

Energy Innovation Centre
The Technology Centre
Suites 1 and 2
Inward Way
Ellesmere Port
Cheshire
CH65 3EN

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Response to RII02 Sector Specific Methodology Consultation

1. Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts and insights regarding the development of the RII02 framework and contributing to the body of knowledge which will help shape the development and future of the energy networks within the UK.

As you know the Energy Innovation Centre (EIC), is a not-for-profit business which, for 10 years has been bridging the gap between large utilities and small-scale SMEs. It consistently provides established routes to market for innovative ideas and technologies. The EIC has a vision which reaches far beyond the creation of newer improved utilities systems; our not-for-profit organisation is passionate about driving social progress, improving the quality of people's lives, and securing a safe and affordable sustainable future for our children.

The EIC itself exists as a direct result of the innovation funding incentive. All our outputs over the last ten years have been achieved through collaboration and partnership under the umbrella of the innovation incentive. Part of our success is the establishment of a global innovation community which now has 7,300 individual third party innovators which include 5,300 separate businesses, more than 25% of these are international (this is a direct result of NIA funding). All the third party innovators have a single direct access into the energy networks who are partners to the EIC.

The added value to the industry and ultimately to energy customers is evidence by the innovation sourced and collaborative projects that have been developed in partnership with the innovation community. **The energy companies that work with the EIC, will on average collaborate nearly twice as much as those who are not partners with the EIC.** Appendix 1 illustrates this point.

The responses to the questions below incorporate comments and contributions from our innovator community. In this response the EIC has set out several general observations in relation to the consultation and then goes on to address specific questions detailed within chapter 8 of the consultation "Driving Innovation and Efficiency through Competition".

2. Overview

Ofgem's approach to an innovation incentive is recognised as best practise and as being a global first, where an entire sector is incentivised to innovate and then the outcomes of that activity can be measured. However, it is a journey; the different price controls enable the regulator to iterate and further develop this approach. **Further iteration is now required to the incentive mechanism to refine and develop the model, and build on the foundations** that NIA has been hugely successful from an SME perspective.

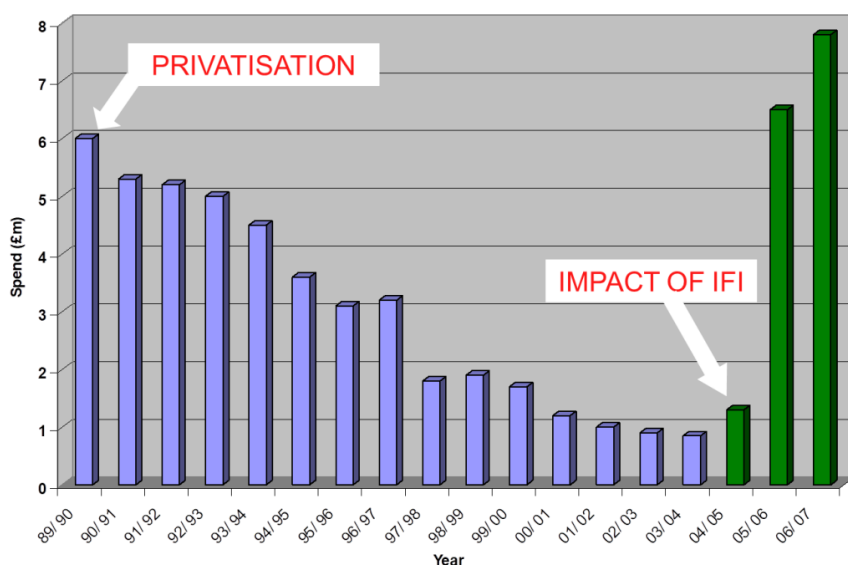
SMEs tell us that they have seen and experienced a change in the cultures and behaviours across the EIC network operators in relation to innovation and collaboration particularly through RII01. Since the EIC's inception projects with SMEs have grown by 48%. However, SMEs believe that the maturation of network business is not yet sufficiently developed to provide the motivation to innovate without an incentive. SMEs are unanimous in their positive feedback towards NIA, but believe that if the incentive is removed and innovation is included in totex then both innovation and third party engagement will reduce dramatically.

