*Innovation Competitions - Full Submission*

*Supplementary Answer Form*

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally:

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| Project code | TCPEN01 | Question Number | 36 |
| Question date | 18 September 2014 | Answer date | 26 Sept 2014 |
| Submission section question relates to | Section 5 Knowledge dissemination | | |
| Topic | Engagement with other parties | | |
| Question | We remain of the view that the project would benefit from clear engagement with the other parties who should benefit from it (e.g. National Grid, Scottish TOs and the other OFTOs). Could you please consider how this might be achieved at the very earliest stage in the project. | | |
| Notes on question |  | | |
| Answer | A series of industry conferences were arranged by GMSL and ACMA in 2013 and 2014. These meetings (in London, in Belfast, and in Portland with a tour of the *Wave Sentinel*) brought together OFTOs, onshore TOs, interconnector owners and offshore generators to discuss cable repairs.  Based on this industry engagement we can confirm that there is a general realisation that current cable repair arrangements are unsuitable. There is also very great interest in the prospect of using the *Wave Sentinel* to undertake power cable repairs following completion of the proposed NIC project.  We appreciate that Ofgem wishes to ensure that the project is broadly accepted by the industry, and is developed in a way that benefits as many cables as possible. We support this view. For this reason we propose to split the development of the project into an initial stage (c. [redacted]% of total cost) where we will undertake design work and an implementation stage (c. [redacted]% of total cost) where fabrication and testing will be undertaken.  We believe that the initial stage of the project, when final design drawings are available, is the earliest stage of the project at which potential users will be able to indicate their intentions and provide feedback at a level beyond the indications of need and the expressions of (considerable) interest that have already been obtained.  In order to inform the industry, to gather information concerning technical requirements, and to obtain feedback we propose to extend the series of industry conferences referred to above. This would include:   * an industry conference as soon as can be organised following the announcement of NIC awards in order to brief the industry on the work that is to be undertaken, * an industry conference to present the results from the initial phase once these are available, and * one or more intermediate conferences to update the industry and gather developing views.   We would also seek to supplement this through one-to-one meetings with key potential users such as the other OFTOs and National Grid. | | |
| Attachments |  | | |