirement to establish a Project Bank Account it will provide an audited schedule of all the memorandum account transactions including interest as stipulated in the Project Direction.
- **Successful Delivery Reward Criteria (SDRC):** The Funding Licensee should provide a brief narrative against each of the SDRCs set out in their Project Direction. The narrative should describe progress towards the SDRCs and any challenges the Network Licensee may face in the next reporting period.
- **Learning outcomes:** The Funding Licensee should briefly describe the main learning outcomes from the reporting period. It should update Ofgem on how it has disseminated the learning they generated as part of the Project over the last six months.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** The Funding Licensee should report any relevant IPR that has been generated or registered during the reporting period along with details of who owns the IPR and any royalties which have resulted. The Funding Licensee must also report any relevant IPR that is forecast to be registered in the next reporting period.
- **Risk management:** The Funding Licensee should report on the risks highlighted in the Full Submission pro forma, plus any other risks that have arisen in the reporting period. The Funding Licensee should describe how they are managing the risks they have highlighted and how they are learning from the management of these risks.
- **Other:** Any other information the Funding Licensee wishes to include in the report which it considers will be of use to Ofgem in understanding the progress of the Project and performance against the SDRC.
- **Accuracy assurance statement:** The Funding Licensee should outline the steps they have taken to ensure that information contained in the report is accurate. In addition to these steps, we require a Director who sits on the board of the



Funding Licensee to sign off the PPR. This sign off must state that he/she confirms that processes in place and steps taken to prepare the PPR are sufficiently robust and that the information provided is accurate and complete.

8.21. The Funding Licensee can provide more sections or information than that specified above. Such extra information should follow on from the sections we have set out.

## Project changes

8.22. The Funding Licensee will inform Ofgem promptly in writing of any event or circumstance likely to affect the ability of it to deliver the Project as set out in its Full Submission.

8.23. If a Funding Licensee considers that there has been a material change in circumstance that requires a change to the Project Direction, it may submit a request for a change to Ofgem. This request should provide sufficient detail to allow Ofgem to decide whether the change would be appropriate in the circumstances, including whether it would be in the best interest of gas customers. Once Ofgem has enough information to make this decision, it will provide its response in writing to the licensee, including any revisions it has accepted to the Project Direction. Ofgem expects that changes to the Project Direction will only be made when there has been a material change in circumstance that requires a change to the Project Direction.

## Close-Down Report

8.24. The Funding Licensee must provide a Close-Down Report for each Project that receives NIC Funding. It needs to provide sufficient information for third parties to understand what has been learnt from the Project. If the Project has generated IPR that Ofgem has agreed as part of the Project Direction do not need to be shared, the Close-Down Report must provide sufficient information for other Network Licensees to determine whether the IPR would be of value.

8.25. The Funding Licensee must submit its Close-Down Report to Ofgem within three Calendar Months of the Project completion date set out in the Project Direction, or if a Project has been halted, within three calendar months of Ofgem approving the halting of the Project.

8.26. As part of the Close-Down Report, the Funding Licensee must identify any unspent Approved Amounts or Additional Funding for the Project. This will be deemed to be Disallowed Expenditure.

8.27. In the event that Ofgem considers that a Close-Down Report is of an unacceptable standard, it may ask the Funding Licensee to resubmit the Close-Down Report.

8.28. The Network Licensees should make the close-down report publically available on the ENA portal or equivalent (see chapter 1).

## Halting a Project

8.29. A Funding Licensee may seek permission from Ofgem to halt a Project, for example because it has become clear that the Method is not viable or there are other reasons why it does not make sense or is not possible to continue with the Project. The Funding Licensee may suspend the Project from the time it puts in this request, pending a decision from Ofgem to the request to halt. Ofgem may also call a Funding Licensee to stop a Project. From the time that either a Funding Licensee seeks permission to halt a Project or in cases where Ofgem has called for a Project to be stopped, the Funding Licensee must not make any further withdrawals from the Project Bank Account unless:

- funds have already been committed to the Project, or
- the Funding Licensee can demonstrate to Ofgem that the funds are required to be incurred as part of the suspension of the Project.

