

RIIO-1 Gas Network Innovation Allowance Governance Document

Governance Document v.43.0

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Overview:

This document is version 43.0 of the Network Innovation Allowance Governance Document referred to under Special Condition 2E of the RIIO-1 Gas Transporter (NTS) Licence, and Special Condition 1H of the the RIIO-1 Gas Transporter Licence held by the gas distribution companies, Special Condition 5.3 of the RIIO-2 Gas Transporter (NTS) Licence, and Special Condition 5.3 of the RIIO-1 Gas Transporter Licence held by the gas distribution companies. Each RIIO-1 of these licence conditions is known as the "NIA Licence Condition", and each RIIO-2 licence condition is known as the "CNIA Licence Condition".

One of the key innovation proposals for the RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) model for price controls was the introduction of a Network Innovation Allowance (NIA) for gas and electricity. The purpose of the NIA is to encourage Network Licensees to innovate to address issues associated with the development of their networks.

This Governance Document sets out the regulation, governance and administration of the Gas NIA. Network Licensees are required by the NIA Licence Condition to comply with this document as if it formed part of their licence.

We have attempted to make this document accessible and informative to parties other than the Network Licensees, especially those who may be looking to partner with Network Licensees to use the NIA to try out new technological or commercial arrangements.

It is the responsibility of each Network Licensee to understand the provisions of this Governance Document and how those provisions apply to it.

Context

Innovation is a key element of the new RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) model for price controls. The RIIO model applies to gas distribution companies (RIIO-GD1), and to electricity and gas transmission companies (RIIO-T1) from 1 April 2013 and to electricity distribution companies (RIIO-ED1) from 1 April 2015.

The purpose of the NIA is to provide a consistent level of funding to Network Licensees to allow them to carry out smaller innovative projects.

This document may be revised and reissued in accordance with Part E of the NIA Licence Condition, or Part D of the RIIO-2 CNIA Licence Condition. This document sets out the regulation, governance and administration of the gas Network Innovation Allowance. This document is issued by the Authority under Part D (The NIA Governance Document) of the NIA Licence Condition and in accordance with Part E (Procedure for issuing and revising the NIA Governance Document) of the NIA Licence Condition.

This is version 43.0 of the NIA Governance Document. This version supersedes all previous versions. In certain areas, separate provision has been made in relation to specified categories of Projects. In all other cases, the Governance Document applies in the same manner to all Projects. It does not apply retrospectively and does not impose new, or alter the existing, rights and obligations of Network Licensees or of Ofgem as they existed prior to the coming into force of this Governance Document.

Network Licensees are required by the NIA Licence Condition to comply with this document as if it formed part of their licence. However, we have attempted to make this document accessible and informative to parties other than the Network Licensees to whom this document applies, especially those who may be looking to partner with Network Licensees to use the NIA to try out new technological, operational or commercial arrangements.

This document is subordinate to the NIA Licence Condition and the CNIA Licence Condition. Consequently, this document will not change any definitions or obligations contained within the Gas Transporter Licence applicable to each of the Network Licensees and, in the event of any inconsistency between the NIA Licence Condition and this document, the NIA Licence Condition will take precedence. Network Licensees must also comply with the contents of this document during the first year of RIIO-2, from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022, when utilising the RIIO-1 Carry-Over Network Innovation Allowance provided for under Special Condition 5.3 of the RIIO-2 Gas Transporter Licences as in force on 1 April 2021.

Associated documents

Gas Act 1986

Special Condition 2E (The Network Innovation Allowance) of the RIIO-1 Gas Transporter (NTS) Licence as in force on 31 March 2021

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

Special Condition 1H (The Network Innovation Allowance) of the [RIIO-1](#) Gas Transporter Licence [as in force on 31 March 2021](#) held by the gas distribution companies

[Special Condition 5.3 \(The Carry-over Network Innovation Allowance\), of the RIIO-2 Gas Transporter \(NTS\) Licence](#)

[Special Condition 5.3 \(The Carry-over Network Innovation Allowance\), of the RIIO-2 Gas Transporter Licence held by the gas distribution companies](#)

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¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

1. Introduction

Chapter Summary

This chapter sets out the purpose and objectives of the Network Innovation Allowance.

1.1. Innovation is a key element of the RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) model for price controls. The RIIO framework provides strong incentives for Network Licensees to innovate as part of normal business. However, certain Research, Development, and Demonstration Projects are speculative in nature and yield uncertain commercial returns. In addition, where benefits are linked to the decarbonisation of the network, it may be difficult to commercialise the respective carbon and/or environmental benefits and shareholders may be unwilling to speculatively fund such Projects.

1.2. Over time, we expect the incentives within the RIIO framework to encourage Network Licensees to innovate as part of business as usual. In the meantime, we have introduced a time-limited innovation stimulus package within the RIIO framework to provide additional funding to kick start a cultural change where Network Licensees establish the ethos, internal structures and third party contacts that facilitate innovation as part of business as usual.

1.3. The innovation stimulus¹ consists of three measures:

- A Network Innovation Allowance (NIA) – to fund smaller innovation Projects that will deliver benefits to Customers as part of a RIIO Network Licensee’s price control settlement;
- A Network Innovation Competition (NIC) – an annual competition to fund selected flagship innovative projects that would deliver low carbon and environmental benefits to Customers; and
- An Innovation Roll-out Mechanism – to fund the roll-out of proven innovations which will contribute to the development in GB of a low carbon energy sector or broader environmental benefits.

1.4. The NIA and NIC are successors to the Low Carbon Networks (LCN) Fund that operated in the fifth electricity distribution price control. The NIA and NIC broadly replicate the structure of the LCN Fund which consists of a first tier funding mechanism and a second tier funding mechanism. The scope of the NIC is broader than the second tier funding of the LCN Fund as it also includes Development as well as Demonstration Projects. In addition to the LCN Fund first tier funding, the NIA

¹ Further information on the high level policy of the innovation stimulus can be found [here](#) for the RIIO_T1 price control and [here](#) for the RIIO-GD1 price control.

also builds upon elements of the Innovation Funding Incentive that was in place under previous price controls.

The RIIO-1 NIA

1.5. The NIA provides limited funding to Network Licensees to use to fund smaller Projects which meet the criteria set out in this Governance Document. The amount of funding available to each Network Licensee under the NIA can be calculated using the formulae in the NIA Licence Condition. We have introduced the NIA Licence Condition of the Gas Transporter Licence to enable the creation of the NIA.

1.6. We expect Network Licensees to whom this document applies to collaborate with each other and with other parties in the energy supply chain (ie suppliers, independent network operators, gas producers and other third parties) on Projects.

1.7. A key feature of the NIA is the requirement that learning gained through Projects is disseminated in order that Customers gain satisfactory return on their funding through the broad roll-out of successful Projects and the network cost savings. Even where Projects are deemed unsuccessful, Network Licensees will gain valuable knowledge that could result in future network cost savings.

