SIF Alpha Round 3 Project Registration

Date of Submission

Mar 2025

Project Reference Number

SPEN_SIF_Alpha_Equiflex

Initial Project Details

Project Title

Equiflex - Alpha

Project Contact

Rui Rui

Challenge Area

Novel technical, process and market approaches to deliver an equitable and secure net zero power system

Strategy Theme

Flexibility and market evolution

Lead Sector

Electricity Distribution

Project Start Date

01/12/2024

Project Duration (Months)

6

Lead Funding Licensee

SPEN - SP Distribution Plc

Funding Licensee(s)

SPEN - SP Distribution Plc

Funding Mechanism

SIF Alpha - Round 3

Collaborating Networks

SP Energy Networks Distribution

Technology Areas

Commercial

Poverty

Stakeholder Engagement

Project Summary

Increasing flexibility is required on energy networks to manage changing demand and generation patterns. This includes reducing power consumption at system peaks (e.g. winter teatimes); and increasing power consumption at certain times to take advantage of renewable energy availability.

Consumers can benefit from providing flexibility, through reductions in in their bills and/or receiving payments for providing services to the network. However, the current offerings and their benefits are most easily accessed by more affluent and engaged customers.

Equiflex aims to remove barriers to accessing these benefits, ensuring no customers are left behind, enabling a just transition to Net Zero.

Add Preceding Project(s)

SPEN_SIF_10104876 - EquiFlex

Project Budget

£473,347.00

SIF Funding

£424,011.00

Project Approaches and Desired Outcomes

Animal testing (not scored)

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Problem statement

The Problem

Increasing flexibility is required on energy networks to manage changing demand and generation patterns as the UK transitions to net zero. Domestic consumers, accounting for ~35% of UK electricity use, are an important source of flexibility and various schemes already exist, e.g. the Demand Flexibility Service (DFS), which aims to source 1GW of turn-down resource this year. Going into Discovery we knew that these schemes are largely accessed by more affluent and engaged consumers with substantial resources (e.g. EVs, PV panels) which risks leaving behind vulnerable and disengaged consumers.

From Discovery, our perception of the problem evolved. We confirmed that the rewards of flexibility can be high (e.g. DFS offered £3/kWh in 2023) but flexibility market participation amongst vulnerable and disengaged consumers was low. Our work found that barriers to participation are complex and multifaceted and include low overall demand; lack of time; different aspects of poverty (financial, information, digital). Existing provisions often require highly engaged consumers who can respond on demand. We therefore concluded that the benefit from turndown options is currently limited for our target customers but may improve with electrification of heating. However, targeted turn-up services represent a potentially significant opportunity to utilise otherwise constrained renewable energy in a highly effective way.

Our Project

Based on these findings, our Alpha project has evolved to focus on turn-up options for near-term deployment, and roadmap how to adapt future turn-down services. Options will be developed by considering and addressing barriers to accessing flexibility services for vulnerable and disengaged consumers through engagement with these groups. As network constraints are location-specific we will also build an area selection tool for DNO/LA co-operation, enabling locational targeting of the flexibility products developed.

Innovation Challenge

Equiflex addresses Challenge 2 - "Novel technical, process and market approaches to deliver an equitable and secure net zero power system", specifically "increase the number of consumers across segments participating in markets and reducing their unit cost of energy" and "Enabling disadvantaged consumer segments to participate in flexibility markets".

We will address these by targeting consumers who do not currently provide flexibility, either because they are disengaged or lack the resources required. We will develop opportunities for them to derive benefits for themselves and the networks through flexibility market participation.

Leveraging consumer flexibility during system peaks benefits network operators by potentially reducing or delaying the need for network upgrades. Utilising consumer flexibility can also facilitate greater adoption of variable generation, providing:

- Financial benefits through minimising constrained-off payments during periods of renewable energy excess.
- Environmental benefits by maximizing use of low carbon energy, and reducing need for storage infrastructure.

Innovation Users

DNOs - require options for flexibility to effectively manage the grid. SP Energy networks is committed to ensuring a just net zero transition for all its customers, and this project, which explores the blockers and potential enablers to flexibility participation in vulnerable and disengaged groups helps us to pursue that goal.

Customers & their representatives - greater ability to benefit from flexibility savings; increased network resilience; faster path to adopt low-carbon technologies without waiting for network upgrades.

Local authorities - efficiency savings from exploiting synergies between network needs and their net zero initiatives; making positive interventions in their communities to benefit vulnerable residents.

