

Repurposing Assets – EIP127

Lewis Kirkwood – Northern Gas Networks



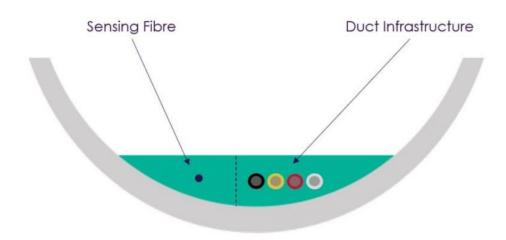
Background

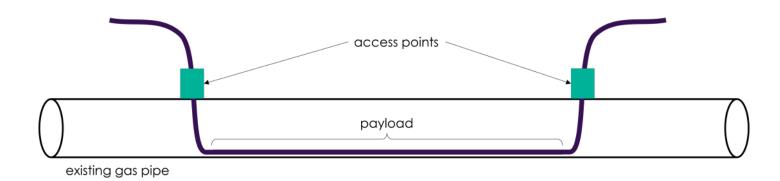
- As the UK looks to move towards net zero, all homes, businesses and industries must move away from fossil fuels that currently meet most of our needs to clean alternatives.
- One of the options is to repurpose the gas network to transport hydrogen, with its role unknown in the scale of uptake precautions need to be taken to evaluate all future opportunities.
- In some areas gas distribution networks providing energy for heat may potentially be replaced entirely by electric alternatives. Leaving significant areas of gas assets redundant or stranded.
- There is a risk for stranding previous customer investment into the gas network, when there's the possibility to repurpose such assets that can still play a role

Previous projects

Network Diversification & Resilience- NIA_NGN_424

- Installing ducted infrastructure into the gas network
 - Access and egress points
 - Deploying payload through the pipe
- Adapting existing work procedures
- Fibre optic sensing opportunity
- Commercial opportunities
- Regulatory considerations





Barriers

Regulations currently don't allow for such activities

Industry codes requiring modifications

Timely change

Providing competitive options compared to existing techniques

Potential new markets for GDNs to enter (Entering into different industries/sectors)

Potential Solutions

Understand the current gas assets and work procedures

Future energy landscape, varying scenarios for high & low gas futures

Trialling & regulatory changes

Examples:

- Electrical cables housed within disused gas assets
- District heating
- Optical fibre
- Synthetic fuels eg SAF



Thank you

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