

# *LCN Fund Full Submission*

## *Supplementary Answer Form*

Tick if this answer is Confidential: ☐

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally: ☐

Project code:	SPD2004	Question Number	SPD012
Question date	30/08/2012	Answer date	03/09/2012
Submission section question relates to	2		
Topic	Project Description		
Question	Can SPD describe how they have taken account of recent DNO activity in addressing DG connection challenges, and explain which elements of work package 1 are novel.		
Notes on question			
Answer	<p><b>WP1.1 - Establishing Stakeholder Forum</b></p> <p>Many of the DNOs including SPD have undertaken engagement with DG developers to understand the issues relating to the connection of generation. To date this engagement has in our experience been on an infrequent basis throughout the year to address connection specific issues. A shortcoming which we have identified is the the need for a much more hollisitc discussion between planning authorities, developers, communities and other relevant parties such as financiers of projects. The facilitation of such an event is normally outwith the scope of the DNOs core activity as their primary focus is solely on the generation connection.</p> <p>Individual stakeholders recognised this in the workshop we ran with developers as part of developing this project and took the view that it was challenging for the developer community to come together to try to facilitate this discussion as they were actively competing with each other and were unlikely to work together to facilitate such a discussion with the various parties. The funding of such a forum which aims to bring together all of the relevant parties in the process is novel in our view and outwith the scope of business as usual.</p> <p>The project will also be using this forum to seek feedback on the project to ensure that stakeholders are satisfied with the development of the project</p>		

	<p>and to help shape the project as it develops.</p> <p>We recognise that bringing together this variety of stakeholders and ensuring that the Forum is meaningful and transparent, we have opted to appoint an external party to assist. This organisation will be appointed on a competitive process and already have experience of working with such organisations. This party will be responsible to preparing, facilitating and reviewing the Forum to ensure that it is impartial and all opinions can be heard. The party will also be responsible to providing a summary of the forum meetings and publishing these.</p> <p>Due to the competitive nature of the DG market, it requires the involvement of a third party such as the DNO to facilitate such discussions albeit this may be viewed as being outwith the normal scope of a DNOs activity but will be in the interest of all parties.</p> <p><b>WP1.2 Publication of more frequently refreshed network data</b></p> <p>The Long Term Development Statement (LTDS) provides information to stakeholders on the development of the network. This, along with other information which has also been developed over the last few years such as high level heat maps has been recognised by our customers as being useful tools but have limitations. In particular the level of granularity with which this information provides. At present no system is readily available which would create such granular maps that would allow generation developers to easily understand the capacity on the network.</p> <p>A unique element of this will be in reflecting the constrained capacity at substations on the network rather than only indicating the firm capacity that is available. To provide this, development of existing systems which process network loading information will need to be integrated into a GIS platform along with a portal to view such data. This information will be provided on a more frequent basis to ensure that the information is kept up to date.</p> <p><b>WP 1.3 Viability Study</b></p> <p>A viability study will allow potential generation applicants to undertake an early discussion with the DNO, which follows existing good practice. The principle unique elements will be the promotion of the unique elements which are being developed as part of work package 4. Rather than only submitting a connection application, within the trial area the connections team will have the capability to provide further information and talk through the various options related to an alternative connection application. This workpackage is predominantly resource costs associated with providing assistance to generators.</p> <p>We anticipate that the outcome of this will outline how a DNO can inform customers of the various options that are available in a clear and concise manner.</p>
Attachments	
Verbal Clarifications	

(Consultants	
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