SIF Alpha Round 3 Project Registration

Date of Submission

Nov 2024

Project Reference Number

10132411

Initial Project Details

Project Title

Wayl-Ease

Project Contact

Scott.Flynn@ukpowernetworks.co.uk

Challenge Area

Whole system network planning and utilisation to facilitate faster and cheaper network transformation and asset rollout

Strategy Theme

Net zero and the energy system transition

Lead Sector

Electricity Distribution

Other Related Sectors

Electricity Transmission

Project Start Date

01/10/2024

Project Duration (Months)

6

Lead Funding Licensee

UKPN - Eastern Power Networks Plc

Funding Licensee(s)

UKPN - Eastern Power Networks Plc

Funding Mechanism

SIF Alpha - Round 3

Collaborating Networks

SP Energy Networks Transmission

Technology Areas

Asset Management

LV & 11kV Networks

Maintenance & Inspections

Overhead Lines

Electricity Transmission Networks

Stakeholder Engagement

System Security

Project Summary

Gaining consent from third party landowners to install, maintain, and upgrade network equipment is a challenge for network operators. When a customer wants to connect to the network or operational works are required, delays in securing consent from landowners is a barrier, causing frustration to all.

Wayl-ease seeks to create a transparent, secure platform for consents and link network operators and landowners via an automated self-service, online engagement and digital payment platform. By creating a novel data-led process to give customers visibility of consents, Wayl-ease will facilitate improved planning, faster network transformation and more informed customers.

Add Preceding Project(s)

10061346 - Wayl-ease

Add Third Party Collaborator(s)

Digital Catapult

Tata Consultancy Services Limited

Project Budget

£540,324.00

SIF Funding

£485,499.00

Project Approaches and Desired Outcomes

Animal testing (not scored)

○ Yes
◉ No

Problem statement

Wayleave agreements govern network operators' use of third party lands to install, access and operate equipment. In return, landowners are entitled to an annual payment of compensation under agreed terms. These agreements are required to ensure assets can be retained in these locations. Having a well consented asset base is vital in achieving Net Zero efficiently, without delays as the number of assets managed by electricity networks increase.

These assets will, in many cases, reside on third party lands so new wayleave agreements will need to be put in place between network operators and landowners. This presents the need to innovate to continue to serve landowners without increasing costs to operate to address the following issues:

Low visibility of landownership: Landownership is constantly changing, with UKPN receiving circa 18,000 enquiries per annum relating to consents of assets on private land. This represents a fraction of the property transitions that occur, circa 186,000 annually (Source Land Registry sale data) indicating a gap in records. Conversely, landowners often have limited awareness of DNO infrastructure on their premises. Where the electrical assets are held on the basis of a Wayleave Agreement, a change in ownership places assets at vulnerability to a Notice to Remove thus reducing the network security.

Manual consent and payment processes: Existing processes for confirming consents and generating wayleave agreements involve lengthy and complex email exchanges. In some instances, this leads to delays or inaccurate compensation payments, which in turn, leads to increased costs for DNOs and TNOs. Increasing volumes of applications necessitate a more streamlined approach to address customer enquiries and an increased demand facilitating Net Zero.

Lack of transparency for customers: Ensuring network resilience and facilitating the transition to Net Zero requires extension, upgrades and maintenance. This necessitates access to land, customer information and local planning data, which due to current lack of visibility in the consenting process often leads to repeated site visits and delayed works that frustrate customers.

The project's understanding of the challenges faced by both electricity network operators and customers has evolved through in-depth workshops with subject matter experts within UK Power Networks (UKPN), and has shaped the Alpha Phase proposal:

·   Difficulty in determination of asset types and location, which leads to in depth conversations required in obtaining photographs of the assets or site visits by surveyors.

·   Proof of customer land ownership and entitlement to payments which represents a time consuming process to clarify and explain.

·   Drafting of maps showing asset locations within customer land for inclusion in the wayleave agreements.

·   Misinformation inflating customer's expectations of the value of agreements.

·   Difficulty proactively identifying changes in landownership and setting up new agreements.