For innovation to flourish, particularly with SMEs there is a need to maintain **continuity, consistency and flexibility**. Given innovation takes time to mature to deliver benefits (in the private sector, typically the payback period for innovation is 20 years) the sector requires such **continuity, consistency and flexibility** to build upon a strong foundation developed through world leading regulation.

CSQ52 – Do you agree with our proposals to encourage more innovation as BAU?

Whilst Network companies should be focusing on gradually achieving more innovation as BAU, the EIC and the SMEs we work with believe that NIA will continue to be instrumental in ensuring that a sustainable cultural change is achieved, and that the level of third Party/SME access is increased.

Prior to the innovation incentives, the majority of innovation was at TRL 8 and 9, and products were mostly procured internationally. The graph below illustrates the decline in Innovation Spend by UK DNOs following privatisation in 1990, and the impact of IFI in the early years of DPCR4.



IFI and subsequently NIA have enabled network companies to work closely with the supply chain at an earlier TRL level, and to build solutions which will directly meet UK network requirements enabling the sector to remain world leading. There is a significant risk that removing NIA, or reducing the scope of project that can be undertaken will result in distribution companies focussing on smaller scale / less risky / lower return innovation, and that SME access will be reduced.

"We believe however that there should be caution around introducing a model which would require utility companies to self-fund all innovation for common challenges across the industry themselves (other than those related to Energy Transition). Specifically we reference the statement around a suggested move to funding 'operational and maintenance' projects. Given the natural cost efficiency drive, and in the absence of a mechanism to fund innovation, our expectation would be that companies will chose to invest any time and funding into 'continuous improvement' rather than true or transformative innovation. They will therefore focus more on 'sure bets' and ideas at higher TRL. We believe that over time this risks leading to the innovation culture and feed from university research drying up and the industry stagnating."

"We felt that the enthusiasm was more evident from the networks given that they were and are encouraged to go looking for innovative solutions. Previous to that we had to generate support for an idea and drive a project ourselves. This often ground to a halt and several ideas were terminated before they could have the chance to show their worth. It's an obvious and massive benefit for an SME to have a funded incentive. Simply put we would not have been able to take the risk and fund several of these projects ourselves."

**Blue italics denotes quotes from SMEs*

CSQ53 – Do you agree with our proposals to remove IRM from RIIO2?

Innovation Transition & Innovation into BAU

The SMEs tell us of their challenging experiences in moving innovative projects into BAU. There is a level of frustration within the community that many innovative projects undertaken have not achieved implementation into BAU. It is understood that this transition is costly and time consuming and not without risk to the network businesses.

The Innovator Impact Panel, whose members are representatives of the EIC's innovator community, stated that whilst the IRM has not been used in RIIO1, it was their belief that the mechanism was not fit for purpose. The Panel have suggested that there is still a requirement for a regulatory intervention as many innovations are not progressing into BAU due to the cost and level of disruption to the network businesses. **Ofgem are asked to consider creating a new mechanism to support the implementation of innovation in BAU within the businesses.** To ensure success the mechanism could be developed in conjunction with third parties and network operators. The EIC would be willing to facilitate this work.

"The biggest challenge Gnosys has faced in projects becoming BAU is ensuring continuity of NIA funding to get to TRL8 to enable the transition to BAU to be effectively taken forward. In some cases NIA funding has not been sustained due to changed priorities and we have had to seek alternative funding which has introduced significant delays in the speed with which BAU could be realised. In this area the network operators have much to learn about the innovation cycle and the need to address the funding gap problem which is the most disruptive factor in many innovation developments."

"We have had mixed experience as you might expect. We have had notable successes; one of the main benefits of there being an NIA involvement prior to BAU adoption was that the network could thoroughly evaluate the new innovation prior to deciding to integrate it into their BAU environment. This meant that the BAU deployment at scale (and hence, therefore greater and more timely benefits to the end consumers) happened much more quickly and confidently than without the NIA initial projects."

CSQ54 – Do you agree with our proposals to introduce a new network innovation funding pot, in place of the NIC, that will have a sharper focus on strategic energy system transition challenges?

