

## NIA Project Registration and PEA Document

### Date of Submission

Jul 2014

### Project Reference Number

2014\_06

## Project Registration

### Project Title

RPAS Operational Requirements & Specifications For Aerial Inspection BVLOS

### Project Reference Number

2014\_06

### Project Licensee(s)

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Distribution

### Project Start

January 2014

### Project Duration

-3 years and -9 months

### Nominated Project Contact(s)

SSEN Future Networks Team

### Project Budget

£416,000.00

## Summary

The use of helicopters to inspect overhead line assets is an expensive exercise and significant cost savings could be realised by the deployment of unmanned aerial systems. One or two of the UK DNOs are already successfully using unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for inspection tasks. However these systems are not suited to Beyond Visual Line Of Sight [BVLOS] operations.

To achieve this demanding goal of BVLOS, requires an expert approach to addressing the following three critical issues for electricity overhead-lines:

- Clearly defining BVLOS operations for which Civil Aviation Authority Approval [CAA] can be sought and secured.
- A financial analysis that can provide a clear indication as to where categorized BVLOS operations will provide the best Return On Investment [ROI] for the DNOs and be viable for current and/or as yet undefined future operations.
- Specifying a Remotely Piloted Aerial System [RPAS] that can provide a long endurance capability and fly BVLOS as well as meeting CAA regulatory requirements.

### Nominated Contact Email Address(es)

frp.pmo@sse.com

## Problem Being Solved

### Method(s)

### Scope

### Objective(s)

The goal of this project is to be able to define an industry standard electricity specification for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems

operating Beyond Visual Line Of Sight for electricity distribution network aerial inspection operations, confirmed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority. By the end of the project, the industry will be in a position to decide whether it wants to invest in such systems and if affirmative, fund acquisitions or development as necessary and with the goal of starting to introduce such systems into service for BVLOS operations in a stepwise manner, in close co-operation with and as agreed by the CAA.

### **Consumer Vulnerability Impact Assessment (RIIO-2 Projects Only)**

n/a

### **Success Criteria**

n/a

### **Project Partners and External Funding**

n/a

### **Potential for New Learning**

n/a

### **Scale of Project**

n/a

### **Geographical Area**

### **Revenue Allowed for the RIIO Settlement**

### **Indicative Total NIA Project Expenditure**

## Project Eligibility Assessment Part 1

There are slightly differing requirements for RIIO-1 and RIIO-2 NIA projects. This is noted in each case, with the requirement numbers listed for both where they differ (shown as RIIO-2 / RIIO-1).

### Requirement 1

Facilitate the energy system transition and/or benefit consumers in vulnerable situations (Please complete sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 for RIIO-2 projects only)

Please answer **at least one** of the following:

#### How the Project has the potential to facilitate the energy system transition:

n/a

#### How the Project has potential to benefit consumer in vulnerable situations:

n/a

### Requirement 2 / 2b

Has the potential to deliver net benefits to consumers

Project must have the potential to deliver a Solution that delivers a net benefit to consumers of the Gas Transporter and/or Electricity Transmission or Electricity Distribution licensee, as the context requires. This could include delivering a Solution at a lower cost than the most efficient Method currently in use on the GB Gas Transportation System, the Gas Transporter's and/or Electricity Transmission or Electricity Distribution licensee's network, or wider benefits, such as social or environmental.

#### Please provide an estimate of the saving if the Problem is solved (RIIO-1 projects only)

n/a

#### Please provide a calculation of the expected benefits the Solution

n/a

#### Please provide an estimate of how replicable the Method is across GB

n/a

#### Please provide an outline of the costs of rolling out the Method across GB.

n/a

### Requirement 3 / 1

Involve Research, Development or Demonstration

A RIIO-1 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 (please tick which applies):

- A specific piece of new (i.e. 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 system software).
- A specific novel arrangement or application of existing licensee equipment (including control and/or communications systems and/or software)
- A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the Network Licensees system
- A specific novel commercial arrangement

RIIO-2 Projects

- A specific piece of new equipment (including monitoring, control and communications systems and software)
- A specific piece of new technology (including analysis and modelling systems or software), in relation to which the Method is

unproven

- A new methodology (including the identification of specific new procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyse information)
- A specific novel arrangement or application of existing gas transportation, electricity transmission or electricity distribution equipment, technology or methodology
- A specific novel operational practice directly related to the operation of the GB Gas Transportation System, electricity transmission or electricity distribution
- A specific novel commercial arrangement

## Specific Requirements 4 / 2a

**Please explain how the learning that will be generated could be used by the relevant Network Licensees**

n/a

**Or, please describe what specific challenge identified in the Network Licensee's innovation strategy that is being addressed by the project (RIIO-1 only)**

n/a

- Has the Potential to Develop Learning That Can be Applied by all Relevant Network Licensees

**Is the default IPR position being applied?**

- Yes

**Please demonstrate how the learning from the project can be successfully disseminated to Network Licensees and other interested parties.**

**Please describe how many potential constraints or costs caused, or resulting from the imposed IPR arrangements.<**

**Please justify why the proposed IPR arrangements provide value for money for customers.**

## Project Eligibility Assessment Part 2

**Not lead to unnecessary duplication**

A Project must not lead to unnecessary duplication of any other Project, including but not limited to IFI, LCNF, NIA, NIC or SIF projects already registered, being carried out or completed.

**Please demonstrate below that no unnecessary duplication will occur as a result of the Project.**

n/a

**If applicable, justify why you are undertaking a Project similar to those being carried out by any other Network Licensees.**

n/a

## Additional Governance And Document Upload

**Please identify why the project is innovative and has not been tried before**

n/a

**Relevant Foreground IPR**

n/a

**Data Access Details**

n/a

**Please identify why the Network Licensees will not fund the project as apart of it's business and usual activities**

n/a

**Please identify why the project can only be undertaken with the support of the NIA, including reference to the specific risks(e.g. commercial, technical, operational or regulatory) associated with the project**

n/a

**This project has been approved by a senior member of staff**

Yes