8.30. As part of the process to evaluate whether a Project should be halted, either at the request of Ofgem or the Funding Licensee, the Funding Licensee will need to provide Ofgem with sufficient information to evaluate whether halting the Project will be appropriate in the circumstances, including whether it would be in the best interest of customers and identifying any costs it will incur and the actions required in halting the Project.

8.31. If Ofgem is satisfied that it is appropriate in the circumstances, including whether it would be in the best interests of customers to halt the Project, then it will confirm in writing that it shall require that the Project be halted. It will also identify any funds that have been received by the Funding Licensee which have not yet been spent, less funds already committed and less any costs that Ofgem has agreed can be incurred to halt the Project. These revenues will be deemed to be Halted Project Revenues and will be returned through a subsequent Funding Direction, as described in Section Four.

8.32. A Project that is halted must still comply with the other requirements of this Governance Document, including the requirement to provide a Close-Down Report.

8.33. If a Project is halted without Ofgem's permission, all Approved Amounts or Additional Funding that the Network Licensee has received for that Project will be deemed to be Disallowed Expenditure. The process for Disallowed Expenditure is set out in paragraphs 8.42 and 8.44.

## Applications for Contingency Funding

8.34. We recognise that innovation and trialling involves an element of risk in that the costs, benefits and impacts of the Project are not fully understood. This is one of the main reasons why Network Licensees may not undertake these Projects under the normal regulatory framework. We therefore will provide some protection for cost overruns and non-realisation of Direct Benefits, as set out below.

8.35. However, protection will not be provided for poor project management, and it is our expectation that Network Licensees will employ all reasonable endeavours to deliver the Project without recourse to Contingency Funding for cost overruns or shortfalls in Direct Benefits. Ofgem will decide whether it is appropriate and justified to provide additional funding in such circumstances.

8.36. A Funding Licensee may request Contingency Funding if it anticipates that the Project will cost more than it had forecast as part of its Full Submission. The maximum amount that can be requested as additional funding for cost overruns is capped at five per cent of the Approved Amount unless an alternative arrangement is set out within the Project Direction. For the avoidance of doubt, a Funding Licensee could choose to identify in its Full Submission that it will not seek to recover any cost overruns and this will be included within its Project Direction.

8.37. If a Funding Licensee wishes to make an application for Contingency Funding to cover anticipated cost overruns, it must notify Ofgem of its intention at least three Calendar Months before it incurs any additional costs. It will provide Ofgem with sufficient information to allow Ofgem to evaluate the request. The Authority will decide whether it would be appropriate in the circumstances, including whether it would be in the best interest of customers to award Contingency Funding for that Project, the size of any award and any changes that may need to be made to the Project Direction before it would be awarded. The Authority may decide that no additional funding is warranted. In particular, the Authority is unlikely to be minded to provide additional funding for a Project where it has concerns about the quality of Project management that, in its opinion, outweigh any benefits expected to be generated by the provision of additional funding.

8.38. If a Funding Licensee seeks Contingency Funding for a cost overrun then it will not be eligible to receive the NIC Successful Delivery Reward for that Project.

8.39. A Funding Licensee can also request Contingency Funding if it experiences Direct Benefits that were lower than it forecast in its Full Submission. The default position is that a Funding Licensee can apply for up to 50 per cent of any shortfall in Direct Benefits in excess of the Network Licensee's Compulsory Contribution, unless an alternative arrangement is set out within the Project Direction.

8.40. If a Network Licensee wishes to make an application for Contingency Funding to cover a decrease in Direct Benefits, it will provide Ofgem with sufficient information to allow Ofgem to evaluate the request. The Authority will decide whether it would be appropriate in the circumstances, including whether it would be in the best interest of customers to award Contingency Funding for that Project, the size of any award and any changes that may need to be made to the Project Direction before it would be awarded. The Authority may decide that no additional funding is warranted.