1. The Innovation Impact Panel and the wider SME community have expressed their views that the NIC is too costly and the bar is too high to take part in such projects. Some SMEs are extremely active in the sector and have taken a position that they would never engage with the NIC process because the barrier to entry was too high. Therefore any funding mechanism that reduces barriers to access will be welcome by SMEs. However as mentioned earlier the SMEs believe that if Ofgem seek to engage with smaller third parties, the mechanism by which they propose future challenges, or access to a new network innovation funding pot needs to be proportionate to the risk and the value.

2. Strategic Challenges

The SME community recognise the ambition of Ofgem in looking to focus a new funding pot for strategic challenges but they reflected that this approach was similar to Innovate UK. SMEs had found accessing Innovate UK funding extremely difficult and that the mechanisms that were in

place to evaluate were not appropriate and evaluators did not understand the technology or business application.

One of the great strengths of NIA identified by SMEs is being able to talk to the engineers who understand the detail of some complex projects. Often independent assessors within Innovate UK do not have the insight or expertise to understanding a technology or its application or the context to which it is to sit, which has resulted in people failing to secure funding support, incurring unnecessary cost and wasted time both of which are in short supply for an SME

A potential solution might be for the new funding pot to be an ongoing open funding pot with two specific topic calls per year for project proposals. These project proposals could then be reviewed by an expert panel which would include colleagues from BEIS and Innovate UK. These project topics could be set and evaluated collectively. It would provide a new, open innovation mechanism at a strategic level. This would also prevent Ofgem becoming an isolated gatekeeper to the funding which is the challenge that DNOs and GDNs currently face.

3. Alignment with Public Sector Funding

SMEs have stated that NIA funding is the best funding mechanism they have experienced.

SMEs are concerned that the withdrawal of NIA funding would impact on their ability to leverage other public sector funding. Currently the public sector mechanisms require private sector funding to match public funding. Currently NIA funding is considered private. A reduction in this funding would potentially have a detrimental impact on the whole innovation funding landscape. The cessation of NIA would withdraw a vital component of £50M p.a. of private funding from the energy innovation funding eco system.

“NIA funding is an essential factor in persuading SME such as Powerline Technologies to innovate in the electricity distribution network sector. The SYNAPS project was initiated with a feasibility study funded by Innovate UK a specific outcome of this feasibility study was that NIA funding provided the opportunity to complete prototype development, test prototype solutions on network infrastructure and provides a viable route to BAU. This was a deciding factor in proceeding with the SYNAPS project.”

CSQ55 – Do you have views on our proposal for raising innovation funding?

SMEs did not express any specific views of this proposal. As the Innovation Impact Panel shared with Ofgem on 28 January 2019 they do not have detailed knowledge of the regulation and could therefore not express an informed view regarding the proposal.

CSQ56 – Do you think there is a continued need for NIA within RII02?

1. SME Perspective

The SME innovator community have a very strong opinion that NIA should be maintained in RII02. NIA has demonstrably increased third party involvement in network innovation enabling bespoke innovation solutions to be developed that deliver benefits to the consumer. SMEs believe that NIA is one of the most effective innovation funding mechanisms available in the UK and some have said in Europe. The funding mechanism is invaluable as it brings the project developer closer to the customer thereby increasing the pace of innovation and reducing the level of investment that is needed. It also increases potential for success. Additionally NIA is one of the few funding mechanism that will invest in lower TRL innovations that may ultimately provide higher benefits to consumers in the longer term. This is borne out by some of the key projects due to deliver large return of investments to network operators that have been developed through the EIC, namely Fluid Filled Cable and BVLOS (case studies attached at appendix 2). Specific comments from the SME community are:

