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| Network Innovation Competition 2020 Supplementary Answer form | | |

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| Project Name | QUEST | | |
| Question number | #22 | Pro forma section | Section 4 |
| Question date | 25/08/20 | Answer date | 28/08/20 |
| Question summary | Which of the project partners were selected through a competitive process and what is the reason for the approach. How is value for money ensured? | | |

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

Where practicable we have used competitive processes to select Project Partners.

As there are several third parties that could provide the necessary support, the technical and customer research and analysis consultants, SGS and Impact Research respectively, were selected following a short, procurement-led tender. To ensure value for money, responses to the tender were evaluated against the criteria of relevant experience and expertise, cost, and Partner contribution.

In addition, we’ve selected two Project Partners which Electricity North West had previously appointed following an open tender process (i.e. chosen from our incumbent suppliers). This covers our partnering with Schneider Electric (SE) and Fundamentals Ltd.

SE are our incumbent NMS provider, and our partnering with them ensures value for money in several key areas. We have previously established their technical and delivery competence, leveraging both their extensive and existing delivery logistics and testing infrastructure, our own integrated project delivery teams, their role as a key supplier of control room systems to network operators, and their expertise in the development of advanced real-time applications for smart grid operations.

Partnering with Fundamentals Ltd allows us to build upon existing, industry-leading know-how in the development, manufacture, and installation of advanced voltage controllers. This technology plays a key role in delivering QUEST into substations, and partnering with Fundamentals thus ensures that QUEST does not have to pay to establish the requisite test and development systems, which are specific to the advanced, integrated nature of the voltage control systems. Furthermore, we can leverage the existing, appropriately authorised and trained installation teams.

The selection of SGS to deliver the ANM functionality is owing to their unique role within the industry as a lead supplier of ANM solutions, and their extensive knowledge about distribution network control. We consider that their partnering us on QUEST will ensure replicability of the method for other DNOs, thus adding further value for customers.

Finally, through partnering with the ESO we aim to ensure the QUEST solution and all associated designs are appropriately cognisant of the wider, whole-system aims in respect of voltage control at the boundary of the ESO and DNO (DSO).