Wayl-ease is a customer facing platform that addresses these issues by digitising processes, developing novel and automated approaches to landowner engagement, and providing customers enhanced, whole system visibility. This will improve planning to facilitate faster and cheaper network transformation, through digital techniques (Challenge 1, Theme 1). Wayl-ease will lead the way in proactive management of consents allowing customers to self-serve wayleave enquiries and set up new agreements more easily.

User needs:

Network Operators: Require an improved means to serve information about entitlements to customers, provide access to existing agreements and streamline the process for the creation of new agreements and proactively secure updated agreements when landownership changes occur.

Landowners: Require a seamless customer journey to access up to date records and a simplified self-service wayleave agreement process. Integration with network operators' payment systems to ensure landowners receive accurate payments in a timely manner. The provision of clear, accessible information and proactive support would improve users overall satisfaction and trust in the service.

Innovation justification

The visibility and proactive management of consents across geographies is the first of its kind, not only in the industry, but across wider national infrastructure. Currently there is no digital mechanism for managing wayleave agreements available on the market. Furthermore, the existing process requires significant resources to ensure wayleaves are up to date. Wayl-ease is a step change for the industry, presenting a win-win opportunity for both customers and networks.

Activities currently limited by manual processes and administrative burden, in many cases taking up to three months due to slow interactions over e-mail and network operator teams awaiting customer responses, will be accelerated through automation and application of advanced digital technologies. More specifically, the project goes beyond incremental innovation through:

· The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to identify network assets from customer photographs.

· Data driven predictive changes in landownership

· Automated wayleave agreement generation

· Automatic map generation – creating the required map for inclusion in the wayleave agreement showing asset location within a customer's land boundary.

By improving understanding and visibility of consents across the network, Wayl-ease will unlock novel routes to engagement with landowners and additional potential use cases for additional data in whole system network planning.

During Wayl-ease Discovery Phase, partners mapped existing processes used for wayleave agreements and identified key pain points for DNOs and customers. Each of these was assessed to identify novel solutions that could resolve the challenge. This led the partners towards an intelligent Asset Consents Platform (ACP) that provides clear and comprehensive information on customer entitlements, self-serve contracting, automated payments, as well as asset recognition and automatic map generation. This platform will unlock whole system planning and support network operators in managing wayleaves, ensure agreements are up to date, payment details are correct and when land ownership changes customers are empowered to manage their existing agreements as well as set up new agreements.

Alignment to SIF

Currently there is no dedicated development funding to offer this functionality to landowners or customers. Considerable customer engagement, systems investment and integration works are required to develop Wayl-ease into a solution that can facilitate faster and cheaper network transformation and asset rollout, which would not be achievable as part of business-as-usual activity. The proposed new process represents a shift from existing processes which have existed for decades. Substantial industry change, thorough an innovation project, is required to enable its adoption until sufficiently de-risked.

The feasibility development must be undertaken before widespread deployment, which is perfectly suited to the phased nature of SIF. In Alpha Phase we will test key functionality to determine which features should be included in the final solution. We will also be engaging with different network operators to understand how we scale this problem and address the challenge nationally.

The current TRL and IRL is low (2-3) as this level of digitalisation of wayleave process has not been undertaken elsewhere. The Discovery Phase bought this forward from TRL 1 through determining the feasibility and developing a roadmap for future solutions. The scale of the Alpha Phase aims to build a first iteration of technical architecture and map existing data sources to the solution (TRL and IRL of 4-6). Through a Beta Phase project, we aim to achieve TRL 8.

Wayl-ease is aligned to the Challenge 1 Theme 1 as it creates an efficient and innovative way to facilitate the setup of new wayleave agreements. This will accelerate the pace to Net Zero through whole system planning to allow the expected increased number of assets, managed by electricity networks, on third party lands.

