

Question No.	Proforma section	Criteria	Topic	Question	Date question asked	Date response required	Date received
1	Section 1, Page 1		Facility obsolescence	As time progresses, and the facility itself is upgraded, how will the present state of the facility be managed in such a way that it is still useful, and can represent the majority of the network at present state, (In terms of technological advancement). I.e. If upgrades are left in, facility will be the most advanced state of the network and therefore unrepresentative of the average network section. If upgrades are removed, the facility will eventually become obsolete. To maintain a representative system, upgrades must be performed to the system, removed, and then reinstalled with current best practice once that upgrade is installed on the majority of equipment. What measures will be put in place to prevent rapid obsolescence and how will they be funded?	20 August 2015	25 August 2015	25 August 2015
2	Section 2, Page 5		Development cycle replacement	Please provide specific evidence that such a facility would have significantly shortened the development cycle of a transmission innovation.	20 August 2015	25 August 2015	25 August 2015
3	Section 3.4, Page 6		Lack of detail on running costs.	Please provide a breakdown of the expected facility running costs of XXXXXXXXX per year.	20 August 2015	25 August 2015	25 August 2015
4	Section 3.4, Page 6		Uncertain facility energy usage.	Please provide details of expected facility energy usage and any carbon impacts associated.	20 August 2015	25 August 2015	25 August 2015
5	Section 4.1, Page 18		Facility access	If such a facility is as valuable and unique as stated, why are no procedural systems described to manage future access: (a) Testing at such a facility becomes business as usual, how will access to the facility be regulated? (b) Access to the facility as business as usual becomes restricted through demand. How will pricing be regulated?	20 August 2015	25 August 2015	25 August 2015
6	Appendix I: Benefits Table	(a)	Benefits	You estimate XXXX of benefits by 2030. To whom does this accrue?	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
7	General		Site details	What will the power source and load be for this "off-grid" substation?	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
8	3 (p13) and 4 (p19)	(a)	Acceleration	Page 13 notes a 1 year acceleration of innovative projects, page 19 assumes 3 year acceleration. Please clarify.	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
9	4		Facility access	Projects which are funded via NIC/NIA could be tested within this facility. How can you ensure that for those projects which have already been given innovation funding, there is no double funding for the same activity	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
10	4.2 (p20)	(a)	Benefits	Extra revenue generated by the facility would be used to refund the NIC costs associated with the development of it. Would the refund be to the customer-funded part rather than the NGET funded part?	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
11	6.5 (p32)	(g)	Direct Benefits	How will the allowance allocated to the decommissioning of Deeside substation be recovered?	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
12	Appendix VII: Project Plan	(g)	Project plan	What happens to the funding if the project does not proceed beyond a stage gate?	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
13	General		Facility	Given the substation exists please list exactly what is intended to be built with the NIC funding?	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
14	6 (p34)	(g)	Facility use	The facility will be used to accelerate the deterioration and in some cases up to failure of assets. Does this mean the assets cannot then be used for other testing? Will this mean the assets have to be constantly replaced at the site? Where will the replacement funding come from?	03 September 2015	07 September 2015	07 September 2015
15	3.3	(a)	Benefits	Projects have been split into projects that would not be possible without the facility and projects that would be possible. Please can you tell us how many projects would not be possible and for what reasons?	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
16	3.3	(a)	Benefits	Please can you explain why there is a difference between how net benefits have been calculated in the CBA and in the full submission? Please provide the spreadsheet (including formulas and calculations) which was used to produce the table of figures in section 3.3.2	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015