Previous Funding

This Alpha application follows a successful Discovery Phase.

In Alpha, we will collaborate with EAC & UWS's Barshare Retrofit Project (BRP), which is installing and evaluating net-zero retrofit options for social housing in Cumnock. Collaboration provides an opportunity to engage customers whilst reducing disruption to them, as surveys and data requests for both projects can be combined in a single visit.

Innovation justification

Equiflex addresses Innovation Challenge 2 - "Novel technical, process and market approaches to deliver an equitable and secure net zero power system" and Theme 4, "Enabling disadvantaged consumer segments to participate in flexibility markets".

The Core innovative aspects meet the requirements of Innovation challenge 2 and Theme 4 as follows:

- Theme 4 - Specific consideration of the needs and resources of vulnerable and low-engagement customers.
- Innovation Challenge 2 - Development of flexibility options designed for specific groups.
- Innovation Challenge 2 - Development of a 'Tool' to identify the best areas to deploy. flexibility products given network parameters and customer demographics.

We have learnt, from other network innovation projects, that collaboration between the networks and the target audience for the product is key. This was evident during the Discovery phase of Equiflex and other SIF projects we have been involved in. We have therefore included multiple partners to represent and engage with our target consumer groups.

To develop this Alpha project, we have worked in the open with UWS to collaborate with their (and EAC's) Barshare project and created an opportunity to engage with our target consumer group. Targeting products at these groups will require significant departure from current flexibility market offerings, providing access to the market through entirely different concepts for flexibility provision.

The key innovation is in allowing consumers without expensive flexible assets (batteries and EVs) to provide flexibility. This is facilitated by two product development streams identified during Discovery.

1. Turn-up opportunities in areas of curtailment. We will address the technical and social barriers to increasing energy usage on demand, delivering increased quality of life and lowering network peak demand.
2. Turn-down opportunities in areas of constraint. Specifically refining our Discovery findings to quantify the consumer benefit in reducing peak energy consumption and conducting a technology review to identify, for our target groups, if; a) future high load appliances (such as heat pumps) present an opportunity and b) if additional product development is needed to capitalise this on opportunity.

Comparing our aims to existing domestic flexibility products suggests that this market is nearing maturity with turn-down at CRL 9 and turn-up at CRL 8, with similarly high TRLs and IRLs. However, there is not significant take-up amongst vulnerable and disengaged customers. Currently no targeted products exist to reach vulnerable and disengaged consumers, these concepts are at CRL 4, and we aim to improve turn-up products to CRL 7 and turn-down to CRL 5.

The scale and size of our project means we will achieve a significant step toward increasing participation in the flexibility market. Our scale means we can draw the experience of six partner organisation representing important areas of expertise. It also allows us to engage with enough of our target group, through a consumer survey, to draw meaningful conclusions which will align developments with consumer requirements.

This size and scale, as well as collaborative approach between six partners means this activity would not be possible as part of Business as Usual. It aims to address a whole UK network challenge which currently is not at a stage where it will deliver significant near-term network benefit.

Counterfactuals have been considered and discounted on the basis that the disadvantages identified outweigh the benefits. These are:

- 'Do nothing' - DNOs simply respond to market demands for flexibility services and take any benefits provided. Disadvantage: minimal savings will be available, and flexibility provision will be piecemeal, making deferred network upgrades unlikely.
- Investigate flexibility without customer focus. Disadvantage: whole-system synergies won't be fully exploited, and the limited

consideration of vulnerable and disengaged customers risks them getting left even further behind.

Impact and benefits (not scored)

Financial - future reductions in the cost of operating the network

Financial - cost savings per annum on energy bills for consumers

Environmental - carbon reduction – indirect CO2 savings per annum

New to market – products

New to market – processes

New to market - services

Others that are not SIF specific

Impacts and benefits description

The current position

A just energy transition should seek to make flexibility offerings accessible to everyone, including vulnerable and disengaged. Our work in Discovery has highlighted that opportunities for flexibility provision among these demographics are currently lacking, with available flexibility products being targeted at, and most effective for, those with high demand or readily flexible loads, who tend to be more affluent and engaged.

Without the development of innovative approaches, a significant proportion of GB energy consumers will continue to be locked out of contributing to progress on net zero and will only receive possible indirect benefit from the growth in demand-side flexibility, furthering and deepening a sense of exclusion and disengagement.

The importance of involvement and engagement in flexibility within this demographic will only increase as the electrification of home heating gathers pace. A lack of access to flexibility tariffs, and ready means to practically engage, will potentially expose fuel-poor consumers to additional hardship as their electricity usage rises.