Impact and benefits (not scored)

Financial - future reductions in the cost of operating the network

Financial - cost savings per annum for users of network services

Environmental - carbon reduction – direct CO_2 savings per annum

New to market – processes

New to market - services

Impacts and benefits description

The pre-innovation baseline involves network operators processing wayleave enquiries and setting up new agreements using the current business as usual (BAU) approach. This approach involves the exchange of emails or letters between landowners and properties and consents team members to determine proof of landownership, entitlement to payment, the creation of a map to capture the location of network operator assets on third party lands, the drafting and signing of an agreement and the set up of payment. This represents a "do nothing" approach.

In the initial CBA we have assessed the benefits of Wayl-ease across two different deployment scales.

· Option 1: NPV of £15m. This represents rollout across UKPN starting in 2028. No rollout to other DNOs or networks is covered. This was chosen as a conservative assumption, as other networks are still in the process of digitising their wayleave agreements.

- Benefits (NPV): £19m

- Costs (NPV): £4m

· Option 2: NPV of £56m. This represents rollout across UKPN starting in 2028. It is then assumed other DNOs will take an additional two years to fully digitise their consents agreements, after which they will rollout Way-lease. Other non-electricity networks, and transmission operators are not included in this estimate but will be considered as part of the CBA to be prepared during the Alpha Phase. This was calculated based on a scaling factor between the number of customers in UKPN against other networks.

- Benefits (NPV): £64m

- Costs (NPV): £7m

The cost-benefit calculation for both options was performed from 2024 - 2050. Benefits begin to accrue in 2028, following a two-year Beta Phase

Benefits identified:

Financial - future reductions in the cost of operating the network

· Avoided third party costs: UKPN pay £0.3m per year on external support to handle the generation of new wayleave agreements. A 50% reduction due to increased efficiencies is assumed based on engagement during Discovery Phase. This represents an NPV of £2.1m.

· Avoided diversions: Data on alterations to the existing network was used to calculate the average number of diversions, and the average cost per year. UKPN estimates that 50% of diversions are discretionary/aesthetic in nature. Assumptions based on Discovery Phase engagement are a 20% reduction in the number of discretionary/aesthetic diversions due to Way-lease. This would represent an NPV of £15m. Wayl-ease will ensure Wayleave payments are completed on time and to the correct people, ownership updates are completed, and customers can easily access necessary information. This will increase transparency and is expected to reduce the number of requests for the removal of network assets from customer properties.

Financial - cost savings per annum for users of network services

· It is estimated that on average customers spend 2 hours to resolve issues. 10,000 enquiries are handled per year (UKPN data), £10.5 per hour of customer time (CBA Fixed Data Proxy). 50% reduction due to Wayl-ease based on Discovery Phase engagement. NPV of £1.4m Wayl-ease will improve information quality and accessibility, saving customer time.

Environmental - carbon reduction – direct CO_2 savings per annum

· Reduced visits to customer premises will decrease CO_2 emitted by operational vehicles.

New to market - services

· The project will develop a customer-facing consents tool, ensuring up-to-date records and allowing simplified self-service for wayleave agreements.

New to market – processes

· Challenges related to wayleaves are not unique to the energy sector, all critical national infrastructure operators utilise wayleaves in some form, leading to benefits in other industries.

All benefits are linked to the deployment of the Wayl-ease solution into BAU following Beta, although some may be realised during the Project.

Teams and resources

The Alpha Phase will be undertaken through partnership between four organisations with a proven track record of delivering innovation within the SIF and beyond. TCS and SPT have joined the consortium because TCS have significant expertise in managing data within UKPN and other electricity organisations and to ensure this project has value beyond UKPN, across distribution and transmission networks respectively. Both UKPN and DC have collaborated with TCS and SPT previously and this collaboration builds on a healthy body of work delivered between all parties.

UK Power Networks (UKPN):

UK's largest electricity distributor delivering power to 8.5 million homes and businesses across London, the east and southeast of England. UKPN are responsible for owning and maintaining the cables and assets in their licence area. They are also the main end user of the innovation, being able to view up to date consents in real time. By using this new process, UKPN will be able to deliver network reinforcement and transformation quicker, resulting in greater network security and reliability.