Differences between the NIC and the NIA

1.8. The NIA is a set annual allowance that each Network Licensee will receive to fund small-scale innovative projects as part of its price control settlement. The NIA will fund smaller scale Research, Development, and Demonstration Projects, and can cover all types of innovation, including commercial, technological and operational. Unlike the NIC, the NIA is not focussed solely on innovative Projects with potential low carbon and environmental benefits.

1.9. Compared to the NIA, the NIC is focussed on funding larger scale and more complex, innovative projects, and therefore, funding is awarded through an annual competitive process. All types of innovation including commercial, operational and technical are eligible for NIC funding so long as the project has the potential to deliver low carbon and/or environmental benefits to Customers.

1.10. The scope of Network Licensee involvement in the NIC is also broader than in the NIA. The NIA is only available to Network Licensees as part of their price control settlement, whereas non-RIIO network licensees may lead bids for funding under the NIC.

1.11. The regulation, governance and administration for the NIC is set out in the NIC Governance Document.

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

The RIIO-1 NIA Governance Document

1.12. This document is the NIA Governance Document and sets out the regulation, governance and administration of the NIA.

1.13. In this document we use the terms 'Ofgem' and 'the Authority' as well as the terms 'we', 'us' and 'our' interchangeably. Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets. The Authority is the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority and is the governing body of Ofgem, consisting of non-executive and executive members.

1.14. Defined terms are capitalised throughout the text, with the definitions set out in chapter 8.

1.15. In this document "Network Licensee" means the holder of a Gas Transporter Licence regulated through the RIIO price control framework.

Compliance

1.16. Network Licensees are required by the NIA Licence Condition to comply with this document as if it formed part of their licence.

1.17. The NIA and this NIA Governance Document in no way relieve affected parties, including Network Licensees and Project Partners, from their responsibility to ensure ongoing compliance with legislation including competition, data protection, environment and consumer protection laws.

Review

1.19. Ofgem may from time to time, following consultation with Network Licensees and other interested parties, revise this NIA Governance Document in accordance with the NIA Licence Condition.

2. Collaboration and Learning Portals

Chapter Summary

This chapter sets out that Network Licensees should collaborate with a range of parties to develop and facilitate Projects funded through the NIA. We also require Network Licensees to work collaboratively to maintain a Collaboration and Learning Portal for this purpose at all times.

Collaboration Portal

2.1 We expect Network Licensees to collaborate with each other and Project Partners on many of the Projects supported by the NIA. Network Licensees are likely to have to work closely with other parties in the energy supply chain to explore what technological, operational or commercial arrangements best address changes in network use and what role they can play in facilitating low carbon and/or wider environmental benefits. Similarly, Network Licensees may benefit from the technologies used and lessons learnt in other industries, including the telecoms and information technology sectors, and therefore partnerships with technology providers and others outside the energy industry will be valuable. Other parties such as local authorities and universities may be carrying out pilot studies and these could offer opportunities for Network Licensees to get a better understanding of the impact of these studies.

2.2 Since the NIA and NIC Governance Documents were first published on 1 February 2013, Network Licensees have established an online Network Innovation Collaboration Portal² through which external parties can bring forward ideas to the Network Licensees for NIC projects / NIA Projects.

2.3 The Network Licensee is required to comply with the requirements of this chapter unless the Authority has given its consent in writing for the Network Licensee not to comply.

Requirements

2.4. Network Licensees must work collaboratively with each other to maintain the Collaboration Portal or to develop an equivalent portal (if more effective or cost-efficient than the existing portal) for the NIC and NIA so that the following content continues to be available:

- Links to the Ofgem website, to direct potential collaborators to this NIA Governance Document;

² <http://www.nicollaborationportal.org/>

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

- A function which enables potential Project Partners to record their name, contact details and a brief summary of their business, idea, proposal or service. This information should be available to all Network Licensees; and
- A contact point for each Network Licensee to which potential Project Partners can submit Project ideas.

2.5. Network Licensees must work collaboratively to ensure the Collaboration Portal is up to date at all times. In addition, Network Licensees should annually review this portal and make appropriate changes to improve its accessibility and content. We expect this review to be informed by stakeholder consultation on the quality of information provided and the usability of the Collaboration Portal.

Additional information

2.6. The provision of the Collaboration Portal is not intended to provide any constraint on, or specify the mechanism through which the Network Licensee will select Project Partners. The Collaboration Portal should not be used as the sole basis upon which an award of a contract for services provided by a Project Partner should be based. It is for the Network Licensee to ensure that its actions, in this regard, comply with any applicable procurement rules.

Learning Portal

2.7. Facilitating knowledge transfer is one of the key principles of the NIA. Ultimately, Customers are funding this work and we want the learning generated to be disseminated as effectively as possible to ensure that all Network Licensees, and therefore all Customers, are able to benefit from Projects.

2.8. Through the Smart Grid Forum, Network Licensees have established a website to share learning from innovative Projects. This Learning Portal³ is an area on the Energy Networks Association (ENA) website through which external parties can access the learning generated as a result of innovative Projects.

Requirements

³ The Smart Grid Forum was established by Ofgem and the Department for Energy and Climate Change (now known as the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). The functions of DECC have since been merged with the functions of the (former) Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to form the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

2.9. We require Network Licensees to work collaboratively to develop and maintain the Learning Portal⁴ so that the following content is available, as a minimum:

- NIA Project Registration information for all NIA Projects; and
- NIA Project Progress Information for each NIA Project by 31 July of each Formula Year, including the final Project Progress Information which is reported by the Network Licensee following completion of the Project.

2.10. We require the Network Licensees to ensure that Project details published on the Learning Portal are up to date at all times.

Additional information

2.11. The provision of a Learning Portal is not intended to provide any constraint on, or specify, the Dissemination mechanisms of the Network Licensee. The Learning Portal should not be used as the sole means of Disseminating learning.

2.12. The requirements of this chapter could be fulfilled by creating a single web address which encompasses the Collaboration Portal and the Learning Portal or separate addresses for each portal.

Sharing Project data

2.13. Network Licensees must make it clear in Project Progress Information how any network or consumption data (anonymised where necessary) gathered in the course of a Project can be requested by interested parties. From 30 September 2017, Network Licensees must have in place a publicly available data sharing policy setting out the terms on which data will be provided. Ofgem expects Network Licensees to share network and consumption data if the party requesting it can demonstrate it is in consumers' interests to do so (subject to anonymisation and/or redaction for reasons of commercial confidentiality or other sensitivity).

⁴ <http://www.smarternetworks.org/>

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

3. Network Innovation Allowance Projects

Chapter Summary

This chapter sets out the requirements for a Project to qualify as an Eligible NIA Project.

