

NIA Project Registration and PEA Document

Date of Submission

Apr 2013

Project Reference Number

Project Registration

Project Title

DNO Trial of Power Line Carrier (PLC) to Support Low Voltage SCADA

Project Reference Number

Project Licensee(s)

SP Energy Networks Distribution

Project Start

April 2005

Project Duration

5 years and 0 months

Nominated Project Contact(s)

SP Energy Networks Innovation

Project Budget

£92,800.00

Summary

While PLC is predominantly focussed on smart meter data collection, it also includes functionality suitable for DNO applications and operational communications, including event alarm reporting at low voltage substations and support for Demand Side Management (DSM) similar to that due to be lost when the existing RTS is closed (2017 or soon after).

This project arises from Alcatel Lucent / Parsons Brinckerhoffs Expression of Interest in the DCC programme which involves the use of substation connected Low Voltage Power Line Carrier (LVPLC) as a primary means of communications with each customer's home hub (end point) coupled with Alcatel Lucent / Parsons Brinckerhoffs assertion that this technology has wider application than simple meter management and could deliver future benefits to DNOs.

The operation of LVPLC signalling systems within GB low voltage interconnected urban environments has yet to be tested. Therefore, there is some concern by DNOs about the practical issues around LVPLC deployment, including safe working procedures in live low voltage cabinets, such that PLC data concentrator installation can be effected without interruption to customers' supplies. The project is to trial this technology in the above situations to evaluate the performance.

Nominated Contact Email Address(es)

innovate@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Problem Being Solved

Method(s)

Scope

Objective(s)

The project has established the following objectives:

- Demonstrate no interruption to supplies during installation of LVPLC data concentrator at distribution substation(s)
- Prepare a safe working method statement for routine data concentrator installation
- Demonstrate the collection of routine data (as a proxy for revenue meter data) from PLC devices
- Demonstrate the ability to collect non routine data (voltage, current, power quality, interruption messages) at each data concentrator and to dispatch operational message to / from a remote control system.

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