Metrics for the impact of the Equiflex project should include the numbers of consumers within the target demographic who are signed up to a flexibility tariff. Overall energy usage, time of use and energy bills for sample groups of customers who have engaged should be conducted to measure the impact of interventions and inform fine-tuning of the tariffs and products.

Forecast Benefits

Our Discovery phase has produced order of magnitude estimates for the benefits that 4 flexibility options might provide - 3 routes to demand reduction and one turn-up service (full description in the CBA). The benefits have been estimated based on the demographics for the East Ayrshire local authority and then scaled to provide an estimate from the benefits that would accrue over SPEN's network in Scotland. It should be noted that East Ayrshire is largely rural with a lower proportion of its population in the target demographic, which will lead to an underestimation of the whole-network benefit. Here we group the benefits from the 4 options in the categories highlighted in Q5. **The 30-year total NPV for the project options (from CBA workbook) are: £43.4m, £29.6m and £40.1m for the 3 demand reduction options, and £65.3m for the turn-up option).**

While the flexibility options examined do deliver some network financial benefits --allowing reduction and deferral of network upgrades and reducing constraint costs - these do not outweigh the costs, and they all come at a net cost to the network. However, each delivers social benefit and carbon savings that bring an overall positive net present value.

The flexibility options all deliver **cost savings per annum on energy bills for consumers**, which will be focussed on Equiflex's target demographic. We estimate that the demand reduction options could save vulnerable SPEN households between £1m and £2m a year, and the turn-up option around £2.5m. Applying a social return on investment multiplier of 1.9 to this (see CBA) implies a **total benefit of between £2m and £5m** for each option. It is not clear to what extent these benefits are additive.

By allowing use of previously constrained renewable generation (turn-up option) and by shifting demand away from peak hours

when the carbon intensity of the grid is likely to be higher, Equiflex would deliver **Direct CO2 savings**. The demand reduction options are estimated to reduce carbon emissions within SPEN's Scottish region by **300 - 400 tCO2e/yr.** The turn-up option is estimated to save **1,200 tCO2e/yr.**

Depending upon the options identified in Alpha, Equiflex offers the potential for delivering new to market products, processes, and services. It will also deliver significant social return on investment through promoting a fairer energy transition.

Teams and resources

Equiflex Alpha project team is made up of both Discovery phase partners, and new project partners:

Pre-existing relationships

- **Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) -** DNO for the South of Scotland, North Wales and Merseyside, distributing power to 3.5 million customers. **Role -** Lead network, will be involved in the turn-up and turn-down, area selection, and CBA work packages.
- **East Ayrshire Council (EAC) -** Responsible for providing a range of services to around 120,000 people, committed to tackling climate change and reducing fuel poverty. **Role -** Will be responsible for organising data collection from our target demographic. EAC will also be involved in the area selection and household energy usage work packages. **Subcontractor -** EAC will manage a subcontractor responsible for conducting the survey engagement through BRP. The subcontractor will facilitate the completion of the survey with residents as they are already engaging with them, minimising points of contact, utilising existing trusted relationships and reducing project cost.
- **Energy Action Scotland (EAS) -** Third sector organisation dedicated to ending fuel poverty. It's member charities provide consumer advice to over 3000 people weekly. It is a national centre of excellence, providing practical energy advice, research and training and developing energy policy. **Role -** Will advise in developing an engagement plan for data collection and identifying target characteristics for area selection.

Frazer-Nash Consultancy (FNC) - A leading systems and engineering consultancy with energy system and customer perspectives expertise and a strong delivery record on network innovation projects. Role - Will project manage Equiflex Alpha phase and be responsible for conducting work throughout all work packages.

New relationships

- **SP Energy Retail (SPR) -** Energy supplier with experience of custom**er response to current flexibility offerings and experience of product development. Role -** Will provide experience and advice about our target consumer group, turn-up services, gaps in data for household energy use and funding mechanisms for deploying constrained energy.
- **University of the West of Scotland (UWS) -** Academic partner with experience of energy monitoring, analysis, and research with the target group. They are working on EAC's Barshare retrofit project (proposed case study area. **Role -** Will contribute to consumer survey design and data analysis; advise on target consumer characteristics and household energy usage; and contribute to the CBA.