3.1. The policy intent of the NIA is to provide Network Licensees with funds to explore technologies or commercial and operating arrangements that will deliver benefits for Customers.

Project portfolio

3.2. There will be no initial requirement for a Network Licensee's Project portfolio to contain a specific percentage split between different types of Methods and Solutions. However, it is likely that the maximum learning will be achieved for the industry if the Projects funded across all Network Licensees cover a broad range of Methods and Solutions. If Ofgem identifies strong bias towards one type of Method and Solution, it may decide to specify the balance between types of Projects funded through the NIA following a review.

3.3. There is no minimum or maximum size for a NIA Project.⁵ ~~However, Network Licensees cannot recover any expenditure on a NIA Project which is incurred after 31 March 2021.~~

3.4. We expect that Projects that have previously been funded under Innovation Funding Incentive (IFI) funding will be able to receive funding under the NIA. However, to ensure the same transparency and availability of learning we will require all Projects that have been funded under the IFI and are now being funded under the NIA to comply with all aspects of this document from the date they are funded under the NIA.

Specific Requirements

3.5. There are two sets of Specific Requirements that a Project must meet in order to qualify as a NIA Project.

Specific Requirements set 1

⁵ Although NIA Funding is subject to the size of each licensee's NIA.

3.6. A NIA Project must have the potential to have a Direct Impact on a Network Licensee's network or the operations of the System Operator and involve the Research, Development, or Demonstration of at least one of the following:

- A specific piece of new (ie unproven in GB, or where a Method has been trialled outside GB the Network Licensee must justify repeating it as part of a Project) equipment (including control and communications systems and software);
- A specific novel arrangement or application of existing gas transportation equipment (including control and/or communications systems and/or software);
- A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the GB Gas Transportation System; or
- A specific novel commercial arrangement.

Specific Requirements set 2

3.7. In addition, a NIA Project must meet requirements (a), (b), (c) and (d) described below.

(a) Has the potential to develop learning that can be applied by Relevant Network Licensees

3.8. One of the purposes of the NIA is to allow learning to be shared amongst Network Licensees. The NIA Project must develop new learning that can be applied by Relevant Network Licensees. However, we recognise that a Network Licensee may wish to address challenges specific to its network.

3.9. The Network Licensee must be able to certify in its Project Eligibility Assessment (PEA) (the requirement for which is set out in paragraph 3.16 below):

- i) How the learning that will be generated could be used by Relevant Network Licensees; or
- ii) What specific challenge identified in the Network Licensee's innovation strategy is being addressed by the Project.

3.10. Where a Network Licensee wishes to deviate from the default requirements for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) set out in chapter 7, it must:

- i) Demonstrate how the learning from the Project can be successfully disseminated to Network Licensees and other interested parties;
- ii) Take into account any potential constraints or costs caused, or resulting from, the imposed IPR arrangements; and

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

iii) Justify why the proposed IPR arrangements provide value for money for Customers.

(b) Has the potential to deliver net financial benefits to network Customers.

3.11. There must be a clear expectation that the Method being used has the potential to deliver the Solution at a lower cost than the most efficient Method currently in use on the GB Gas Transportation System/the Network Licensee's part of the GB Distribution System.

3.12. To comply with this requirement the Network Licensee must be able to set out in its PEA:

- i) An estimate of the saving if the Problem is solved;
- ii) A calculation of the expected financial benefits of a Development or Demonstration Project (not required for Research Projects);
- iii) An estimate of how replicable the Method is across GB in terms of the number of sites, the sort of site the Method could be applied to, or the percentage of the GB Gas Transportation System where it could be rolled-out; and
- iv) An outline of the costs of rolling out the Method across GB.

3.13. To ensure a consistent approach in assessing the benefits of Projects we require Network Licensees to work together to develop and maintain a common guide for converting different types of benefit into financial terms. Please see paragraphs 3.20 to 3.23 below for the requirements of this guide.

c) Is innovative (ie not business as usual) and has an unproven business case where the risk warrants a limited Research, Development or Demonstration Project to demonstrate its effectiveness

3.14. The NIA is specifically targeted at innovative Projects that a Network Licensee would not perform in its normal course of business because the specific commercial, technical, operational or regulatory risks associated with the Project are such that shareholders would not speculatively fund them.

3.15. The Network Licensee must demonstrate that the Project it would like to have funded is innovative, untested at the scale and circumstances in which the Network Licensee wishes it to be deployed and that new learning is expected to result from the Project. This will prevent widespread deployment of proven technologies or practices using NIA Funding.

3.16. To demonstrate compliance with this criterion the Network Licensee must provide the following information in its PEA:

- i) Why the Project is innovative and why it has not been tried before;
- ii) Why the Network Licensee will not fund such a Project as part of its business as usual activities; and
- iii) Why the Project can only be undertaken with the support of the NIA, including reference to the specific risks (eg commercial, technical, operational or regulatory) associated with the Project.

(d) Does not lead to unnecessary duplication

- 3.17 A NIA Project must not unnecessarily duplicate other IFI, LCN Fund, NIA or NIC projects already registered or being carried out or completed by the Network Licensee or any other Network Licensee. To comply with this requirement the Network Licensee must:
- Where applicable, justify why it is undertaking a Project similar to those being carried out by any other Network Licensee; and
 - Demonstrate in its PEA that no unnecessary duplication will occur as a result of the Project.
- 3.18 Unnecessary duplication is likely to occur if the new NIA Project is not expected to lead to new learning. Projects that address the same Problem, but use a different Method, will not be considered as unnecessarily duplicating other Projects. For the avoidance of doubt, Projects that are at different Technology Readiness Levels will not be considered as unnecessarily duplicating other Projects.

Documentation Requirements

Project Eligibility Assessment (PEA)

3.19 Before Registration of a NIA Project, the Funding Licensee(s) must produce a PEA. In the PEA Network Licensees must demonstrate that the Project meets the Specific Requirements set out in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.18 above and why the Funding Licensee is not implementing the Project as part of its normal business activity. This assessment should be signed by the senior person responsible for implementing NIA Projects and published on the Project Registration Page of the Learning Portal.

Project benefits guide

3.20 To ensure a consistent approach in assessing the benefits of Projects we require Network Licensees to work together to develop and maintain a common guide for converting different types of benefit into financial terms. Version one of the

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

guide has been approved by Ofgem¹¹. Network Licensees should keep this guide up-to-date and any proposed changes to it should be submitted to us for approval.

3.21 The Network Licensee must be able to use a methodology set out in the guide to estimate the financial benefit if the Problem is solved. This estimate should be accompanied by a qualitative summary of the resources the Network Licensee currently uses to address the Problem.