Role: UKPN are responsible for the successful delivery of the project and provision of oversight over the project. Also leading the engagement and coordination with UKPN subject matter experts to facilitate user research and validation. Experts including, network operations, planning, connections, and wayleaves support teams, will contribute with relevant information on related processes and procedures.

Digital Catapult (DC):

The UK authority on advanced digital technology. Through collaboration and innovation, Digital Catapult accelerates industry adoption to drive growth and opportunity across the economy. Part of the UK's Catapult Network, Digital Catapult has 10 years' experience in supporting the energy sector in adopting advanced technologies to enable a secure, resilient and sustainable network.

Role: DC are responsible for the user design, business case assessment and development of a number of innovative aspects of the ACP, primarily in digital contracting. DC bring technical and innovation expertise. They will capture the user and technical requirements for the ACP and develop the system for demonstration.

Scottish Power Transmission (SPT):

SPT is the Transmission Operator for Central and Southern Scotland. Part of SP Energy Networks SPT operates 3,700km OHL, 600km underground cables and over 150 substations 24/7. SPT has a strong track record of successful SIF projects notably SIF BLADE (Alpha Round 2) and Predict4Resilience (Beta Round 1).

Role: SPT will support by providing key steering from key Land and Planning stakeholders validating the scalability of the new process.

Tata Consulting Services (TCS):

TCS is a part of the prestigious multinational Tata Group of companies. It is placed amongst the top 10 IT, Consulting and Business Process Services providers in the world, serving over 2,000 customers across 55 countries. In the UK, TCS has clientele spread across the power, water, gas and renewables domains. TCS is at the forefront of technology revolutions, pioneering in the areas of Cloud, Digital and Big Data solutions, and successfully leading new business opportunities based on its cutting edge AI offerings. TCS has a productive partnership with UKPN spanning over a decade, with a familiarity with its people, process, technology and data.

Role: TCS will be responsible for developing solution mock-ups, processes and requirements for the Wayl-ease solutions.

In addition, a group of existing wayleave users will be interviewed to provide feedback on the development of the system. The project will invite other DNOs and TNOs to join a workshop to gather feedback and identify routes to scale with multiple partners from across the regulated energy industry.

Project Plans and Milestones

Project management and delivery

Five work packages are proposed for Alpha, with clear ownership and accountabilities set out in the accompanying Gantt chart and project management template.

The five work packages are:

· WP1: Project Management (UK Power Networks) – Aims: Ensure successful delivery, while adhering to project timelines, scope, budget, and SIF requirements.

· WP2: Asset Consents Portal (ACP) user research and engagement (Digital Catapult) – Aims: Engage with customers to understand requirements, validate the ACP solution and produce mock ups of the platform. Identify and incorporate network operator messaging on customer facing communications.

· WP3: Foundational Digital Infrastructure (Tata Consultancy Services) – Aims: Document network operator requirements, create new processes and produce mock ups for the ACP.

· WP4: Initial Requirements and design for the Asset Consents Portal (ACP) (Tata Consultancy Services and Digital Catapult) – Aims: Scope the requirements to integrate the technology solutions developed into UKPN's data infrastructure, to enable successful and seamless rollout and scale up of the ACP.

· WP5: Network Scalability and Cost Benefit Analysis (Digital Catapult, UK Power Networks and SP Transmission) – Aims: Identify the potential for use the ACP by other networks and conduct a cost benefit analysis on the ACP.

Project management will be led by UKPN using standard best practice methods and tools. This includes fortnightly management meetings and status reporting, frequent stand-ups as required for design sprints, budget management, status reports, monitoring partner activities, project governance, a stakeholder governance schedule aligned with project timelines, and utilisation of PMO tools including a RAID log and RACI matrix. This approach provides transparency, facilitates cohesion and collaboration amongst the partners, and avoids duplication of work.

UKPN will manage risks and issues using a RAID log, which will be updated fortnightly as part of project meetings. The key risks and mitigation strategies for this project, outlined in the risk register, include:

· Risk: Potential solutions requested by customers are too complex and result in a lack of understanding among stakeholders of their potential benefits.

o Mitigation: Learnings from the Discovery research and stakeholder workshops / interviews during Alpha will ensure we have strong understanding of both technical requirements and user preferences. This will be incorporated into solutions and iterative designs will work to simplify as much as appropriate.