In Discovery, partners had expertise on:

(i) Electricity transmission and distribution networks (SPEN)

(ii) Stakeholder workshopping (FNC)

(iii) Target customer experiences and energy usage (EAS, EAC)

(iv) Cost-benefit analysis and case study modelling (FNC)

(v) LHEES and other local authority requirements (EAC)

(vi) Toolkit development and road mapping (FNC)

The additional partners will fix knowledge gaps identified in Discovery:

- **SPR** will bring expertise in electricity market product development and rollout and provide information on customer requirements from a supplier's perspective. They can provide advice on smart metering and the interactions between energy networks and suppliers required for new developments.
- **UWS** will bring data analysis skills and access to the latest research in both customer attitudes to energy interventions, consumption and appliance metering.

Equipment may be required for Alpha; this includes power meters and devices to test household energy consumption. The resources and facilities to conduct tests already exist in FNC Labs.

We have the opportunity to engage with customers from the target groups through partners EAC and UWS via their Barshare Retrofit Project (BRP) and local housing associations with established relationships to EAC. Customer engagement is vital to the success of the project. As such we are pursuing additional engagement independent of BRP to mitigate risk. By combining with an existing project we can engage with customers, unlock value beyond the separate projects and reduce the chance of 'stakeholder fatigue'.

Project Plans and Milestones

Project management and delivery

PM Approach & Risk Management

Frazer-Nash will project manage the Alpha phase of Equiflex, following successful delivery of the Discovery Phase. Frazer-Nash are experienced in SIF Alpha phase management, having delivered several successful Alpha phase projects in SIF Rounds 1 and 2.

A kick-off meeting has been scheduled for the first week of the project, followed by weekly meetings thereafter to bring all project partners together, ensure a common understanding of scope, update progress against the plan, review and update the risk register and manage dependencies. These will be supported by ad-hoc meetings as required to deal with specific issues as they arise. Progress will be reported regularly as required to the Monitoring Officer.

We have found from previous projects that early in-person engagement is extremely valuable in building an effective project team with a collective vision and clear understanding of delivery requirements. It allows each team member to contribute their expertise in a focused way, and ensures the most effective distribution of roles and responsibilities needed to deliver the project outcome. We will hold an in-person workshop with project partners at the beginning of the project to achieve this.

Frazer-Nash's Power Transmission and Distribution Business Manager, will provide oversight of performance and delivery beyond the direct project team. They will be responsible for client relationships and ensure we are connecting with relevant stakeholders. Further to this, as part of the FNC's Quality Management System, accredited to ISO9001, an independent project auditor will be appointed to oversee the project delivery to the requisite quality standards. We will take a waterfall approach to the project, and will use a Gantt chart to track timescales and deliverables.

Initial project risks have already been captured in the attached workbook, these risks will be proactively managed by the FNC PM, with monthly project supervisor and auditor meetings to review each risk. Additional risks will be captured, and mitigations established forming part of the project management approach. Weekly partner meetings will also include an agenda item for discussing and raising risks.

Links and Dependencies

Work packages (WP's) 2 (turn-up) and 3 (turn-down) are dependent on WP1, as they require detailed understanding of customer needs, appetite, and resources. These dependencies are allowed for in the project plan. However, there is preparatory work which can be done on both WP2 and WP3 prior to receiving data from WP1.

WP3 (turn-down) is also dependant on WP5 (data gathering) for a more detailed understanding of the power consumption of appliances and therefore the actual turn-down resource available from the target group.

WP5 will also provide important data for WP6 (CBA) allowing more granular analysis of the costs and benefits of the various options.

Consumer Impact/Interaction

During Discovery, the customer perspective was represented by project partners EAS and EAC. In Alpha, we plan to engage directly with customers via WP1, to gain further understanding of the needs, resources and appetite of the target groups. We will receive additional insights on customer impact from our new partners, with SPR providing an energy supplier perspective on previous customer response to innovative product offerings and UWS sharing the latest academic research in this area. The future consumer impact will mean that people currently excluded from the flexibility market will have greater opportunities to provide flexibility in a way that works for their situation.

Supply Interruptions: This project will not result in any supply interruptions during the Alpha phase, as it will comprise desk and lab-based research and development, and surveys of customer views. There will be no requirement to interact directly with customers' energy supplies.

Key outputs and dissemination

Work Package 1 will gather consumer insights by engaging with consumers and stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of the issues outlined in the Discovery phase. The output will be documented barriers and enablers experienced by vulnerable and disengaged consumers to engaging in flexibility markets. The needs, resources, and appetites of consumers in our target groups will be captured and used in follow on work packages.