3.22 In the case of a Development or Demonstration Project the Network Licensee must be able to use the guide to explain the financial benefit of the Project by:

- Estimating the costs of delivering the Solution (at the scale being tested within the Project) through the most efficient Method currently in use on the GB Transmission System - the Base Case Cost; and
- Estimating the costs of replicating the Method, at the scale being tested in the Project, once it has been proven successful - the Method Cost.

3.23 The difference between the Base Case Cost and the Method Cost for a Development or a Demonstration is the financial benefit of the Project. Where a Network Licensee is looking to test more than one Method it should outline the financial benefit of each separate Method.

Registration process requirements

3.24 In order for a Project to be eligible for funding, it must be registered on the Learning Portal referred to in chapter 2. The Funding Licensee must notify Ofgem by sending an email to nia_project_registration@ofgem.gov.uk each time it registers a Project. For the avoidance of doubt, there should only be one Project Registration Page for each Project, even where there are multiple Funding Licensees and only one email is required to be sent to Ofgem. However, all Funding Licensees are responsible for ensuring they comply with this Governance Document.

3.25 The Registration process does not generally involve Ofgem approving Projects. However, we have identified two circumstances where a Network Licensee must seek approval from Ofgem before Registration of a Project. These are where the Network Licensee is:

- i) Requesting an exemption from the default conditions for IPR set out in chapter 7; or
- ii) Intends to make payments to itself or to Related Undertakings as set out in chapter 4.

3.26 Where the Network Licensee wishes to register a Project in one of the circumstances described in paragraph 3.25 it should make a written submission to Ofgem before the Network Licensee registers the Project. Ofgem will review the submission and will only provide approval where it considers that a satisfactory

justification has been supplied. Ofgem will undertake this review and respond to the request within 20 Working Days of receipt of the submission. If, during the 20 Working Day evaluation period following the submission of the request, Ofgem considers that additional information will be needed to assess whether approval should be given then in these circumstances the Authority may extend the deadline for its decision by up to 20 Working Days, from the day when the further information was provided.

3.27 Where a Network Licensee has explained in its PEA why it (or its Project Partners) will face commercial harm from disclosure of any of the information required in table 3.1 below and informed Ofgem when registering the Project then it is not required to publish this information. However, if the Authority later considers information has been unreasonably withheld then NIA Expenditure up to the value of the Project may be declared ineligible.

3.28 Where multiple Network Licensees wish to recover Allowable NIA Expenditure for the purposes of a collaborative Project then Funding Licensees must be named on the NIA Project Registration Page. Where there are multiple Funding Licensees it should be made clear at the time of Registration what contribution each Funding Licensee will be making.

3.29 If the Network Licensee is not seeking approval to register a Project for one of the reasons identified in paragraph 3.25, the Project will be registered when the Network Licensee publishes information required for the Registration of NIA Projects on the Learning Portal.

3.30 A Project can be registered at any time during the Formula Year. Projects must start in the same Formula Year in which they are registered, except where Registration has taken place within 20 Working Days of the end of the Formula Year, in which case the Project may start in that Formula Year or in the subsequent Formula Year.

3.31 Projects must not be started until Registration has taken place and Ofgem has been notified. Where the Network Licensee has sought permission from Ofgem to register a Project it cannot be started until the Network Licensee has received permission from Ofgem to register the Project.

3.32 A Network Licensee can still register a NIA Project even if it does not expect to incur any Allowable NIA Expenditure. In doing so, it will still be eligible to receive Allowable NIA Expenditure if the outturn costs and benefits are different from expectation.

3.33 The Funding Network Licensee(s) will provide the information required for Registration set out in Table 3.1 on the NIA Project Registration Page.

Table 3.1: Information required for the registration of NIA Projects

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

Information required	Description
Project title	
Funding Licensee(s)	The Network Licensee(s) which register(s) the Project and recover(s) the Allowable NIA Expenditure from Customers.
Eligibility	This section should explain why the Project meets the Specific Requirements (see paragraphs 3.5 to 3.18).
Problem(s)	This should outline the Problem(s) which is being addressed by the Project.
Method(s)	This section should set out the Method or Methods that will be used in order to solve or investigate the Problem. The type of Method should be identified where possible, eg technical or commercial.
Scope and Objectives	The scope and objectives of the Project should be clearly defined including the benefits (eg financial, environmental, etc) which would directly accrue to the GB Gas Transportation System.
Success criteria	Details of how the Funding Licensee will evaluate whether the Project has been successful.
Project Partners and external funding	Details of actual or potential Project Partners and External Funding support as appropriate.
Potential for new learning	Details of what the parties expect to learn and how the learning will be disseminated.
Scale of Project	The Funding Licensee should justify the scale of the Project – including the scale of the investment relative to the potential benefits. In particular, it should explain why there would be less potential for new learning if the Project were of a smaller scale.
Geographical area	Details of where the Project will take place. If the Project is a collaboration Project, the Funding Licensee area(s) in which the Project will take place should be identified.
Revenue allowed for in the RIIO-T1 settlement or RIIO-GD1 settlement	An indication of the expenditure allowed for within the RIIO-T1 or RIIO-GD1 settlements ⁶ that is likely to be saved as a result of the Project.
Indicative total NIA Project Expenditure	An indication of the total Allowable NIA Expenditure that the Funding Licensee expects to reclaim for the whole of the Project.

⁶ This is the Expenditure included in the Licensees' Business Plan for RIIO-T1 or RIIO-GD1.

NIA Project change requirements

3.34 Once a NIA Project has been registered, the Funding Licensee will not be able to change the following aspects of the Registered Project:

- i) Project title;
- ii) Problem;
- iii) Objectives;
- iv) Success criteria; and
- v) The IPR arrangements.

3.35 Further, although the Funding Licensee can reduce the level of payment that was registered to be made to a Related Undertaking, it cannot either increase the payment or make a payment to an additional Related Undertaking without receiving approval from Ofgem.

3.36 If the Funding Licensee can demonstrate that there will be a benefit to changing other aspects of the Project (not listed in paragraph 3.34) based on learning once the Project has been started, it may do so. The Network Licensee must update the information on the Project Information Page (including an explanation of why the change has been made). The Network Licensee must inform Ofgem by email at nia_project_registration@ofgem.gov.uk. For the avoidance of doubt, this change could include prematurely terminating the Project.

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

4. Eligible NIA Expenditure

Chapter Summary

This chapter defines what Eligible NIA Expenditure is and defines what will be considered Eligible Bid Preparation Costs.

4.1 Expenditure associated with undertaking NIA Projects can be recovered under the NIA. This is described in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.5 below and is called Eligible NIA Expenditure. In relation to NIC projects which passed the NIC Initial Screening Process in or before Formula Year 2017/2018, expenditure associated with preparation of the submission for the NIC can also be recovered under the NIA. This is described in paragraphs 4.9 – 4.11 below and is called Eligible Bid Preparation Costs.