- 1.1 *"The opportunity to work directly with a key customer group and with the strong emphasis on real trial/demonstration of new solutions, applications and methods makes NIA a highly attractive funding route. NIA seems to be slightly more agile in project development and project delivery so also fits with shorter timeframes than NIC projects."*
- 1.2 *"Gnosys has benefited greatly from NIA funding and the opportunity this has provided for direct interaction with networks operators to understand and provide solutions to the challenges they face."*
- 1.3 *"The specific advantage of NIA fund is that it gives an SME direct access to Distribution Network Operators to support the development and provides access to physical network assets and operational teams to test prototype solutions and take them through the TRL process to Business as Usual."*
- 1.4 *"The projects we have undertaken and are currently working on achieve the following benefits to the supporting network operators: 1. Improved asset performance and lifetime in terms of reduced failure rates, higher asset ratings, less capital and resource intensive assets. 2. Improved asset management to reduce the re-investment rate in new assets, reducing demand for additional capital investment. 3. Improving the reliability of renewables generation and power transmission reducing carbon impacts. 4. Improved safety for network operators and the public and reduction in the risk of costly environmental contamination. For consumers this translates to greater reliability of energy supply, safer and less environmentally damaging supply, lower carbon impact through cleaner energy supply, reduced rate of increase in energy supply costs."*
- 1.5 *"The NIA funding allows us access to the end user to ensure that the project remains on track to deliver solutions that are commercially relevant and of interest to the network company with a strong technology pull, this is not always easily accessible via other funding routes."*
- 1.6 *"NIA allows us to engage closely with potential customers to develop novel solutions. Other project funding routes (e.g. Innovate UK, BEIS, Horizon 2020) do not necessarily encourage this close customer engagement. Thus NIA allows us to develop solutions that are closely linked to issues currently being experienced by the network companies."*
- 1.7 *"Our own experience and that of other SMEs is that NIA funding is a very important element of innovation funding for the energy sector in the UK. There are no other significant funding routes"*

currently available that are dedicated to creating impact at the energy consumer level. The current NIA system enables industry wide benefits to be achieved which are not subject to commercial competition between regulated energy supply businesses. Such commercial pressures are likely to cause companies to abandon innovation investment in the absence of NIA or some alternative scheme which imparts an obligation and provides an incentive for energy supply companies to invest in innovation to the benefit of UK consumers, the energy supply companies and UK PLC.”

1.8 *“For a start it should not stop! The first few years the networks were getting used to the idea and the mechanisms needed. So the last few years the funding has been well constructed with clearer understanding from both the networks and the SME’s. Going forward it would be good news if as it appears there will be opportunities for SME’s to instigate funding for an idea as at the moment it is very much a case of asking the networks for help.”*

**Blue italics denotes quotes from SMEs*

CSQ57 – If we were to retain the NIA what measures could be introduced to better track the benefits delivered?

1. Monitoring NIA Projects

The Innovator Impact Panel recognises the challenge for Ofgem in identifying and tracking benefits and believe that whilst the application for Innovate UK funding is extremely difficult. This can ultimately be prohibitive. The monitoring mechanisms that Innovate UK deploy, have been seen to be both supportive and positive and might be an appropriate model for Ofgem to build upon, **SMEs are willing to assist the development of this as developing a monitoring framework in collaboration with third parties that together with network businesses will deliver a workable outcome for all parties.**

The EIC believes that the proposal for closer monitoring engagement of the CEGs/user groups is an extremely positive mechanism to maintain an independent focus on the development and implementation of innovation strategies supporting the continued growth of strong innovative cultures within the network businesses. Within any operational business embedding innovation is a challenge to maintain focus when it competes with operational performance of critical infrastructure.

The independent eye of the CEGs and User Panels could help support the businesses in maintaining ambition and external focus particularly with the Energy Systems Transition challenge which will be prominent during the next price control period. The Innovation Measurement Framework would potentially provide an industry wide mechanism to facilitate this.

2. Proposed Innovation Outcome Measurement Framework

Measuring and comparing innovation across the sector is not an easy task as each company will have its own innovation story. One company could choose to be a market leader and another a fast follower. Both approaches can deliver successful innovation cultures and strategies and are valid but this remains a challenge for regulators to measure or compare their data. In order to respond to this challenge, 9 of the energy networks have developed an innovation measurement outcomes framework working collaboratively through the EIC. The framework was developed in recognition that significant customer funding had been invested in innovation and the networks stakeholders were keen to see how effectively this has been used. The framework provides a holistic view enabling stakeholders to transparently see what the innovation ambition of an organisation are, and what is being delivered for energy consumers.

