

Network Innovation Competition 2020 Supplementary Answer form

Project Name	Retrofit Insulated Cross Arms (RICA)		
Question number	#13	Pro forma section	Section 3
Question date	10/09/2020	Answer date	14/09/2020
Question summary	Please provide further confidence to the Panel on the likely achievement of the two proposed non-NGET route deployments		

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

The project team has been actively engaging with stakeholders since the approval to proceed to full submission, and have designed the project with GB wide deployment in mind.

Our stakeholder engagement has included SPEN and SSE, and they have both agreed to be a part of the project's Technical Advisory Board (TAB); with named individuals being provided for the roles. Their involvement will provide key input to the designs, specification, install methods, and investment case. Having direct points of contact from SSE and SPEN into the project will help draw on opinions and expertise from across these two organisations.

We are continuing to engage SSE and SPEN through email contact and phone calls to update them on the NIC progression.

The project's plan has been designed to engage the other GB network utilities. The Deeside and constructability trials will have the added benefit of providing an opportunity for stakeholders to see and engage in the design of key elements of the solution, and provide feedback.

The project deliverables have also structured to ensure that the first-hand knowledge generated is recorded and easily accessible. These key documents will be posted publicly on our website to ensure they can be easily access always; enabling adoption and rollout.

The standards and specifications will also be created with SSE and SPEN, and final versions shared with them to enable direct adoption of the technology. These standards and specifications are a key missing element which blocks the development and procurement of an investment today. Establishing these together, will provide more certainty to the market in terms of likely volumes, scope of works, and requirements – enabling an efficient market.

The project will also be performing significant communication and engagement throughout to ensure that we not only engage those directly involved in the project, but also others from across the industry. Our plans are given in Section 5.2 of the bid - which includes technical and non-technical stakeholders.

In line with the IPR terms of the NIC, the project will also ensure that UK licensees retain royalty free access to the main IP produced during the project. This will help to ensure that the GB market for RICA investments will remain competitive, and not create blockers for others to adopt; International adoption will of course result in benefits for UK consumers.

However, in the unfortunate event that the other utilities do not adopt the technology, there are at least another 4 sites in the England and Wales network where this technology could be deployed. Deploying RICAs on 2 of these 4 additional sites would enable the technology to deliver the total benefits estimated in the bid.