4.2 The amount available for Allowable NIA Expenditure can be calculated using the parameters set out in the NIA Licence Condition. [The amount available for the Carry-over Network Innovation Allowance should be calculated using the parameters set out in the CNIA Licence Condition.](#)

4.3 Network Licensees may carry forward unspent RIIO-1 NIA Allowance from Relevant Year 2020/2021 into the Relevant Year 2021/2022 (the first year of RIIO-2). Unspent RIIO-1 NIA Allowance from Relevant Year 2020/2021 cannot be recovered if it is incurred after 31 March 2022.

4.4 Expenditure of any NIA Allowance from Relevant Year 2020/2021 carried forward into Relevant Year 2021/2022 by Network Licensees can only be recovered if:

a) the expenditure is on a project that had started prior to 31 March 2021 (i.e. had already incurred some expenditure); and

b) all other requirements in the relevant NIA Licence Condition, CNIA Licence Condition and this Governance Document have been fulfilled.

Eligible NIA Expenditure requirements

4.24.5 Eligible NIA Expenditure is expenditure on a Project that is related to the implementation of the Network Licensee's Project subject to the restrictions set out in this Governance Document.

NIA Expenditure relating to equipment

4.34.6 If the NIA expenditure relates to equipment (including control and/or communications systems and/or software) then:

- It must be incurred in relation to the research, development, procurement, installation, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of equipment which will have a Direct Impact on the Network Licensee's network;
- It must not be related to the procurement, installation, operation and decommissioning of any device on any Customers' premises that measures the consumption of energy and provides such measurement data to an Energy Supplier; and
- It will be deemed to be connected to and form part of the Network Licensee's network if it is being used to test the impact of gas demand of commercial or domestic Customers on the Network Licensee's network.

Payments to network users

[4.44.7](#) If the expenditure involves payments to a Related Undertaking to remunerate a Network User for the actions it takes as part of the NIA Project then:

- All payments that are proposed to be made to any Related Undertaking must be declared before Project Registration and will require approval from Ofgem before the Project can be registered;
- The Network Licensee must simultaneously offer the same terms to similar Network Users on the part of the network that is within the Project boundary, and must have used reasonable endeavours to identify similar network users; and
- The payment cannot be made directly to the Network Licensee or to affiliated Network Licensees undertaking the NIA Project, except to cover the marginal operating costs of running existing Network Licensee owned generation or storage plants that are solely necessary for the purposes of the Project. Such marginal operating costs must be declared at the time of Project Registration and will require approval from Ofgem before the Project can be registered.

Customer protection requirements

[4.54.8](#) The Network Licensee, its contractors and its Project Partners must:

- Not visit a premises of any Customer for sales or marketing activities in connection with, in the context of or otherwise under the guise of the Project; and
- Have regard to the implementation of the smart meter roll-out in the geographical area relevant to the Project to ensure that the Project does not impede the implementation of the roll-out in any way.

Unrecoverable NIA Expenditure

[4.64.9](#) Unrecoverable NIA Expenditure cannot be recovered from Allowable NIA Expenditure. Unrecoverable NIA Expenditure is any NIA Project Expenditure arising

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

from a failure to conform to technical requirements or arising from an increase in payments associated with a reduction in standards of performance.

Technical requirements and standards of performance

[4.74.10](#) Meeting the criteria for NIA Projects does not exempt the Network Licensee from complying with its licence obligations to conform to all technical requirements or standards of performance or any other legislation. If the Network Licensee wishes to seek derogation from technical requirements or incentive schemes it must do so through the relevant existing mechanisms. Without a derogation any increase in payments resulting from a reduction in performance that occurs through undertaking a NIA Project is deemed Unrecoverable NIA Expenditure.

Eligible NIC Bid Preparation Costs

[4.11](#) ~~4.9~~ Paragraphs 4.10 to 4.11 only apply to NIC projects which passed the NIC Initial Screening Process in or before Formula Year 2017/2018. For Network Licensees, any Bid Preparation Costs for a Project which passed the NIC Initial Screening Process in or before Formula Year 2017/2018 must be recovered by the Network Licensee during that Formula Year.

[4.12](#) Up until Formula Year 2017/2018, the NIA Licence Condition permits the Network Licensee to use up to a maximum of £175,000 or 5 per cent of the funding requested under the NIC Licence Condition, whichever is smaller, from its NIA to cover expenditure it incurred submitting bids to the NIC.

[4.13](#) Efficiently incurred costs associated with preparing a submission which has passed the NIC Initial Screening Process and/or associated with the implementation and maintenance of the Learning Portal and Collaboration Portal can be funded as Bid Preparation Costs. The Network Licensee must be able to demonstrate that it has used the amount claimed under Eligible Bid Preparation Costs for the purposes listed above. Where the Network Licensee is part of a Gas Transmission Group or Gas Distribution Group, the sum of such costs recoverable by all of the Network Licensees in that group cannot be more than £175,000 or 5 per cent of the NIC funding requested, whichever is the smaller amount.

External NIA funding

4.14 If the Network Licensee receives funding from a Project Partner or from an External Funder that covers Eligible NIA Project Expenditure then it cannot use its NIA to fund the activities paid for by a Project Partner or by the External Funder.

Revenue allowed for within the RIIO-T1 or RIIO-GD1 settlements

4.15 Direct Benefits are any benefits of the Project accruing to the Network Licensee during the Project implementation, and comprise expenditure included in

the Network Licensees Business Plan for the RIIO-T1/GD1 Period that will be saved through undertaking the Project.

4.16 Where the Network Licensee receives a Direct Benefit because of undertaking the Project the amount saved should be used to cover the expenditure incurred on the NIA Project and so must be deducted from the Eligible NIA Expenditure.

Eligible NIA Internal Expenditure

4.17 The proportion of NIA expenditure the Network Licensee can spend on its own internal resources is set out in the NIA Licence Condition. This means that only that proportion of NIA expenditure can be spent internally, eg on salaries. The remaining NIA expenditure must be external. Efficiently incurred costs associated with implementing and maintaining the Learning Portal and the Collaboration Portal can be recovered as Eligible NIA Internal Expenditure.

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

5. Annual regulatory reporting for NIA Projects

[5.1](#) The Network Licensee must report the required details for its NIA Expenditure as set out in Standard Special Condition A40 (Regulatory Instructions and Guidance) of the RIIO-1 Gas Transporter Licences in force as of 31 March 2020.

[5.15.2](#) The Network Licensee must report the required details for its CNIA Expenditure as set out in Standard Special Condition A40 of the RIIO-2 Gas Transporter Licences as in force on 1 April 2021.

6. Knowledge transfer

Chapter Summary

Facilitating knowledge transfer is one of the key aims of the RIIO Innovation Stimulus. Learning should be shared among all Network Licensees. This chapter sets out the knowledge transfer requirements of the NIA.

