

Meet the new guy: New head of gas operations for East region

Chris Rison appointed new head of operations for National Grid Gas Distribution's huge East network

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- Chris Rison takes over as National Grid Gas Distribution's Head of Operations in its East region
- Predecessor James Harrison has left to head up National Grid Gas Distribution's London Gas Network
- The vast East region includes urban, rural and coastal locations

A new head of operations has taken over National Grid's fast paced East region where he will work to ensure over four million customers keep on enjoying safe and reliable gas supplies.

This week Chris Rison, CEng. MSc. MIMechE*, took over the East network after predecessor James Harrison moved on to helm National Grid Gas Distribution's London network.

Chris' new job involves managing Emergency Response and Repair Operations which deals with reports of gas escapes across National Grid's East region. The network includes East Anglia, and the East Midlands along with Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. A vast and varied patch the network supplies over four million customers in an area covering nearly fifteen thousand square miles which includes industrial towns and cities, seaside towns and national parks.

Chartered Engineer Chris was previously Network Manager, Emergency for London, where he covered National Grid's Gas Distribution patch in the capital, serving a network of over two million customers and covering landmark locations such as Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, Wembley and Canary Wharf.

Chris, 32, joined National Grid Gas Distribution as a Graduate Trainee back in 2009. He has held many roles in Gas Distribution and in London Operations where he has gained extensive operational and leadership experience.

He said: "I'm very happy to lead the team in East who deliver gas safely to such a huge part of the country. Gas is such an important thing in our lives, enabling us to enjoy warm houses and hot dinners. Gas matters and so our work matters.

"I've got a great team of engineers and support staff to work with and I'm excited to join East Network."

Outside of work Chris enjoys days out with his young family, keeping active, the cinema and music.

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

*Chartered Engineer, Master of Science, Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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