The framework includes outcome measures that address many of the areas highlighted in Ofgem's RIIO2 consultation:

- **“Demonstrate how innovation has moved into BAU”** – the framework includes measures looking at a percentage of mature innovation (TRL8) moved into BAU and the time taken for these projects into BAU.
- **Provide a better understanding of the benefits delivered through innovation** – the framework is based on the intention that a common approach to forecasting and tracking innovation benefits is adopted to improve the information available regarding potential benefits from innovation.

- **Concern that innovation funding has been used for operational maintenance projects which could have been funded through BAU** – the framework will provide transparency as to the projects supported and provide a golden thread through to customer outcomes.
- The measurement framework would **require companies** to report on the focus (in terms of money and number of projects) on innovation **across technology readiness levels** which are a helpful indicator for innovation maturity.
- The need to **demonstrate how learning from the past projects has informed new projects.** The measurement framework includes tracking how many innovation projects have informed and contributed to follow on projects.

The framework will not only inform stakeholders but through a third-party lens, it will provide SMEs and third parties with visibility as to the direction, appetite, culture and pace of innovation. This will enable them to determine what innovation could support the businesses and which network would be the most effective to engage with. This could provide positive competition between businesses.

Network Trials: There has been a successful trial of the innovation measurement framework; two networks (1 Gas and 1 Electricity) volunteered to trial the framework and have demonstrated that it is possible to report against most of the measures.

Stakeholder Engagement: The framework has received support from stakeholders a number of whom would welcome implementation of the framework. The stakeholder engagement group has included – BEIS, Citizens Advice Bureau, Sustainability First, Ofwat, Energy UK and a number of companies and specific CEGs/user panels. There has also been engagement with the Ofgem Innovation Team with their feedback being used to help develop the measurement framework further.

The Project Team are currently considering how to adapt the framework to accommodate and respond positively to all the feedback received.

The project team want to continue to work with Ofgem to develop the Innovation Measurement Framework further. A key point of stakeholder feedback has been how to ensure independence “of reporting networking company performance”. **A solution could be that the requirements to report against the measures in the framework be included in the innovation governance document** that applies during RII02. The project team will be keen to discuss this option further, following the close of the consultation.

It is anticipated that the CEG/user groups would be able to use the framework to evaluate and monitor the innovation ambition and activity within the businesses ensuring that it delivers the customer outcomes identified for each business.

3. Increasing Third Party Involvement

The EIC strongly supports increasing third party involvement in innovation across the sector. The EIC in its 10 years of development has created a mechanism which provides third parties with a single gateway into the majority of the gas and electricity networks and now extending the service to the water companies.

Such is the reputation and success of this activity that Ofwat are promoting the EIC actively across water sector.

The EIC aspire to bring together all the utilities to achieve collaboration across utility businesses together with the engagement of the third party ideas, energy and insight.

Given the EIC's track record in promoting the engagement of third parties with network operators it would be beneficial for the innovation eco system if Ofgem could formerly recognise and support the work the EIC has undertaken. This could be achieved by changing the approach in procuring innovative solutions which benefits both networks and ultimately energy consumers.

4. Collaboration Across Networks & Third Parties

NIA is a key driver to the increased collaboration across the energy network which delivers great value to energy consumers. A key driver in RII02 is increased collaboration across both gas & electricity networks. This helps to share risk, the cost to innovation, and promotes a collaborative ambition that contributes to the energy sector transition whilst reducing costs to the energy consumer.

The network companies that have supported and worked with the EIC from its inception in the last 10 years, have fundamentally changed their behaviours in order to engage with third parties new market entries which is demonstrated by a 42% increase in innovation projects with SMEs.

Appendix 1 illustrates that network companies working with the EIC on average collaborate across networks twice as much as the 5 network businesses who do not engage with the EIC.

At best the leading network collaborates on 68% of its projects ultimately delivering increasing value for their energy customers with the worst performing only collaborating in 6% of its innovation portfolio (a non EIC partner).