6.1 There are four requirements relating to knowledge transfer set out in this document: the Project Progress Information, an annual summary of NIA activity, an annual conference described in this chapter and the treatment of IPR (which is comprehensively set out in chapter 7). The Network Licensee should also seek other mechanisms to ensure effective Dissemination of learning.

Learning Portal deadline

6.2 The Network Licensee must publish the required Project Progress Information on the Learning Portal by 31 July each year. If a NIA Project is halted, then Project Progress Information must be published by 31 July following the halting of the Project. This is separate to the requirement to publish an annual summary of NIA activity under paragraph 6.7.

Project Progress Information

6.3 The Network Licensee must publish the Project Progress Information for each NIA Project that has developed new learning in the preceding Formula Year on the Learning Portal. This publication should provide sufficient information for third parties to understand what has been learnt from the Project and should be sufficient to allow other Network Licensees to replicate the Project and minimise the likelihood that other Network Licensees will unnecessarily duplicate the Project using their NIA in future. If the NIA Project generates IPR that Ofgem has agreed at Registration does not need to be shared, the Project Progress Information must provide sufficient information for other Network Licensees to determine whether the IPR would be of value.

6.4 Where the Network Licensee has explained in its PEA and informed Ofgem at Registration why it (or its Project Partners) will face commercial harm from disclosure of any of the information required in Table 6.1 then it is not required to publish this information in the Project Progress Information. If the Authority later considers information has been unreasonably withheld then NIA Expenditure up to the value of the Project may be declared ineligible.

6.5 The Project Progress Information should include the following sections in the order that they appear below.

Table 6.1: Required Project Progress Information.

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

Section	Description
Project Title	As at Registration
Scope and objectives	As at Registration
Success criteria	As at Registration
Performance compared to the original Project aims, objectives and success criteria	Details of how the Project is investigating/solving the issue described in the NIA Project Registration Pro-forma. Details of how the Project is performing/performed relative to its aims, objectives and success criteria.
Required modifications to the planned approach during the course of the Project	The Network Licensee should state any changes to its planned methodology and describe why the planned approach proved to be inappropriate.
Lessons learnt for future Projects	Recommendations on how the learning from the Project could be exploited further. This may include recommendations on what form of trialling will be required to move the Method to the next TRL. The Network Licensee should also state if the Project discovered significant problems with the trialled Methods. The Network Licensee should comment on the likelihood that the Method will be deployed on a large scale in future. The Network Licensee should discuss the effectiveness of any Research, Development or Demonstration undertaken.
The outcomes of the Project	When available, comprehensive details of the Project's outcomes are to be reported. Where quantitative data is available to describe these outcomes it should be included in the report. Wherever possible, the performance improvement attributable to the Project should be described. If the TRL of the Method has changed as a result of the Project this should be reported. The Network Licensee should highlight any opportunities for future Projects to develop learning further.
Data access details	A description of how any network or consumption data (anonymised where necessary) gathered in the course of the Project can be requested by interested parties. This requirement may be met by including a link to the publicly available data sharing policy, which is required by virtue of paragraph 2.13.
Foreground IPR	A description of any foreground IPR that have been developed by the project and how this will be owned.
The following section is only required once the Project has been completed.	

Section	Description
Planned Implementation	<p>Details on whether and how the Network Licensee plans to modify its operations based on learning from the Project.</p> <p>If the Method is not ready to be used or implemented, the Network Licensee should explain what needs to happen before the Method can be implemented. The Network Licensee can break down the requirements into actions required by Network Licensees and actions required by non-Network Licensee parties.</p> <p>If the Network Licensee intends to submit a notice under Special Condition 3D for DN Operators or under Special Condition 5D (The Innovation Roll-out Mechanism) for the NTS Operator this should be noted here.</p>
Other comments	

Compliance

6.6 In the event that Ofgem considers that the Project Progress Information does not comply with the requirements of this Governance Document, it will explain why and ask the Network Licensee to resubmit the Project Progress Information. If Ofgem considers that the resubmitted Project Progress Information still does not comply with this Governance Document, Ofgem may reduce the Network Licensee’s Network Revenue by an amount up to the level of funding allowed for the Project using the mechanism set out in the NIA Licence Condition.

Annual summary of NIA activity requirements

6.7 The Network Licensee must produce an annual summary of its NIA activity. Network Licensees may wish to combine this requirement with the annual reporting requirements under the NIC Governance Document.⁷ This summary should:

- Summarise the progress of the Network Licensee’s NIA activities in the Formula Year;
- Summarise how the NIA activities link to the Network Licensee’s innovation strategy; and
- Highlight areas of significant new learning; and
- Be signed by the senior person responsible for implementing NIA Projects.

⁷ Licensees may need to bring forward annual reports on NIC projects to align the reporting dates with the NIA annual summary.

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

6.8 We expect this document to be brief and to refer to the detailed information on the Learning Portal where further detail on Projects can be found. The Network Licensee should publish this summary on its website and add a link to the document on the Learning Portal by 31 July each year

Annual conference requirements

6.9 The Network Licensee must collectively with such other Network Licensees that are required to comply with this Governance Document organise an annual conference. The annual conference will be held every Formula Year for Network Licensees, Project Partners and for interested third parties. Expenditure incurred in organising this annual conference can form part of the expenditure the licensee is permitted to spend on its own internal resources under the NIA Licence Condition. The Network Licensee must (subject to any confidentiality or IPR arrangements approved before Registration) highlight the key learning that has been developed by the Network Licensee since the previous annual conference.

6.10 This conference may form part of the same event as any NIC or LCN Fund conferences and the Network Licensee may charge attendees a nominal sum for attending the conference. The Network Licensee's income from charges is not to exceed the efficient cost to the Network Licensee of organising the conference.

6.11 The NIA conference may be a single event for gas and electricity or multiple events. We expect Network Licensees to agree the format of the annual conference.

7. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Chapter Summary

To facilitate knowledge transfer we have created a default treatment for IPR. This chapter sets out these default arrangements.

7.1 We recognise that the Projects financed by the NIA may create IPR either for the Funding Licensee or for any Project Partners (whether for one, both or jointly), and that these rights could restrict the Dissemination of knowledge and also provide value through future revenues.

7.2 The Network Licensee is required to enter into contractual arrangements with Project Partners which reflect the arrangements described in this chapter of the Governance Document. The purpose of these arrangements is to:

- Ensure the Dissemination of knowledge generated by each NIA Project; and
- Protect Customers against paying excessively for products or approaches (for which they have contributed to the cost of development by providing NIA funding).

7.3 Given the light touch nature of these arrangements we expect the vast majority of NIA Projects to be able to comply with the requirements of this condition. However, in the circumstance that a potential Project Partner is not prepared to enter into contractual arrangements on this basis, we are willing to consider alternative arrangements on a case by case basis. In any event, all alternative arrangements must comply with the criteria set out in paragraph 3.10 of chapter 3.