· Risk: There is a risk that the data necessary to streamline the wayleave user journey is locked in legacy systems and is disproportionately expensive to integrate or migrate to a new solution.

o Mitigation: This will be mitigated by assessing the feasibility of solutions as well as usability. Advanced modelling techniques and AI will be used to create solutions which work with available datasets.

· Risk: There is a risk that differences in wayleave management processes across different network operators limits the scalability of the ACP beyond UKPN

o Mitigation: Engagement across networks already occurs to ensure a largely similar approach to wayleave agreements. Activities as part of WP2 and WP5 will ensure alignment with other network operators in order to ensure that the platform is scalable across different partners. The inclusion of SPT into this project mitigates the major risk here. In addition to SPT's involvement in the project, we will also be inviting other key stakeholders from across distribution and transmission sectors to provide feedback on the ACP within WP5 of the Alpha Phase.

A complete understanding of dependencies can be found in the Gantt chart, however key dependencies include:

· Availability of UKPN and SPT customers to participate in user requirement gathering and feedback sessions.

· Customer and network operator engagement sessions will inform the solution design and approach.

We do not anticipate any customer supply interruptions as a result of the activities in the project.

Key outputs and dissemination

The objectives for Alpha Phase are to:

· Understand user requirements for the ACP and the information required to support customers in management of wayleave agreements through engaging with customers with active wayleave agreements.

· Develop the technical foundations of the Assets Consent Platform (ACP), including identification of data and integration requirements across UKPN and SPT's digital infrastructure.

· Develop end to end processes proposed in a customer journey

· Develop a scaling strategy for the ACP and build a cost benefit assessment of the roll out at UKPN scale and beyond through working in partnership with SPT and other network operators.

The expected output for the Alpha Phase will be a full analysis of existing processes related to the wayleaves challenge and development of a new automated and optimised end-to-end process for the management of wayleaves.

The primary dissemination will be through the deliverables and the Show and Tell webinar. The key outputs for dissemination will include but will not be limited to:

WP1: Project Governance and Engagement (UKPN)

· A non-technical summary of the project, the final summary of learnings, including annexes, datasets as appropriate.

WP2: Asset Consents Portal (ACP) user research and engagement (DC)

· Customer research report.

· User design report and initial mock ups.

WP3: Foundational Digital Infrastructure (TCS)

· Proposal for processes to manage proof of customer ownership of land, enabling secure customer access and serving existing agreements to customers, and requesting new agreements.

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WP4: Initial Requirements and design for the Asset Consents Portal (ACP) (TCS and DC)

·   Feasibility reports and solution designs, along with the technical requirements to build and scale the system in Beta Phase.

·   Report and recommendations made on which aspects of the platform to prioritise and details of Beta Phase trial estimated.

WP5: Network Scalability and Cost Benefit Analysis (DC)

·   A cost benefit analysis for the rollout of the system.

In addition, we will ensure that the outputs of the project will be made available in the following ways:

Website:

·   All of UKPN's Alpha projects will be uploaded to the Smarter Networks Portal and feature on UKPN's website with specific project learnings disseminated at the Show & Tell events.

·   UK Power Networks will provide support to any project partners who wish to engage with any additional web opportunities such as case studies or thought leadership articles.

Social media

·   Where appropriate, UK Power Networks will look to share project updates and milestones via its official LinkedIn page. This will leverage the strong audience of more than 50,000 followers, with updates also shared by project partners.

·   UK Power Networks will also provide ongoing support to project partners who wish to share news about any SIF Round 3 Alpha projects

Traditional media

·   UK Power Networks will make an announcement press release summarising the total funding received for all SIF Round 3 Alpha projects

·   UK Power Networks will look for opportunities to share project announcements and updates in the way of press releases to help increase industry engagement

Events

·   At the Energy Innovation Summit 2023, UKPN shared updates for 19 projects, with over half of them being SIF Round 2 projects. This will look to be replicated at this year's event.

