

NIA Project Registration and PEA Document

Date of Submission

May 2012

Project Reference Number

ENWT1002

Project Registration

Project Title

Voltage Management on Low Voltage Busbars

Project Reference Number

ENWT1002

Project Licensee(s)

Electricity North West

Project Start

April 2011

Project Duration

2 years and 7 months

Nominated Project Contact(s)

Electricity North West Innovation Team

Project Budget

£1,490,000.00

Summary

The decarbonisation of energy production, transport and heating are expected to result in significant increases in electricity demand and power flows on the Low Voltage (LV) networks. This will increase the likelihood of line voltages moving outside of acceptable statutory thresholds.

This project is concerned with exploring the potential for alternative technical solutions to the management of voltages on low voltage networks, in the face of increased network loads.

The project will concentrate on developing innovative and economic alternatives to traditional network reinforcement, which typically accompanies voltage problems on LV networks. It will seek to deploy a range of voltage management technologies and techniques across 15 distribution substations, which will be assessed in terms of their ability to effectively regulate line voltage in real-time in a safe and economical manner.

In addition to voltage management, the ability of compensating devices to correct for poor power factor will also be assessed. The project will develop understanding of the potential for these alternative techniques to address issues of voltage regulation of low voltage networks in response to increases in loads and penetration of generation, and inform the development of Electricity North West's operating practices.

Nominated Contact Email Address(es)

innovation@enwl.co.uk

Problem Being Solved

Method(s)

Scope

Objective(s)

This project will seek to deploy a range of voltage management technologies and techniques across 15 distribution substations. They will be assessed in terms of their ability to effectively regulate line voltage in real-time in a safe and economical manner. In addition to voltage management, the ability of compensating devices to correct for poor power factor will also be assessed. The focus of the project is to learn about techniques to regulate voltage and avoid future reinforcement requirements, rather than to offset planned spending in the Distribution Price Control Review 5 period.

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