The EIC suggests that Ofgem consider any future innovation funding be dependent upon the Network Companies business plan's including a clear strategy which ensures all businesses have an effective third party/SME engagement which provides a clear route to market for innovation. This should be a collaborative approach, as it is prohibitive for SMEs and other third parties to engage with the challenging and opaque procurement and engagement processes of many different network companies but would benefit from a single transparent channel for access.

There are many benefits to collaboration in innovation which ultimately can reduce costs, risks and deliver increased value to energy customers and consumers. However, collaboration can also introduce challenges including a reduction in pace and increase stakeholder management; mitigating risks such as these takes dedicated time, effort and focus. NIA has been an essential ingredient to facilitate the work of the EIC which currently provides a holistic approach to collaboration across gas, electricity and third parties, and is now expanding to other utilities.

5. Regional Approach

The EIC is constantly evolving its ability to increase the pace of innovation, the level of collaboration and the impact that it has. To that end, in 2019/20, we are beginning to build upon the success we have had in engaging water companies to work on a regional basis to promote a collaborative

working across gas, electricity and water. Ultimately delivering value to energy and water customers who all receive essential services.

A regional approach will provide a conduit for utilities to identify shared geographical strategic challenges to develop local solutions and leverage other funding, which would increase the value of NIA investment and any subsequent return to energy consumers.

6. Future Innovation

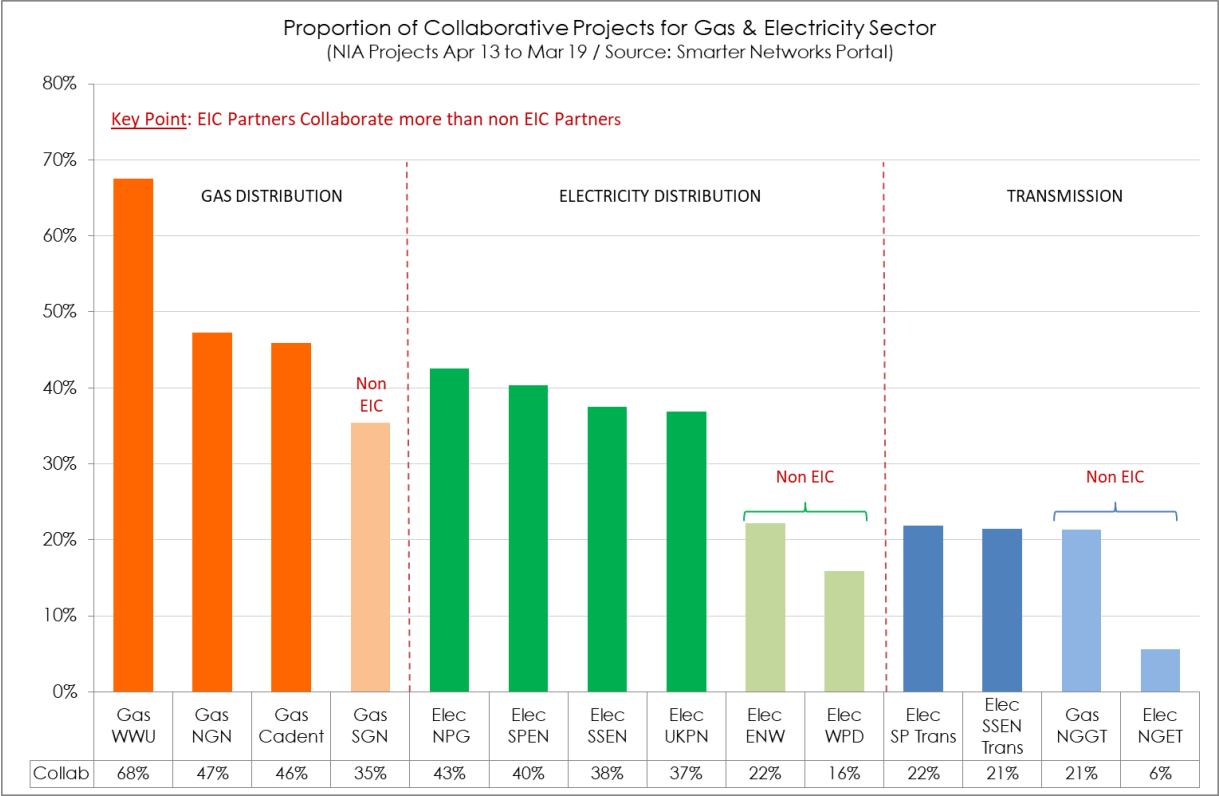
The pace and the scale of change needs to increase and there needs to be a development of a flexible mechanism within the price control which enables the regulator, networks operators and small businesses to adapt and develop at greater speed. The access to direct funding that Ofgem are looking to secure would potentially facilitate this. An illustration of such change is the movement that has been created to remove plastics from the ocean which has sprung up in 6 months, and has captured the public's imagination. If this was to occur in the energy sector are the mechanisms in place to enable a positive response to this change?