17	Submission spreadsheet	(a)	Benefits	What is the cost of decommissioning? As this is an avoided cost, why has this not been included in the CBA?	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
18	Submission spreadsheet	(a)	Benefits	Please provide a cost breakdown of the "proposed innovation programme" used in your CBA calculations.	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
19	3.3	(a)	Benefits	What is the estimated financial impact (benefit) on innovation projects that would use this facility?	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
20	3.3	(a)	Benefits	You have listed a number of projects that may benefit from use of this facility and used these projects to calculate potential financial benefit of this facility - how have you factored in the timing of the use of the facility? How does the time that each innovation project is using the facility affect overall financial benefit?	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
21		(c)	Generates new knowledge	We note that you have not provided a knowledge dissemination plan but you have stated that you will develop a "robust communications plan" as part of the project. This is a key aspect of the NIC evaluation criteria. Please explain this omission.	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
22		(b)	Value for Money	Procurement has only been mentioned briefly in your submission and only in relation to test equipment. Please can you explain why you have not provided a full procurement strategy/process? This is a key evaluation criterion which contributes to our assessment of value for money.	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
23	Submission spreadsheet		Benefits	For Method 1, the Base Cost is XXXXX while the Method Cost is XXXXX. Please explain how these numbers were derived.	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
24	Appendix G, Table III		Equipment	What test equipment is going to be provided in the facility? How does that fit with the planned tests?	08 September 2015	11 September 2015	11 September 2015
25	7		Regulatory Issues	Please can you explain the impact on consumers if you deviate (or not) from Standard Licence Condition B9?	17 September 2015	22 September 2015	22 September 2015
26	7		Regulatory Issues	Please can you explain the impact on the use and associated costs of the facility if you deviate (or not) from Standard Licence Condition B9?	17 September 2015	22 September 2015	22 September 2015
27	7		Regulatory Issues	You mention that revenue may be generated from this facility - how would this occur if the facility is used on a fully absorbed cost basis?	17 September 2015	22 September 2015	22 September 2015
28		(g)	Quality assurance	Please provide further detail on how the results of the tests will be translated into practice. What level of external certification of your investigations will you provide to give potential users confidence to act on the results of the trials?	17 September 2015	22 September 2015	22 September 2015
29		(g)	Facility use	Please provide more details of three significant projects that you plan to undertake during the NIC period. Please provide details of one project for each of the three priorities identified by XXXX (new asset deployment; testing of condition monitoring techniques; end of life asset assessment).	17 September 2015	22 September 2015	22 September 2015
30	5.3	(c)	IPR	The governance document requires that you set out your approach to agree fair and reasonable terms for the future use of any Background IPR and Commercial Products needed for other Licensees to reproduce the Project outcomes, demonstrating how the approach delivers value for money. Please explain your approach.	29 September 2015	02 October 2015	01 October 2015
31	5.3, p.28	(c)	IPR	Please clarify what you mean by 'NIC Period'? Is there an exception to the scenario described under 5.3.2 where a DNO NIA project extends beyond the NIC Period owing to the different timings of the T1 and ED1 price controls?	29 September 2015	02 October 2015	01 October 2015
32	SD_01		Governance	Please explain how the consumer will be represented at the TAB? We note that Ofgem will be invite to partake in an 'advisory role' but it is unclear how the consumer will be represented with full voting rights	16 October 2015	22 October 2015	22 October 2015
33	Presentation 7th Oct		Costs	Please provide a further detailed breakdown of the construction costs in an excel file. Please include all methodologies and any unit cost assumptions that have been made. For example if you have used a unit cost for the onsite road build please describe the source of the unit cost and the multiplier e.g. km.	16 October 2015	22 October 2015	22 October 2015
34	Presentation 7th Oct		Costs	Please elaborate further on the reduction in construction costs by providing an excel spreadsheet to show the original costs and the current costs alongside an explanation for each movement.	16 October 2015	22 October 2015	22 October 2015

35	Projects		Costs	Does each 'NIC funded project' presume that time, resource and use of common test/monitoring equipment in the OSEAIT facility will be free of charge? If so what incentive will there be for the projects to use the test facility in the most efficient manner?	16 October 2015	21 October 2015	22 October 2015
36	Projects		Costs	Please provide the following for each identified 'NIC funded project': a. A description of the project b. An assessment of how each project meets NIC evaluation criteria (a) and (d).	16 October 2015	21 October 2015	22 October 2015
37	Projects		Costs	Please provide for the 'NIC funded projects': a. A spreadsheet of the costs of each project in an Excel file with all formulas visible. This file should make clear where costs are specific to the project and where they are shared. Please give the basis of any percentage allocations where costs are shared. b. An illustration of how the benefits will accrue over time. Please make clear the financial benefits the test facility contributes rather than the benefits that accrue to rolling out the particular project.	16 October 2015	21 October 2015	22 October 2015
38		7	Derogation	Section 7 of your full submission refers to requiring a derogation from the requirements of standard condition B9 of the transmission owners licence. Our understanding is that you are proposing that this derogation is necessary in order to allow you to charge other licensees that wish to use the site for future NIC projects on the basis of the costs of using the site (as opposed to on a commercial arms-length basis). Our interpretation is that as long as the arrangements do not involve a formal lease, if you were to charge other licensees and other companies/ groups for the use of the site, this would be covered by Excluded Service ES5 within special condition 8B, which simply requires you not to charge in a discriminatory manner. • Do you consider the proposed arrangements comply with the definition of "permitted purposes" within condition B9? • Will the future use of the site by other licensees involve a formal lease or temporary transfer of ownership? • Please confirm why you think ES5 would not be applicable to this situation and a derogation from B9 is required instead?	20 October 2015	22 October 2015	22 October 2015