Work Package 2 (turn-up) will develop the product specification for an off-peak turn-up service that will provide benefits specifically to our target customers and also to the energy network.

Work Package 3 (turn-down) will produce a roadmap for the development of turn-down services that can benefit the target customer and the energy networks, outlining any further exploratory work that needs to be done (e.g. data collection) before suitable products can be developed with confidence. It will also outline any the behavioural changes that may be required to enable these.

Work Package 4 will continue the process of developing a tool to help stakeholders to determine where to deploy the turn-up and turn-down products, given an areas energy needs, network configuration and consumer demographics. By the end of Alpha, the calculation methodology will be outlined and ready for implementation into a tool available for DNOs, local authorities, community energy groups etc.

Work Package 5 will carry out an investigation of the data required to evaluate the costs and benefits of the options developed in W's 2 & 3. This will include desk and laboratory research into appliance power signatures and duty cycles, and testing of various in-home metering options to allow further data to be collected, if necessary, in the Beta Phase.

Work Package 6 will complete a detailed CBA to assess the consumer and network benefits of the turn-down and turn-up services proposed and consider these against the estimated costs of deployment.

Responsibility for Outputs

FNC are responsible for manging the overall delivery of the project, specific WP leads from across the partnership have been assigned as outlined in the project plan. The conclusions of each WP will be presented in a summary slide deck - FNC's PM will be responsible for ensuring completion of these by each of the WP leads. The slides will be available for upload to the ENA innovation portal at the end of the Alpha Phase, subject to redaction of any commercially sensitive material.

Project Dissemination

The project partners will collaborate on the dissemination of the project outputs.

The outputs will be shared through the project 'show and tell' webinar and through posts on forums such as LinkedIn. During Discovery, project partners shared information on the project through forums relevant to them (e.g. EAC briefed local councillors on the proposals, and fed back their comments to the project.) Continued sharing of project information will be encouraged during the Alpha phase, noting that the new partners recruited to the project offer opportunities for wider dissemination (e.g. UWS can access academic conferences, SPR can communicate via energy supplier forums). The customer survey and outreach activities proposed in WP1 also offer a natural route for discussion of project aims with a wider community of stakeholders. These consumers will be invited to the show and tell presentation share our findings with them.

Competitive Market Development

The project will support the development of competitive markets by providing a significant improvement to understanding of future flexibility markets and the contributions that target groups of consumers can make to them. This will include the definition of new products and services for which markets will be able to develop effective solutions.

Commercials

Intellectual property rights, procurement and contracting (not scored)

The project will follow the default IPR arrangements set out in the SIF Governance Document and intends to base the new Alpha Phase multi-party contracting agreement on the agreement used for the Discovery project.

One subcontracting arrangement will be required for the project between EAC and their subcontractor for the BRP. EAC are already in the process of arranging work with this subcontractor as part of the BRP and therefore, this additional scope can be added to the scope of work. This additional scope aligns well with the existing work already being conducted and therefore does not require an additional contracting round.

Commercialisation, route to market and business as usual

Equiflex is working towards providing two separate implementations which could be become part of the business as usual (BaU) energy system, each of these has their own route to market:

Turn-up - We are working towards developing a targeted product offering from retail energy providers. This would take the form of a tariff or market mechanism which enables consumers to take advantage of free/cheaper energy which would otherwise be curtailed. The BaU offering would be location specific and provide a mechanism by which consumers would be informed (preferably in advance) that there will be a period of free/cheap power and to schedule the usage, either manually or automatically, of certain high load appliances. In order for this to become a commercially viable BaU part of the energy system, the following aspects will be developed through the alpha phase:

- The market mechanisms by which consumers could be incentivised to turn-up their demand at specific times.
- A detailed understanding of the types of assets which could be turned up.
- An understanding of the assets and mechanisms to inform customers when they should turn-up their usage.
- An overview of how to tailor the system towards consumers and the most appropriate ways of communicating this and rolling it out to consumers.

Turn-down - The Discovery phase concluded that a turn-down mechanism for our target groups is likely not currently commercially viable based on the lack of turn-down potential loads. This may change in the future as the adoption of heat pumps and EVs is expanded, and lower income and vulnerable consumers access these technologies.

In addition to the steps being investigated as part of the turn-up solution, we will identify potential future assets which the target consumers could use to provide turn-down services. We will consider the market mechanisms by which consumers could access these assets without upfront expenditure based on their ability to pay back using value unlocked through the provision of network flexibility services.