8.41. If Ofgem does allow Contingency Funding, Ofgem will reissue the Project Direction, if required, and will notify the Funding Licensee of when it will issue a Funding Direction to allow recovery of the Contingency Funding. This process is set out in Chapter 7.

## Disallowed Expenditure

8.42. Disallowed Expenditure is funding that the Funding Licensee receives for NIC Projects or recovers as Directly Attributable Costs that Ofgem determines not to have been spent or recovered in accordance with this Governance Document or with the relevant Project Direction. It includes any funds that must be returned if the Project is halted without Ofgem's permission, any funds that have not been spent in line with the approved Project budget contained within the Project Direction, any unspent funds for completed Projects, and any Directly Attributable Costs that the Authority deems to have been misreported following a Project audit.

8.43. If Ofgem considers that any funds are Disallowed Expenditure it will notify the Funding Licensee who will then have 20 Working Days to make representations as to why the funds should be allowed.

8.44. Ofgem will consider any representation from the Funding Licensee before finalising the determination as regards Disallowed Expenditure. The Disallowed Expenditure will be returned through a subsequent Funding Direction, as described in Chapter 7.

## Project Audits

8.45. All NIC Projects may be subject to an audit. This will include requiring the Funding Licensee to demonstrate that the Project is compliant with the appropriate conditions in NIC Licence Condition, the Reporting Instructions and Guidance (RIGs), this Governance Document and the relevant Project Direction. This audit may be undertaken by Ofgem, or by a third party appointed at the discretion of Ofgem.



## 9. Intellectual Property Rights

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### **Chapter Summary**

To facilitate Knowledge transfer we have created default treatment for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). This chapter sets out these default arrangements and sets out how royalties generated from IPR should be treated

[This text will be consulted on a slightly different timetable. See the cover letter for more information]

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# 10. Royalties

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## Chapter Summary

Any royalties earned by a Network Licensee through Foreground IPR will be shared with customers in proportion to the funds that customers have contributed to the Project. This sections sets out how we intend to treat these royalties and how they will be calculated

10.1. Any royalties earned by a Network Licensee through Foreground IPR (whether Relevant or not) will be shared with customers in proportion to the funds that customers have contributed to the Project. Where a Network Licensee has transferred its right, title or interest in or to any Foreground IPR in return for an income, this income should be treated in the same way.

10.2. A Network Licensee is able to recover Directly Attributable Costs, as defined in NIC Licence Condition. These are the costs of maintaining and managing Foreground IPR. Therefore for each Project, the Network Licensee will return the gross revenue generated through royalties or income generated through IPR less the Directly Attributable Costs.

10.3. We will treat royalties (or income generated from the transfer of Foreground IPR) as regulated revenue and apply the following treatment:

- The proportion of royalties (or income generated from the transfer of Foreground IPR) equivalent to the proportion of the total amount contributed by the Network Licensee (i.e. the Network Licensee's Contribution which is in excess of the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution plus the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution) versus the Outstanding NIC Project Funding and the Network Licensee Contribution will be retained by the Network Licensee as additional profit, and
- The proportion of royalties (or income generated from the transfer of Foreground IPR) equivalent to the proportion of the Outstanding Funding Request versus the Outstanding NIC Funding and the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution will be returned to customers.

10.4. Every Formula Year, the Authority will calculate the royalties earned through NIC Projects that are to be returned to customers. These are NIC Royalties as defined in paragraph 5.12. NIC Royalties will be included in the Funding Direction as outlined in Section B: Chapter 2.