Knowledge Dissemination

7.4 Network Licensees must ensure that their IPR arrangements allow for the Dissemination of knowledge in respect of a Project. This knowledge includes the knowledge necessary to reproduce or simulate the outcome of a Project. It also includes the knowledge necessary to avoid a negative outcome. Where the deployment of IPR materially reduces the cost, difficulty or time associated with reproducing the outcome of a Project, this would also constitute an IPR which is material to the Dissemination of knowledge.

7.5 Relevant Foreground IPR is Foreground IPR that other Network Licensees will need to utilise in order to implement the Method(s) being Developed or Demonstrated in the Project. In the Project Registration Information, Network Licensees must describe their expectation of the Relevant Foreground IPR which will be generated in the Project. In the Project Progress Information, Network Licensees must also identify the Foreground IPR in sufficient detail to enable others to identify whether they need to use it. It is not expected that the confidential details of IPR would be disclosed in Project Progress Information, only sufficient information to

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

enable others to identify whether the IPR is of use to them⁸. Where Background IPR is required to use the Relevant Foreground IPR, this must also be clearly stated.

7.6 Foreground IPR within Commercial Products is not deemed Relevant Foreground IPR. However, these must be made available for purchase by Network Licensees after the Project and in line with paragraphs 7.8 to 7.10 below.

7.7 All other Network Licensees will have the automatic right to use Relevant Foreground IPR for use within their network system royalty free. The Network Licensee will ensure that arrangements are in place to allow such access.

Ensuring value

7.8 For the avoidance of doubt, each Participant in the Project shall retain all rights in and to its Background IPR.

7.9 Each Participant shall own all Foreground IPR that it independently creates as part of the Project. Where Foreground IPR is created jointly, it may be owned in shares that are in proportion to the funding and work done in its creation. However, in circumstances where:

- the Network Licensee owns all the Foreground IPR generated by the Project; and
- the Network Licensee complies with paragraph 7.7 of this chapter

we will consider the Project to conform with the default IPR arrangements.

7.10 The Network Licensee is required to consider and enter into contractual arrangements that have the potential to provide best long term value to all Customers during, and following the completion of, the Project. This could be, for example, taking into account the level of funding provided by other Project Partners, the IPR terms agreed between the Network Licensee and Project Partners as well as future pricing commitments (eg firm pricing for post Project products, discount arrangements etc) offered by Project Partners.

⁸ This includes cases where Ofgem has agreed at Registration that certain IPR generated by a Project does not need to be shared – see paragraph 6.3.

8. Definitions

Allowable NIA Expenditure

Allowable NIA Expenditure is the total expenditure that can be recovered from the NIA. It includes Eligible NIA Expenditure and, in relation to NIC Projects which passed the NIC Initial Screening Process in or before Formula Year 2017/2018 only, Eligible Bid Preparation Costs.

Authority

The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority established under section 1 of the Utilities Act 2000.

Background IPR

All the intellectual property owned or licensed to a Participant at the start of a Project.

Base Case Cost

The lowest cost method of delivering the Solution (on the scale outlined as part of the Project) which has been proven on the GB Gas Transportation System.

Carry-over Network Innovation Allowance

The allowance provided by Special Condition 5.3 (Carry-over Network Innovation Allowance) which allows Network Licensees to recover the Relevant Year 2020/2021 Network Innovation Allowance in Relevant Year 2021/2022 in the circumstances set out in Chapter 4 of this RIIO-1 NIA Governance Document.

CNIA Licence Condition

Special Condition 5.3 of the RIIO-2 Gas Transporter (NTS) Licence (The Carry-over Network Innovation Allowance) and Special Condition 5.3 of the RIIO-2 Gas Transporter Licence held by the gas distribution companies as in force on 1 April 2021.

Collaboration Portal

An online portal to inform collaborators about the NIA that complies with the requirements set out in Chapter 2 of this document.

Commercial Product

Products which have Background IPR identified prior to the commencement of the Project.

Customer

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

Means any person supplied or requiring to be supplied with gas at any premises by a gas supplier.

Development (TRL 4-6)

Activity focussed on generating and testing solutions to the Problem.

Demonstration (TRL 7-8)

Activity focussed on generating and testing solutions on the network and take it to a stage where it can be transferred to business as usual

Direct Benefits

Direct Benefits are the benefits of a Project accruing to the Network Licensee during the Project implementation and comprise any expenditure included within the Network Licensees Business Plan for RIIO-T1/GD1 that will be saved as a result of undertaking the Project.

Direct Impact

Where the deployment or use of the Method (will in the case of Research) lead to a directly related measurable change or (in the case of a Development or Demonstration) cause a directly related measurable change in the operation of the GB Distribution System/GB Transmission System in a controllable way. Where the Method involves measures that aim to reduce or shift the gas demand of commercial or domestic Customers, it is deemed to be controllable.

Dissemination

Means the activity undertaken to share learning from a Project.

DN Operator

A Network Licensee who is obliged to comply with one or more conditions in Part D: Standard Special Conditions applicable to all DN Licensees (as a whole or in part) as a result of any direction issued pursuant to Standard Special Condition D1 (Application/Disapplication of standard conditions in Section A (Interpretation, Application and Payments) and Section B (General) and Application/Disapplication of Standard Special Conditions applicable to DN Licensees).

Eligible NIA Project

A Project that satisfies the criteria set out in chapter 3 and the requirements set out in chapter 4 of this Governance Document.

Eligible NIA Expenditure

The amount of expenditure spent or accrued by the Network Licensee in respect of Eligible NIA Projects (and, in relation to NIC Projects where funding was granted before 1 April 2018 only Eligible NIC Bid Preparation Costs) and forms part of Allowable NIA Expenditure as set out in Part B of the NIA Licence Condition.

Eligible NIA Internal Expenditure

The proportion of NIA Expenditure the Network Licensee can spend on their own internal resources.

Eligible NIC Bid Preparation Costs

For the purposes of NIC funding in relation to Projects which passed the NIC Initial Screening Process in or before Formula Year 2017/2018, the amount of expenditure spent or accrued by the Network Licensee when preparing submissions for the Network Innovation Competition that appear to the Authority to have been spent in such a way that satisfies the requirements of the NIA Licence Condition and Governance Document and as are necessary to enable the projects to be funded under the provisions of this condition.

Energy Supplier

The holder of a gas or electricity supply license.

Energy Networks Association (ENA)

ENA is the industry body funded by UK and Irish gas and electricity transmission and distribution and gas transporter licence holders.

External Funder

An entity (that is not a Network Licensee) that provides funding for the Project without requiring a return on their investment.

Foreground IPR

All intellectual property created by or on behalf of the Participants, Network Licensees to whom they licence intellectual property, agents and sub-contractors, as part of, or pursuant to the Project, including all that subsisting in the outputs of the Project.