·   In February 2024, UK Power Networks held its inaugural Net Zero Networks conference, in front of a large audience of project partners, regulators, academics and industry professionals. Based on the success of this event, the UK Power Networks Innovation Team will look to host a second edition in early 2025, with a focus on disseminating projects from the SIF Round 3 Alpha Phase.

Commercials

Intellectual property rights, procurement and contracting (not scored)

Although a default Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) arrangement is set out in the SIF Governance Document, Ofgem is willing to consider alternative IPR arrangements on a case-by-case basis. If you are not using the default IPR arrangement, please provide a justification for your chosen IPR arrangements.

The partners agree to adopt the default IPR arrangements for this project as set out in Section 9 of the SIF Governance document. The partners recognise that knowledge transfer is one of the key aims of the SIF, and the benefits of this project will be maximised by the ability of other licensees to be able to learn from the project and implement similar solutions to benefit customers.

The partners do not anticipate that Alpha or Beta Phases will result in the creation of IPR that cannot be freely disseminated, and have no expectation of creating income streams or royalties from IPR outside of participation in a competitive marketplace for services that may be informed or stimulated via the outcomes of the project.

A preliminary IP search found no concerns. A confirmatory IP review will be conducted at

project conclusion if required.

We do not anticipate any subcontract arrangements, tenders or procurements to be run by any partner during the project phase.

Commercialisation, route to market and business as usual

Involvement of a senior sponsor from the Lead Partner in the Project to date

Wayl-ease has had support from executive level management at UK Power Networks and will be supported through Alpha Phase and into its Beta Phase bid submission. The project aligns well with UK Power Networks' strategic aims to facilitate net zero through enhancing our legal and commercial processes. The Discovery Phase of this project has had excellent BAU engagement and commitment from the wider business. Through the Discovery Phase, weekly touchpoints with the relevant business owner ensured that our project goals aligned to UKPN's long term strategic aims. This will continue in the Alpha phase. In addition, the Wayl-ease project has buy in from senior leaders in UKPN's asset management department.

Commercialisation/Route to Market

Consideration has been given in Discovery to the route to market for the Wayl-ease solution beyond deployment at UKPN. The design of the platform will be scalable to enable other DNOs and TNOs to adopt a similar solution using their respective data sources. The Alpha Phase will test the integration required with network operators' systems. It is likely that a decentralised system of network operator specific databases will be the most appropriate approach.

Alpha Phase Work Package 2 (WP2) will involve customer research through which a detailed understanding of their barriers can be formed, and a solution can be put forward to them which can best address these. Our Alpha Phase will focus on improving the project team's understanding of all the integrations required to enable the proposed solution, how challenges such as proof of landownership can be addressed and how the project can be scaled to a Beta Phase trial stage.

WP5 "Network Scalability and Cost Benefit Analysis" will focus on detailing the whole system requirements for other stakeholders. While SPT will act as our transmission network representative, we will invite other DNOs and TNOs to join workshops to gather feedback and identify routes to scale with multiple partners from across the regulated energy industry. For Beta Phase we would expand the Alpha Phase partnerships to include additional DNO and TNO networks in order to trial and implement the technology in multiple environments. The project outputs (for all phases) will be shared with other utility companies in an accessible, open-source format, notwithstanding commercially sensitive data policies. Further analysis in the Alpha phase will improve the current levels of confidence associated with CBA assumptions.

Commercial readiness of project partners

Both technology partners, DC and TCS are ready to develop the ACP, once the business case and requirements have been defined in this phase of the project. We do not anticipate any major changes or investments required in either organisation to enable to partners to be in a position to be able to deliver at scale.

Competitive markets

An initial analysis of wayleave management in the energy sector as well as other sectors has found that there is currently no solution similar to the ACP for managing and coordinating wayleaves being utilised across any sector. There is therefore scope to share these learnings with other sectors in the future, to allow for greater value for money on this innovation project as well as future revenue streams for the project.