Acknowledging that this product likely depends on future technology adoption, the key output will be a roadmap to identify when options become viable and how they could be implemented. The roadmap will outline the optionality for achieving a BaU approach in each of the key areas such as technology required, commercial and market mechanisms, supporting technology required and customer engagement. By identifying various options for implementation, the roadmap will enable us to manage risk going forward and adapt to wider market trends and technology adoption.

Project partners are not currently at a high level of commercial readiness to implement a solution however, this will be improved through the Alpha phase. A clear gap analysis of the commercial readiness of each of the required organisations will be provided as an output of the Alpha phase along with a plan to address gaps as part of any future phases.

A wide scale adoption of a turn-up or turn-down solution may require significant investment from consumers, retail energy providers and networks. Retail energy providers would be required to market the product and educate consumers in how these mechanisms work. Consumers will also likely need support acquiring any equipment needed to participate, either through smart devices for turn-up or high load appliances for turn-down.

Gerry Boyd is the **Senior Sponsor** from the Lead Partner. Gerry is Head of Flexibility within SPEN. He will continue to provide regular steer to the project. During Discovery this primarily included workshop attendance and reviewing of interim outputs, to ensure that the direction and learnings are relevant to SPEN's commitment to ensuring a just transition to net zero, and therefore

relevant to the rest of the industry.

Policy, standards and regulations (not scored)

Policy and Regulatory Challenges

There are no known policy or regulatory issues that should affect the Alpha phase. However, as we are investigating innovative solutions, there may be policy or regulatory challenges affecting some project outcomes as we progress from concept to delivery. One of the issues identified in Discovery was the granularity of smart meter or other household data that may be available to inform the project and the challenges in ensuring consumer privacy if accessing that data.

There are no ongoing conversations with policymakers or agencies for regulation and enforcement of safety in relations to barriers to project progression or implementation.

Derogations or Exemptions

We do not anticipate requiring derogations or exemptions in any future phases of this project as what we develop will take into account regulatory frameworks and requirements and so do, we expect to overcome any need for this. Should something arise in the future, we will flag this in the Beta application.

Value for money

Total Project Cost: £473,347

SIF Funding Required: £424,011

Project Contribution: £49,336 (equivalent to over 10% of project costs)

The balance of costs and SIF funding across partners reflects the effort required from each partner for delivery of the specified work packages, as described in our response to Q7. The contributions from partners equate to over 10% of project costs. The minimum contribution will be met by each project partner providing at least a 10% reduction in the standard rates and costs of the project.

As previously identified in Q7 & Q10, we will use one subcontractor to conduct the surveys of the BRP. This subcontractor is already being used as the managing agent for the BRP and therefore using them to conduct the survey will minimise points of contact for residents/consumers, utilise existing trusted relationships and reduce overall Equiflex project cost as the work can be completed alongside existing visits.

No additional innovation funding from other sources is being used in this project.

Project work will be carried out at the partners' normal workplaces, although it is anticipated that the EAC subcontractor will collect survey responses from BRP participants at their houses and an in-person workshop may be held at one of the partners' offices in the West of Scotland. We will also use existing FNC laboratory facilities to collect metered data on selected appliances. Beyond these laboratory facilities, partner offices and IT equipment, no existing assets or facilities are planned to be used.

Value for Money

The Alpha phase is an opportunity to build upon the research completed throughout the Equiflex Discovery phase of work to develop energy flexibility options in which all customers are granted equal opportunity to participate and access.

Taking a holistic approach enables the development of solutions that consider the interactions between various stakeholder groups, resulting in the most efficient overall outcome.

The project team's combined cross-sector and multidisciplinary expertise will provide immediate value for money. This team is capable of efficiently and successfully completing all necessary WP's, including consumer engagement, turn-up and turn-down options, and cost-benefit analyses. Including consumer insights research within this project means that any options developed will be designed with the end user in mind, optimising uptake for our target group.

Furthermore, the project holds considerable promise to evolve the area selection tool into a tool to guide and justify future investment planning decisions. By adopting a holistic approach, the project will aid in creating a UK energy network that is more

equipped to handle the transition to net zero, ensuring that the most vulnerable and disengaged customers are supported throughout this process.

Transition to BaU is likely to require co-operation across GB energy networks, particularly in light of the ENA-led project to standardise flexibility products. This will be investigated and mapped as the Equiflex project develops. The finances of all project partners are included in the milestone's summary.

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 2025-03-11 11_02 - 92.2 KB
SIF Alpha Round 3 Project Registration.pdf - 91.2 KB

Documents uploaded where applicable?

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