

Network Innovation Competition 2020 Supplementary Answer form

Project Name	Retrofit Insulated Cross Arms (RICA)		
Question number	#14	Pro forma section	3
Question date	15/09/2020	Answer date	17/09/2020
Question summary	What has been learnt from international experience of using insulated crossarms, and how will you use leanings from other deployments elsewhere in this project?		

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

The RICA project will leverage existing experience through the competitive procurement process to identify the best supplier in terms of technical capability and cost. During FSP preparation, we identified suppliers with relevant prior international experience that will likely have an advantage, as they can bring experience from new build ICAs. It is important to note here, that when we say supplier, we expect that a consortium of EPC, manufacturers, and design expertise will be bidding for the technical work packages.

We have already begun to engage the market, and during the FSP development phase, reached out to the OHL industry (EPC, manufacturers and design consultants) to garner information on where the technology is presently, and what advances are being made internationally. The market review clearly highlighted the need for investment to fill

technology gaps which cannot be filled by the suppliers on their own. This information was used directly to scope the FSP submission.

The standards and specification work will also include as much of the publicly available literature in its considerations; in a similar but more detailed way that the FSP leveraged experience. The fact that a lot of the required information and learnings from other projects is not easily available (apart from NIA projects), is clear evidence of the advantage from developing this innovation through the NIC.

Our stakeholder engagement plan will also seek to leverage technical expertise through external engagement. We are planning to engage with utilities outside of the UK that have experience with new build ICA projects, for example from Belgium, China and India. Where possible, information exchange will take place to support RICA and help to build support from international industrial bodies (IET, IEEE, and Cigre etc).