Policy, standards and regulations (not scored)

We do not consider there to be a possibility, that this or any future project phase will require a derogation or exemption. We will ensure that throughout the Alpha Phase, we will consult with SMEs from UKPN and SPT to ensure that should we become aware of any area where a derogation or exemption may be required, we take timely action to address against this as soon as possible.

Following consultation among the project partners, we do not think there to be any barriers with respect to meeting the requirements of regulations, policy or standards. We will be further investigating this in WP2 and ensuring that we, as a project, are able to understand further any potential requirements that we may have to address and mitigate any risks early.

As part of WP5, we will engage with a wider selection of networks in a workshop, if necessary, we will invite relevant individuals from regulatory authorities to join this workshop to provide feedback and guidance from a policy standpoint for the Beta Phase and continuation of this work.

Value for money

The Alpha Phase of the project will cost £540,324.00 in total and the total SIF funding requested is £485,499.00, all partner contributions will be in the form of labour in kind and represents 10% of the funding requested. Costs are balanced across the project partners as follows:

UK Power Networks (UKPN):

Total costs: £77,050.00

Total contribution: £7,750.00 (10%) Labour in-kind

Total SIF funding request: £69,300.00

Digital Catapult (DC):

Total costs: £277,944.00

Total contribution: £28,512.00 (10%) Labour in-kind

Total SIF funding request: £249,432.00

SP Transmission Plc (SPT):

Total costs: £12,630.00

Total contribution: £1,263.00 (10%) Labour in-kind

Total SIF funding request: £11,367.00

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS):

Total costs: £172,700.00

Total contribution: £17,300.00 (10%) Labour in-kind

Total SIF funding request: £155,400.00

There are no subcontractor costs anticipated from the Alpha phase of the project, and no additional funding from other innovation funds.

Wayl-ease represents excellent value for money for customers because:

1. Competitive labour rates: As a not-for-profit organisation, DC's staff costs are generally well below market rates compared to industry equivalent roles. This extends the team's ability to deliver more for less. Both UKPN and SPT have competitive labour rates that will be utilised in the project. TCS utilise an Onshore/Offshore model for cost effective but effective delivery.

2. Efficient technology development practices: DC and TCS are highly efficient in organising and delivering complex technology developments. DC and TCS have well-established processes built around sprints and the Agile methodology. The project partners collectively have experience in more than 10 SIF Alpha projects, this means that the risk for increased development iterations is significantly reduced and the likelihood of dead-ends is far smaller which is non-trivial given the ambitious scope and complexity of our proposed concept. The strong technical expertise and access to technology partners further amplify the efficiencies that will be gained in the project.

3. Effective stakeholder engagement: DC will have excellent access to a wide range of SPT and UKPN's subject matter experts during the Alpha which will be crucial for prioritising development focus and improving prospects for delivering value-adding innovation.

4.   Existing working relationships: All partners have experience of collaboration and are well versed in the SIF programme structure, this leads to more efficient delivery and a strong alignment on both culture and an agreed high standard of delivery that will be expected by all partners.

5.   Strong history of contextual knowledge: The subject matter experts at UKPN and SPT represent decades of expertise in the wayleaves and consents space, this knowledge will ensure that the project team will be able to address the real needs of customers as well as network operator teams responsible for these activities.

6.   Access to data and systems: The strong history of delivery between TCS and UKPN mean that both knowledge of UKPN's digital infrastructure and pre-existing relationships ensure that availability and access to data is easily achievable. As such, the time during the Alpha Phase can be utilised to develop solutions, rather than accessing data.

7.   Contributions to the project: All project partners will make a 10% contribution to the delivery of this alpha phase, this will be in the form of in-kind labour contributions, further enhancing the partners already competitive rates.

Additionally, the Wayl-ease Alpha Phase project presents significant benefits for both customers and network operators that far outweigh the costs associated with this innovation project.

Associated Innovation Projects

⦿ Yes (Please remember to upload all required documentation)
○ No (please upload your approved ANIP form as an appendix)

Supporting documents

File Upload

SIF Alpha Round 3 Project Registration 2024-11-12 11_46 - 85.6 KB

Documents uploaded where applicable?

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