CSQ 58 - Do you agree with our proposals for electricity distribution companies prior to the commencement of RII0 - ED2?

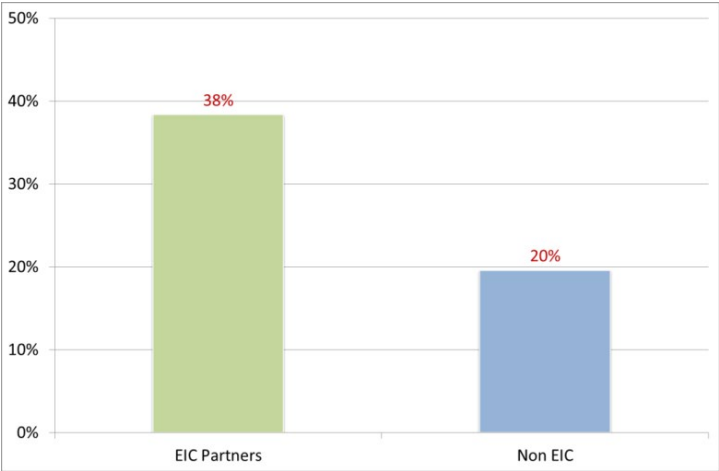
The EIC supports Ofgem's proposal for electricity distribution companies to continue using the RII0-1 NIA and NIC until 31st March 2023. As noted in the consultation, we appreciate that there could be benefits if electricity distribution companies continue to collaborate in innovation projects with other network companies between 2021 and 2023. Although DNO-led projects will continue to be funded via the RII0-1 NIC and NIA until 2023, we believe that DNOs should, where appropriate, continue to participate as project partners and/or consider the lessons learned of RII0-2 innovation projects led by other network companies, if the projects deliver benefits to their network consumers.

Appendix 1:

Proportion of Collaborative Projects for Gas and Electricity Companies



Average Number of Collaborative Projects



Appendix 2:

CASE STUDY: SELF HEALING FLUID FILLED CABLES

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION PARTNER(S):

UK Power Networks, Northern Powergrid

INNOVATOR: Gnosys

CHALLENGE: There are more than 4,750km of fluid filled cables (FFC) across the UK electricity network. The fluid forms a key part of the cables' insulation, prevents the formation of voids and aids the transfer of heat away from the conductor, enabling the cable to run more efficiently. However, overtime these fluid-filled cables can leak, causing disruptions to customer supply and impacting the surrounding environment.

OUTPUTS: The development of an innovative self-healing fluid (SHF) that forms a strong, cohesive mass when exposed to air. Under normal operation, the SHF acts as an insulation oil inside the cable and has demonstrated characteristics that are superior to the insulation oils currently in use.

EXPECTED PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Financial savings (Estimated at >£4m per year per Network company)
- Enhanced cable resilience
- Reduced operational downtime
- Environmental protection

MAIN BENEFITS OF NIA FUNDING:

- Enabled access to funding for Gnosys
- Encouraged investment in low TRL project
- Accelerated development of technology which now has the potential to deliver significant benefits to energy consumers
- Facilitated collaboration between Electricity Network Operators

PROJECT TIMELINE

Innovator identified

September 2012

**IFI funding first
accessed by SME**

April 2013

● **TRL 3**

**Development
(1st project)**

April 2013 - January 2017

● **TRL 4**

**Development
(2nd project)**

Project started January 2018

● **TRL 8**

Benefits to consumers

Expected from 2020

NIA funding: £2.7M

CASE STUDY: OPEN GRID SYSTEMS

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION PARTNER(S):

