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| **Network Innovation Competition 2020 Supplementary Answer form** | | |

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| Project Name | QUEST | | |
| Question number | #14 | Pro forma section | Section 2 |
| Question date | 25/08/20 | Answer date | 27/08/20 |
| Question summary | Please explain how the length of the trials were determined and how the information will be extrapolated to seasonal variations not measured. | | |

## 

## Answer (please retain document formatting and do not exceed 2 pages unless otherwise agreed with Ofgem)

The trials will run for 12 months; a full year of data capture will provide data for all seasons, incorporating different QUEST solution configurations and a range of operating conditions. A trial of 12 months will provide a wide range of interseasonal effects, which will be measured and analysed. We do not expect to see any significant inter-year effects, and therefore do not believe an extension of 12-24 months, which would incur additional project costs, would yield any material additional benefit.

SGS will assess the benefits of the trial results using modelling techniques, and will extrapolate the data as necessary to ensure that the different seasonal and demand/generation scenarios are covered. The bench-testing modelling regime will be populated with trial data to enable the extrapolation and generalisation of results to the wider system, and for different load, generation, and low carbon technology implementation cases. By validating the bench models to the operational trial results, we can address a much wider set of questions (including various scale-up cases) and remove the requirement and expense of extended trials.

As QUEST will be implemented in the NMS, it is relatively straightforward to switch between trial modes and deliver a streamlined but highly effective set of trials. If necessary, we will consider making adjustments to the trial regime, for example, by changing the operating modes throughout the year, to ensure that we deliver the maximum learning. The 12-month trial period with any alternate QUEST configurations will allow important architecture, design, decentralisation, and co-ordination questions to be addressed without an unnecessarily lengthy project.