Formula Year

A period of twelve months commencing on 1 April at 06:00 hours, the first such Formula Year (t=1) commencing 1 April 2013.

Funding Licensee

The Network Licensee that registers a NIA Project and uses their NIA to fund a Project.

Gas Distribution Group

A group of DN Operators in which the Network Licensee and every other Network Licensee within the group are affiliates of each other.

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

Gas Transmission Group

A group of NTS Operators in which the Network Licensee and every other Network Licensee within the group are affiliates of each other.

GB Gas Transportation System

The combined Pipe Line Systems of the Network Licensees who are subject to this Governance Document.

Initial Screening Process (ISP)

All proposed gas NIC Projects must pass the ISP before they are eligible to be developed into full submissions and considered by the Authority for funding. The purpose of the ISP is to reduce the risk of Network Licensees spending time and money developing “ineligible” projects by providing an early indication of which projects are eligible for funding.

Learning Portal

An online portal for sharing learning from NIA Projects that complies with the requirements set out in chapter 2 of this document.

Licensee Partner

A Network Licensee which is participating in a NIA Project and which is not the Funding Licensee.

Method

The proposed way of investigating or solving the Problem. This may be done by either:

- Research: which means activity undertaken to investigate the Problem based on observable facts;
- Development: which means activity focussed on generating and testing solutions to the Problem; or
- Demonstration: which means activity focussed on demonstrating and testing technologies/practices on the network which address the Problem and take them to a stage where they can be transferred into business as usual.

Method Cost

The costs of replicating the Method, at the scale being tested in the Project, once it has been proven successful.

Micro-Business

A micro business is defined as a company which meets one of the following criteria –

- consumes less than 293,000 kWh of gas a year;
- consumes less than 100,000 kWh of electricity a year; or
- has fewer than ten employees (or their full-time equivalent) and an annual turnover or annual balance sheet total not exceeding £2m.

Network Innovation Allowance (NIA)

An amount of the Network Licensee's allowed revenue provided to fund investment in innovation under the NIA established pursuant to the NIA Licence Condition.

Network Licensee

The holder of a Gas Transporter or Electricity Transmission or Electricity Distribution Licence who is regulated through the RIIO price control framework

Network User

A Customer or the holder of a gas supply licence, a gas shipper licence, or a gas transporter licence with whom the Network Licensee has a direct contractual relationship.

NIA Expenditure

Expenditure from the Network Licensee's NIA.

NIA Licence Condition

Either:

- Special Condition 2E (The Network Innovation Allowance) of the National Grid Gas plc's Gas Transporter Licence; or
- Special Condition 1H (The Network Innovation Allowance) of the Gas Transporter Licence held by the gas distribution companies.

NIA Project Registration Information

The information which Funding Licensees must publish on the Learning Portal in order to use funding under the NIA.

Participant

A party who is involved in a Project. A Participant will be one of the following: Network Licensee, Licensee Partner, Project Partner, External Funder, Project Supplier or Project Supporter.

Priority Service Register Customers

Certain domestic customers whose premises are connected to the pipeline to which standard special condition D13 (for GDNs) of the Gas Transporter Licence apply.

Problem

The issue that needs to be resolved.

Project

The Research, Development or Demonstration being proposed or undertaken.

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

Project Eligibility Assessment (PEA)

Documentation prepared by the Network Licensee prior to initiation of a NIA Project, demonstrating that the Project and funding comply with all criteria and conditions set out in this document.

Project Progress Information

A summary of Project progress which complies with the requirements set out in chapter 6 of this document.

Project Partner

A non-Network Licensee Participant that makes a contractual commitment to contribute equity to the Project (e.g. in the form of funding, personnel, equipment etc.) the return on which is related to the success of the Project.

Project Registration Page

The page on the shared portal where the NIA Project Registration Information is published.

Project Supplier

A party that makes a contractual commitment to supply a product or service to the Project according to standard commercial terms that are not related to the success of the Project.

Project Supporter

A party that makes no contractual or binding commitment to the Network Licensee or any other Project Participant in relation to the Project but who intends to endorse and provide support to the Project and agrees to be publicly named as a supporter of the Project.

Registration

Registration is the process by which a NIA Project is registered with Ofgem, before the Project can start.

Related Undertaking

In relation to the licensee, means any undertaking in which the licensee has a participating interest within the meaning of section 421A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Relevant Customer

A domestic or Micro-Business Customer.

Relevant Network Licensee

Is a Network Licensee that holds a licence of the same type as the Network Licensee which has generated new learning as a result of a Project.

Relevant Year

A period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.

Research (TRL 2-3)

Is activity undertaken to investigate the problem based on observable facts.

RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs)

Ofgem's framework, stemming from the conclusions of the RPI-X@20 project, implemented in price controls. It builds on the success of the previous RPI-X regime, but better meets the investment and innovation challenge by placing much more emphasis on incentives to drive the innovation needed to deliver a sustainable energy network at value for money to existing and future Customers.

Solution

The outcome if the Problem is solved.

Specific Requirements

The criteria a Project must meet to qualify as a NIA Project.

System Operator

The holder for the time being of a transmission licence in relation to which licence the Authority or the Secretary of State, where appropriate, has issued a Section C (system operator standard conditions) Direction and where Section C remains in effect (whether or not subject to any terms included in a Section C (system operator standard conditions) Direction or to any subsequent variation of its terms to which the licensee may be subject).

Technology Readiness Level (TRL)

A measure used to assess the maturity of evolving technologies. It is graded on a scale from 1 to 9, where, for the purposes of the NIA:

- TRL 1: Pure research that is theoretical or experimental work undertaken to acquire new scientific or technical knowledge for its own sake rather than directed towards an application
- TRL 2-3: Applied research driven by a desire to broaden scientific and technical knowledge for application on the network, related to an identified problem. It typically includes investigating the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable fact
- TRL 4-6: Development activities with a more commercial application including technology validation and or demonstration in a working environment

¹¹ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/our-decision-approve-licensees-network-innovation-allowance-project-benefits-guide>

- TRL 7-8: Full scale demonstration in a working environment to test and improve technologies so they are ready for commercial deployment
- TRL 9: Application of technology in its final form, ie the technology has been proven.

Transmission Owner

The holder for the time being of a transmission licence in relation to which licence the Authority has issued a Section D (transmission owner standard conditions) Direction and where Section D remains in effect (whether or not subject to any terms included in a Section D (transmission owner standard conditions) Direction or to any subsequent variation of its terms to which the Network Licensee may be subject).

Unrecoverable NIA Expenditure

Expenditure on a NIA Project the Authority has determined does not satisfy the requirements of the NIA Governance Document.

Working Day

Any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a day which is a bank holiday within the meaning of the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971.