Energy Innovation Basecamp 2024
Problem Statement EIP122

Link Box Fault Finding Devices

The following problem statement has been developed by the innovation teams within the UK's Gas and Electricity Networks for the 2024 Energy Innovation Basecamp.

Theme: Maximising Use of Existing Infrastructure

Network Areas: Electricity Distribution

What is the problem?

Link Box Fault Finding Devices – Link boxes, also commonly referred to as Path Boxes as they are in the footpath, due to their design and size present a number of different challenges to DNO's, for instance flooding is more prevalent with link boxes than in pillars. The issue we are interested in currently is that of fault-finding devices within assets such as link/path boxes and small LV Pillars. The HV network utilises earth fault indicators attached to the ring main unit in secondary subs to help fault location, and we do have many different fault indicating devices at our disposal, however typical TP units and fault information devices such as the Kelvatek Bidoyng can't fit inside these boxes.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for a fault-finding device that is small enough that it can be fitted inside the link box (2- and 4-way link box) or pillar, and that can indicate if fault energy has been seen on individual section. This device should ideally indicate the presence of fault energy to the resources on site and ultimately can help reduce CI/CML (customer interruptions/customer minutes lost).

What are the constraints?

The solution must be in compliance with both company and industry regulations and standards.

Who are the key players?

Utilities, predominantly Electricity Distribution Network Operators would be the main stakeholders in this project and receive the most benefit.

Does this problem statement build on existing or anticipated infrastructure, policy decisions, or previous innovation projects?

N/A

What else do you need to know?

N/A

Innovator submissions to this problem statement will be open here during March and April, but we encourage you to submit your response as early as possible, as networks will be able to review submissions as soon as they come in.

You can also use the virtual Q&A on the Smarter Networks Portal to ask for more information about this problem statement. Questions may be answered online or at the ENA Problem Statement Launch in March 2024. More information on last year's Basecamp programme can be found here.