10.5. The Authority will follow these steps to calculate the amounts to be defined in the Funding Direction.

10.6. In a given year, Retained NIC Royalties (RNICR) is the total royalties earned through all NIC Projects to be retained by each Network Licensee  $y$  as additional profit in each year  $t$  and is calculated through the following formula:

$$AP_{k,y} = (RR_{k,y} - DACK_y) \times \frac{NLCC_k + NLECK}{RA_k + NLCC_k + NLECK}$$

10.7. Where:

$AP_{k,y}$  is the Additional Profit earned through royalties to be retained by each Network Licensee  $y$  for a Project  $k$ , and is calculated through the following formula:

$RR_{k,y}$  is the pre tax sum of the NIC Royalties reported by Network Licensee,  $y$  on the Project  $k$ ;

$DACK$  is the Directly Attributable Costs reported by Network Licensee,  $y$  of maintaining and managing IPR generated through the Project  $k$ ;

$NLCC_k$  is the Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution to the Project  $k$ ;

$NLECK$  is the Extra Network Licensee Contribution to the Project  $k$ ; and

$RA_k$  is the Approved Amount set out in the Project  $k$  Direction;

10.8. The Network Licensee must record Retained NIC Royalties as such in its internal accounting records and show it as a reconciling revenue item in the Reconciliation Inputs section of the detailed return required under [GTC/GDC 74] (Reporting of Price Control Revenue Information) of its licence.

10.9. The remaining royalties are to be returned to customers. This is the Royalty Revenue (RR) earned by the Network Licensees minus the Retained NIC Royalties (RNICR). This amount is defined as NIC Royalties Return Income (RRI).

10.10. Each Network Licensee will be required to return any remaining royalties to customers through [NTS Charges or DN Charges]. The Royalty Revenue that each Licensee is required to return to customers will be set out in the Funding Direction.

# Appendices

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**Appendix 1 – Definitions**

**Appendix 2 - Glossary**

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## Appendix 1 – Definitions

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### Approved Amounts

Approved Amounts means an amount approved by the Authority in relation to a claim submitted by a Network Licensee to receive funding for an Eligible NIC Project, where such claim complies in all respects with such requirements as are imposed by the NIC Governance Document in respect of such claims

### Background IPR

Background IPR means all Intellectual Property Rights owned by or licensed to a Participant at the start of a Project

### Base Case Costs

The lowest cost method of delivering the Solution (on the scale outlined as part of the Project) which has been proven on the GB Transportation System

### Bid Submission Costs

The costs incurred when preparing and entering a bid into the NIC

### Calendar Month

Calendar Month is the period of time between any day in one month and the day numerically corresponding to that day in the subsequent month; save that, if the period starts at the end of a month which contains more days than the subsequent month, the period expires at the end of the latter month

### Close Down Report

The report a Network licensee must provide to Ofgem and publish at the end of a NIC funded Project

### Contingency Funding

Contingency Funding means any funding approved by the Authority in relation to the recovery of cost overruns and unrealised benefits

### Distribution Network Transportation Charges (DN Charges)

As defined in condition [GDC-XX] of the Gas Transporters Licence

### Direct Benefits

Direct Benefits are the benefits of a Project accruing to the Network Licensee during the Project implementation and comprise any expenditure included within the Network Licensees Business Plan for RIIO-T1 or GD1 that will be saved as a result of undertaking the Project

### Direct Impact

Where the deployment of the Method will cause a measurable change in the operation of the Transportation System in a controllable way

### Directly Attributable Costs

Costs related to the maintenance and management of Intellectual Property Rights generated through Eligible NIC Projects

### Disallowed Expenditure

Revenue received under the NIC that the Authority determines has not been spent in accordance with the applicable provision of the NIC Governance Document or the terms of the relevant Project Direction

### Dissemination

The activity undertaken to share learning from a Project

### Gas NIC

The annual competition for funding innovative gas Projects with potential low carbon or environmental benefits

### Eligible Bid Submission Costs

Means costs that can be recovered and transferred to Non-RIIO Network Licensees who have incurred Bid Submission costs deemed efficient by the Authority

### Eligible NIC Projects

Means a Project undertaken by a Network Licensee that appears to the Authority to satisfy such requirements of the NIC Governance Document as are necessary to enable the Project to be funded under the NIC

### Eligibility Requirements

Criteria and specific requirements used to assess whether a Project has passed or failed the Initial Screening Process

### Evaluation Criteria

The criteria used to evaluate and compare Second Tier Projects at Full Submission, in order to assess which Projects (if any) should receive funding