Electricity North West, Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution

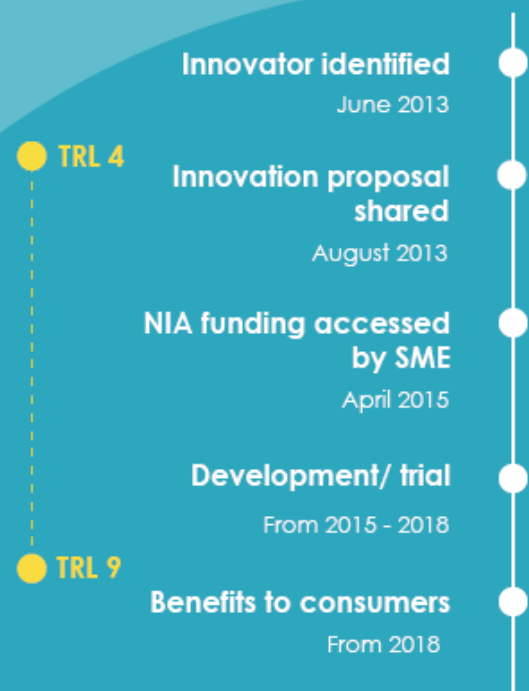
INNOVATOR: Open Grid Systems Ltd.

CHALLENGE: The extent of the electricity network damage can sometimes (e.g. storm conditions) take a long time to be fully assessed.

APPROACH: The EIC identified an innovator, and a mobile application to enable customers to report damage was developed.

OUTPUTS: The Grid (i) View Reporter is a mobile application that incorporates intelligent algorithms and the utility's electrical network data within its back-end Gateway Server, Damaged equipment can be identified speedily from the user's coordinates and the heading of the taken photograph.

PROJECT TIMELINE



NIA funding: £554K

EXPECTED PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Quicker response to reports of network damage
- Reduction in costs of responding to faults (estimated at £60k per year)
- Quicker restoration of power to customers
- Improvement in public safety as faults are resolved quicker

MAIN BENEFITS OF NIA FUNDING:

- Enabled access to funding for Open Grid Systems
- Encouraged investment in low TRL project
- Accelerated technology development

CASE STUDY: ABOVE & BEYOND (BVLOS)

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION PARTNER(S):

Cadent, Northern Gas Networks, Northern Powergrid, Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks, UK Power Networks, Wales & West Utilities and National Grid Gas Transmission

INNOVATOR: Callen-Lenz Associates

CHALLENGE: Aerial inspections of network infrastructure are expensive, and the use of drones is now becoming recognised as a viable and cheaper alternative. Current drone inspection tasks are operated 'Within Line of Sight' due to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations. To fully realise the benefits that drones can bring to traditional inspection tasks, there is a requirement to fly beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS).

APPROACH: An innovation call was launched to find a solution.

OUTPUTS: This project, in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department for Transport, is intended to deliver the required safety cases, operational definitions and guidance to enable universal BVLOS drone operations across the distribution networks.

EXPECTED PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Operational cost savings of up to 22% - per network, per year (for inspection activities)
- Reduced carbon emissions and noise pollution
- Health & safety improvements
- Quicker and easier deployment of inspection tasks – especially in ad hoc or emergency scenarios

BENEFITS OF NIA FUNDING:

- Enabled access to funding for Callen Lenz
- Encouraged investment in low TRL technologies which have the potential to deliver significant benefits to energy consumers
- Facilitated cross sector collaboration between Gas and Electricity Network Operators

PROJECT TIMELINE

Innovator identified

May 2013

IFI funding accessed by SME 1

December 2013

Development (1st project)

December 2013 - February 2016

Call launched & innovator identified for second project

January 2017

NIA funding accessed by SME 2

March 2018

Development (2nd project)

January 2018 - 2020

Benefits to consumers

Expected from 2020

NIA funding: £2.4M

TRL 3

TRL 6

TRL 9