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| Network Innovation Competition 2020 Supplementary Answer form | | |

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| Project Name | QUEST | | |
| Question number | #18 | Pro forma section | Section 3 |
| Question date | 25/08/20 | Answer date | 27/08/20 |
| Question summary | It appears that the Quest system will be business ready by the end of the project. As this is the case (rather than moving the solution from a lower TRL to that for a fits implementation) why was QUEST not considered for BaU deployment. | | |

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

In developing the project proposal we worked closely with our Project Partners, including with Schneider Electric on the centralised software. After discussion, it became clear that building the QUEST system directly into the NMS production system, as opposed to maintaining it separately as a trial system and then later building it into our NMS after successful completion of the trials, would save considerable time and cost, representing the best value for money for customers.

However, whilst the central QUEST software can be considered as business ready upon completion of the QUEST project, the full benefits of QUEST can only be obtained through the associated deployment of enhanced voltage control equipment at substations. The QUEST roll-out is assumed to happen in an organic manner, with field devices installed as capacity release is required across the network or as existing non-QUEST ready controllers are replaced with QUEST-enabled (i.e. modern standard) devices.

As the business case for QUEST is not yet proven – a specific output of the QUEST project – it would be premature for inclusion in our ED2 business plan. However, we expect QUEST to prove the business case, which will allow for a roll-out after the project is complete.