### Extra Network Licensee Contribution

Funding provided by the Network Licensee that exceed it's Network Licensee Compulsory Contribution



### External Funder

An entity (that is not a Network Licensee) that provides funding for the Project without requiring a return on their investment

### External Funding

Project funding provided by an External Funder or Project Partner

### Foreground IPR

Foreground IPR means all Intellectual Property Rights created by or on behalf of any of the participants, their sub-Licensees, agents and sub-contractors as part of, or pursuant to, the Project, including all that subsisting in the outputs of the Project

### Full Submission

The full application for funding under the NIC. The Full Submission consists of the completed Full Submission Pro-forma and any appendices

### Full Submission Pro-forma

A pro-forma which licensees must complete and submit to Ofgem in order to apply for funding under the NIC

### Funding Direction

Means a direction issued by the Authority pursuant to the NIC Governance Document setting out the terms to be followed in relation to funding for NIC Projects

### Funding Licensee

The Network Licensee named in the Full Submission as the Funding Licensee, which receives the Approved Amount and is responsible for ensuring the Project complies with this Governance Document and the terms of the Project Direction

### Gas Transporter Licensee

A Gas Transmission Owner (TO), Distribution Network Owner (GDN) or an Independent Gas Transporter (IGT)

### Halted Project Revenues

Revenues received under the NIC funding mechanism in respect of an Eligible NIC Project which have not yet been spent or otherwise committed, at the time that the Authority requires that Project to be halted in accordance with the applicable provisions of this governance document and the terms of the relevant Project Direction

### Initial Net Funding Required

This is the Total Project Costs minus any funding from Project Partners, External Funders and the Network Licensee which is in excess of the Licensee Compulsory Contribution

### Micro-business

A micro business is defined as a company which meets one of the following criteria –

- consumes less than 200,000 kWh of gas a year;
- consumes less than 55,000 kWh of electricity a year; or

has fewer than ten employees (or their full-time equivalent) and an annual turnover or annual balance sheet total not exceeding £2m

### National Transmission System (NTS) Transportation Charges (NTS Charges)

As defined in the Gas Transporters Licence

### Network Licensee

The holder of a Gas Transporters Licence

### Network Licensee's Compulsory Contribution

The minimum contribution by the Network Licensee to the Total Project Cost which is 10 per cent of the value of the Initial Net Funding Required

### Network Licensee Group

A group of Network Licensees who share the same ultimate controller, or an individual Network Licensee, that does not share the same ultimate controller as any other Network Licensee

### NIC Funding Request

The Outstanding Funding Required, including a deduction for the bank account interest that the Network Licensee will earn on the balance of funding over the duration of the Project

### NIC Licence Condition

The NIC Licence Condition is the licence condition which sets out the requirements a Network Licence must adhere to for the purposes of the NIC. In relation to GDNs and the TO this is special licence condition GTC-10. In relation to IGTs this is condition [tbc]

### Non-RIIO Network Licensee

The holder of a Gas Transporter Licence who is not regulated through the RIIO price control framework

### Method

The proposed way of solving the Problem



### Outstanding Funding Required

Initial Net Funding minus the Network Licensee's Compulsory Contribution

### Participant

A party who is involved in a Project. A Participant will be one of the following: Network Licensee, Project Partner, External Funder, Project Supplier or Project Supporter

### Priority Service Customers

Certain domestic customers whose premises are connected to the pipeline to which standard special condition D13 (for GDNs) and standard condition 17 (for IGTs) of the Gas Transporter Licence apply

### Problem

The obstacle or issue that needs to be resolved in order to facilitate the low carbon future and/or provide some environmental benefits to consumers

### Project

Means the development or demonstration being proposed or undertaken

### Project Bank Account

A separate bank account opened and used solely for the purpose of all financial transactions associated with a NIC Project

### Project Direction

A direction issued by the Authority pursuant to the NIC Governance Document setting out the terms to be followed in relation to the Eligible NIC Project as a condition of its being funded pursuant to NIC Funding Mechanism

