

Electricity Network Innovation Competition Full Submission
Supplementary Answer Form

Project: WPD Telecoms Templates for a Low Carbon Future

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally: ☐

Project code	WPDNIC001	Question Number	Q6
Question date	08 th September 2015	Answer date	11 th September 2015
Submission section question relates to	Appendix 1c		
Topic	Benefits		
Question	Has an attempt to be made to characterise (even on a qualitative basis) each of the LCNF projects listed in Appendix 1c based on their reliance on the availability of appropriate communications approaches?		
Notes on question			
Answer	<p>Closedown reports along with other dissemination data has been reviewed for the projects listed in Appendix 1 of the FSP for Telecoms Templates project. The projects identified within require communications between multiple nodes – a widespread characteristic of Smart Grid applications. The reliance upon communications is not applicable to all innovation projects; hence this is not an exhaustive list of all LCNF activities to-date.</p> <p>As will be seen from table 3.1 – ‘comparison of LCNF projects and employed telecoms techniques’ of the FSP, the types of telecoms technologies deployed within innovation projects to-date are noted, based on publically available data. Reporting from these projects has expressed concern over poor performance of communications deployed, in many cases resulting in delays or even inability to deliver the full project potential, however there was often scant detail as to the exact nature of the problems.</p> <p>This is understood to be due to a combination of two primary factors:</p>		

	<p>1/ a lack of focus on the telecoms enabler element of what are essentially 'power systems projects'.</p> <p>2/ a lack of understanding of the communications technologies precluding the accurate reporting of issues that occurred.</p> <p>With the provision of detailed data regarding telecoms application, received in reports from projects such as FALCON, SoLa BRISTOL and Low Voltage Network Templates, the information has been evaluated to identify particular issues and areas of concern. Findings overall indicate that there are few, if any, cases where the selected telecoms have met expectations and can therefore be considered fit-for-purpose. In some cases telecoms have operated to a degree of success, but any specific limitations have not been detailed. There are also some projects where performance has been well below expectations leading to overspend and delays, in some cases major re-work has been required to achieve any degree of project delivery. In some cases dissemination activities have been cancelled due to the non-performance of communications.</p> <p>As shown in figure 2.1 'communications and applications matrix' within the FSP, there are a huge number of variables in the deployment of communications, to the extent that a telecoms technique that works well in London may fail abysmally in West Wales. Or perhaps radio spectrum that delivers superbly in Lincolnshire is at best poor when deployed in Birmingham. Unfortunately to date no objective method of recording performance under different conditions and with particular requirements has been available and so reporting of communications performance has been subjective and prone to misinterpretation.</p> <p>WPD are best placed to deliver a project focused on the critical enabler of telecoms as we are fortunate to have an established 'in house' delivery team well versed in the specific techniques and language of communications.</p>
Attachments	