### Project Partners

Electricity Distributors (DNOs), Independent Electricity Distributors (IDNOs), holders of an Electricity Transmission Licence or any other non-network licensee party that makes a contractual commitment to contribute equity to the Project (e.g. in the form of funding, personnel, equipment etc.) the return on which is related to the success of the Network Licensees Project

### Project Supplier

A party that makes a contractual commitment to supply a product or service to the Project according to standard commercial terms that are not related to the success of the Project

### Project Supporter

A party that makes no contractual or binding commitment to the Network Licensee or any other Project Participant in relation to the Project but who intends to endorse and provide support to the Project and agrees to be publicly named as a supporter of the Project

### Formula Year

Means a period of twelve months beginning on 1 April in any calendar year and ending on 31 March of the next following calendar year

### Relevant Background IPR

Any Background IPR that is required in order to undertake the Project

### Relevant Customer

A domestic or Micro-business customer

### Relevant Foreground IPR

Any Foreground IPR that is required in order to undertake the Project

### Returned NIC Royalties Income

Revenue earned from intellectual property generated through Eligible NIC Projects, less any Directly Attributable Costs, and that is payable to customers under the NIC, as calculated in accordance with this Governance document

### RIIO Network Licensee

The holder of a Gas Transporters licence who is regulated through the RIIO price control framework

### Screening Submission

The submission for ISP to Ofgem

### Solution

The outcome if the Project is solved

### Successful Delivery Reward

A reward for completed Projects which are judged by Ofgem against the Successful Delivery Reward Criteria

### Successful Delivery Reward Criteria

The Project Specific criteria set out in the Project Direction against which the Project will be judged for the Successful Delivery Reward

### Technology Readiness Levels

Technology readiness level is a measure used to assess the maturity of evolving technologies. It is graded on a scale from 1 to 9, where, for the purposes of the NIC:

- TRL 1: Pure research that is theoretical or experimental work undertaken to acquire new scientific or technical knowledge for its own sake rather than directed towards an application
- TRL 2-3: Applied research driven by a desire to broaden scientific and technical knowledge for application on the network, related to an identified Problem. It typically includes investigating the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts
- TRL 4-6: Development activities with a more commercial application including technology validation and or demonstration in a working environment
- TRL 7-8: Full scale demonstration in an working environment to test and improve technologies so they are ready for commercial deployment
- TRL 9: Application of technology in its final form, i.e. the technology has been proven

#### Total Project Costs

This is the forecast costs the Licensee expects to require to undertake the Project

#### Transmission Owner (TO)

The holder of a Gas Transporters Licence with Part B of the standard special conditions switched on

#### Transportation System

As defined in condition [GTC-XX] of the Gas Transporters Licence

#### Working Day

Any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, or any other day that is a bank holiday within the meaning of the Banking and Financial Dealing Act 1971

## Appendix 2 - Glossary

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### A

#### Authority

The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority is the governing body for Ofgem, consisting of non-executive and executive members

### D

Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

### E

Energy Networks Association (ENA)

ENA is the industry body funded by UK gas and electricity transmission and distribution licence holders. It lobbies on common issues in the operating environment, both at domestic and European levels, and provides technical services for the benefit of members.

### G

Great Britain (GB)

### I

Innovation Funding Incentive (IFI)

Scheme established under previous price control settlements. The IFI is intended to encourage Licensees to invest in appropriate research and development activities that are designed to enhance the technical development of their networks (and to deliver value (i.e. financial, supply quality, environmental, safety) to end consumers.

### L

Low Carbon Networks (LCN) Fund

Funding to encourage the DNOs to innovate to deliver the networks we will need for a low carbon economy.

### N

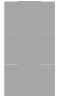
Net present value (NPV)

Net present value is the discounted sum of future cash flows, whether positive or negative, minus any initial investment.

### R

Reporting instructions and guidance (RIGs)





## Draft Gas Network Innovation Competition Governance Document

A document that is published as part of the price control settlement which sets out further detail on how the price control is to be implemented and how compliance with it will be monitored.

### **U**

United Kingdom (UK)

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